

Top 12 User Guide

Indicator 2: Neighborhood-Based Placements

The best measure for this indicator is the percent of foster boarding home (FBH) placements that occur in the child's community district (CD) of origin.

Key Notes on Source Data

The sources for the data are the Child Care Review Service (CCRS)/Welfare Management System (WMS) and Connections, both of which are New York City's data systems of record. CCRS/WMS captures data on foster care and preventive services. Connections captures data about all investigations of abuse and neglect and on foster care facilities and foster parents.

- For this analysis, CD is used to represent neighborhood. The child's home CD is defined by his/her case address at the time of placement as recorded in the Welfare Management System (WMS). The facility CD is defined by the facility's address as recorded in Connections.
- Children with the same case numbers, as reported in WMS, are identified as siblings. Children with the same biological/adopted mother are assigned the same case numbers. There are two main limitations to our ability to accurately identify sibling groups. The first is that when a child is freed for adoption, his/her case number is changed, severing any association to other siblings not part of the same adoption case. Thus, for children who are freed for adoption, this practice limits our ability to determine whether or not they are part of a sibling group. The second limitation derives from the way we assign case numbers through the biological mother. By associating siblings through the biological mother, half-siblings with the same father but different mothers cannot be identified as siblings.

Total Number and Types of Reports:

Two levels of reporting have been devised for presenting the data: summary reports and comparative reports. There is a citywide, or systemwide, summary report and three similar reports, i.e. Borough, CD, or Agency, which consider only smaller sub-populations of the citywide. In addition, two comparative reports have been developed, using the basic format of the summary reports, allowing the user to compare cross-sections of the data. Both levels of reporting present the data, using the same measures, in a similar format.

Summary Reports

1. Citywide – This is the overall systemwide report for the city.
2. Borough – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses only on placements of children from a particular borough.
3. Community District (CD) Summary – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses on placements of children from a particular community district (CD).
4. Agency Summary – This report mimics the citywide report, but provides information for children who are placed in facilities managed by a particular agency.

Comparative Reports

5. CD Comparative with City and Borough – This report compares information about the placement of children from a particular CD in a particular borough with placements from the same borough and the city as a whole.
6. Agency Comparative with City – This report provides an analysis of this indicator for children who were placed in a facility managed by a particular agency compared to children placed with all contract agencies/ACS direct foster care services and all NYC placements.

Report Layout

Reports 1, 2, 3, and 4 are *summary reports* for the City, Borough, CD, and Agency, respectively. The layout for each of these reports shows:

- the three most recent months of data for the current calendar year; and
- calendar year-to-date (CYTD) cumulative totals for the current year and the three years prior.

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For example, for the September 2001 report, the three most recent months of data are shown for July 2001, August 2001 and September 2001. The CYTD 2001 data reflect the cumulative total from January 2001 to September 2001. The period covered in the cumulative total for the current year is the same period covered in the cumulative totals for the other years listed – CYTD 2000 would represent the same January to September period.

Beginning January 1, 2000, agencies have been held accountable for placements of children from assigned CD's. For the agency-specific report, annual placement rates prior to CY 2000 do not reflect ACS' neighborhood-based efforts.

Reports 5 and 6 are *comparative reports* for CD and Agency.

The CD comparative report allows you to compare a particular CD's performance with that of the Borough's and the City's performances. The Agency comparative report provides a comparison of a particular agency's performance with the City's performance. The layout for each of these reports shows:

- the most recent month of data for the current calendar year;
- CYTD cumulative total for the current year; and
- the percentage change from the previous CYTD cumulative total.

For example, for the September 2001 report, the most recent month of data that is shown is September 2001. The CYTD 2001 data reflect the cumulative total from January 2001 to September 2001. The percentage change from the previous CYTD (CY 2000) reflected the comparative change from the CYTD 2001 cumulative total and the cumulative total from CYTD 2000. The comparative number for CYTD 2000, which is not shown, spans the same January to September period.

Details on Performance Report

All reports describe this indicator from two perspectives: (1) level of care and (2) sibling groups.

Perspective 1: Level of Care – Page 1

The **first perspective** considers the rate at which children are placed into their home borough or CD when placed into kinship homes, foster boarding homes, or congregate care. In-boro and in-CD placement rates are not distinct from one another. Placements that are counted in the in-CD rate are also counted in the in-boro rate.

The first table on page one shows the rate at which children placed in regular FBHs or specialized FBHs are placed in their home CD. It also considers placement into home CD for children placed in kinship care and placement into home borough for congregate care. Placement rates for regular and specialized FBHs in the Agency reports are shown for children from CDs/boroughs assigned to the agency that is making the placement and for those that are not from assigned CD/ boroughs.

Number of Placements

This first section of the table provides an overview of the in-flow of placements into foster care.

- Total placements include all children who enter care regardless of whether or not they have complete address information. This is not a count of unique children, but rather a count of placement episodes into foster care.
- Of the total number of placements, percentages are provided for in-boro, in-CD and outside of NYC placements. These rates are based only on the children with complete address information.

Number of Placements into homes that support Regular FBH

This section of the table is the first portion of the FBH subset of the total placements. A regular FBH is a family residential home that is licensed for one or more beds. A regular FBH could also have

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licensed beds that serve specialized needs. If a home has both regular and specialized beds, placements into this home are counted as regular FBH placements, for the purpose of this measure.

- The total number of regular FBH placements is shown as well as the percentage of the total placements that these regular FBH placements account for.
- Of the total number of regular FBH placements, percentages are also given for in-boro, in-CD and outside of NYC placements.

Note: The Agency Summary report distinguishes placements into homes that support regular FBH by whether or not those placements are from the agency's assigned CDs.

Number of Placements into homes that support Specialized Programs

This section of the table is the second portion of the FBH subset of the total placements. A specialized FBH is a home that is licensed only for specialized beds that serve such needs as special medical, HIV/AIDS, therapeutic or emergency placements.

- The total number of specialized FBH placements is shown as well as the percentage of the total placements that these specialized FBH placements account for.
- Of the total number of specialized FBH placements, percentages are also given for in-boro, in-CD and outside of NYC placements.

Note: In the Agency Summary report, placements into homes that support only specialized programs are distinguished by whether or not those placements are from the agency's assigned boroughs.

Number of Kinship Placements

This section of the table is the kinship care subset of the total placements. Kinship placement is foster care provided by a relative up to the third degree (grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great uncles, siblings and first cousins).

- The total number of kinship placements is shown as well as the percentage of total placements that these kinship placements account for.
- Of the total number of kinship placements, percentages are also given for in-boro, in-CD and outside of NYC placements.

Number of Congregate Placements

Congregate care is a type of foster care placement that includes agency operated boarding homes, group homes, group residences, and institutional settings. This section of the table is the congregate care subset of the total placements. Unlike the other two levels of care (FBH and kinship), the performance of congregate placements is reported on an in-boro rate only. Contract agency providers are assigned congregate care by boroughs and not CDs.

- The total number of congregate placements is shown as well as the percentage of total placements that these congregate placements account for.
- Of the total number of congregate placements, percentages are also given for in-boro and outside of NYC placements.

Perspective 2: Sibling Groups – Page 2

The **second perspective** focuses on the experience of a sibling group. A group of two or more full- or half-siblings constitutes a sibling group. Siblings are identified by the same case number. ACS emphasizes the importance of placing children with their siblings to maintain family ties. If a child's needs suggest that he/she should be separated from his/her sibling(s), effort is made to place the children close together to help ensure the legally required visitation and communication.

Number of Placements

This first section of the table on page 2 summarizes the in-flow of placements into foster care.

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- Total placements include all children who enter care regardless of whether or not they have complete address information. This is not a count of unique children, but rather a count of placement episodes into foster care. It is the same numbers reported in Table 1, page 1.
- Total placements are further detailed into two categories – 1) only child placements; and 2) number placed with siblings. The *only child placements* category counts placements of children who enter care alone and who do not have any known siblings already in the foster care system. The *number placed with siblings* counts placements of children who enter care together with a sibling or who are joining a sibling already in foster care.

Number of sibling groups placed

This second section arranges the “number placed with siblings” as reported in the first section into sibling groups. *For example*, 100 sibling groups make up 220 placements of children who are placed with siblings or are joining a sibling already in care. This count of sibling groups is broken down into three possible group scenarios:

- 1) number of groups placed with no other siblings in care;
- 2) number of groups with other siblings in care; and
- 3) number of children placed alone with sibling(s) in care.

Number of groups placed with no other siblings in care

This reflects the number of sibling groups who entered care on the same day and who had no other siblings already in care.

When a sibling group enters care, there are three levels of intactness. Groups can either be:

- 1) fully intact (case where all siblings are placed together in the same foster home);
- 2) partially intact (applies to groups of at least three siblings where some of the siblings are placed in the same foster home and some are not); or
- 3) separated (where none of the siblings are placed in the same foster home).

Percentages for each level of intactness are provided. For the fully intact level, the percents placed in-boro and in-CD are given as well.

Number of groups placed with other siblings in care

For this section, a sibling group consists of at least two siblings entering care on the same day and at least one other sibling already in care. As a result of the placements, these sibling group can either be:

- 1) fully intact;
- 2) partially intact; or
- 3) separated.

Percentages for each level of intactness are provided. For the fully intact level, the percents placed in-boro and in-CD are given as well.

Number of children placed alone with sibling(s) in care

This reflects the number of children who entered care alone, but who had at least one sibling already in care. Groups can either be:

- 1) fully;
- 2) partially intact; or
- 3) separated.

Percentages for each level of intactness are provided. For the fully intact level, the percents placed in-boro and in-CD are given as well.