

Outcome 2: Faster Permanency, Citywide Summary

This outcome provides a measure of the foster care system's success at moving children into permanent homes on a timely basis. The best measure for this outcome is the time in foster care for an annual admissions cohort¹. The first page of this report considers the overall performance of admissions cohorts; the second and third pages focus on adoption discharges.

The first section on this page presents the performance of 1st time admission cohorts. The second section considers 2nd or greater spell² admissions cohorts for the same calendar years. For each year the total number of placements into foster care is provided. The remaining indicators in these sections of the report examine the status of the admissions cohorts at a specified point in time during the calendar year following the admission year. The number still in care, broken down by Permanency Planning Goal (PPG)³ is shown. Next, the number discharged and to what destination is presented. Finally, a summary of how long those discharged stayed in care is included.

First Foster Care Spell					
Admission Year	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008
Number of children w/1st spell admissions in CY	4,188	3,671	6,106	5,949	5,852
Status as of:	MAR 2005	MAR 2006	MAR 2007	MAR 2008	MAR 2009
Number of children still in 1st spell	2,685	2,448	4,002	3,658	3,482
% w/ PPG reunification ⁴	80.2%	80.9%	81.1%	84.8%	85.6%
% w/ PPG adoption	5.7%	5.1%	6.3%	4.4%	4.7%
% w/ PPG independent living	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.9%	2.3%
Number of children discharged from 1st spell	1,503	1,223	2,104	2,291	2,370
% discharged to reunification	84.5%	82.0%	93.0%	91.2%	93.9%
% discharged to independent living	1.6%	1.0%	1.0%	1.6%	1.1%
% discharged to other destinations	13.8%	16.9%	6.1%	7.0%	4.9%
% discharged to adoption	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Length of stay of 1st spell discharges as percent of total admissions					
% discharged w/in 3 mo	21.8%	22.0%	20.4%	23.1%	26.6%
% discharged 4-6 mo	7.7%	5.1%	6.8%	7.5%	7.8%
% discharged 7-12 mo	5.9%	5.6%	6.6%	7.4%	5.7%

Second or Greater Foster Care Spell					
Admission Year	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008
Number of placements of children w/2nd+ spell admissions in CY	1,418	1,170	1,579	1,492	1,586
Status as of:	MAR 2005	MAR 2006	MAR 2007	MAR 2008	MAR 2009
Number of placements still in 2nd+ spell	894	779	1,056	1,006	1,068
% w/ PPG reunification ⁴	80.1%	85.8%	81.4%	82.6%	83.3%
% w/ PPG adoption	4.0%	1.8%	3.2%	3.5%	4.0%
% w/ PPG independent living	3.1%	1.8%	3.0%	5.7%	5.6%
Number of discharges from 2nd+ spell	524	391	523	486	518
% discharged to reunification	74.4%	73.1%	83.9%	84.6%	87.3%
% discharged to independent living	2.5%	3.3%	2.5%	3.7%	3.1%
% discharged to other destinations	22.5%	23.3%	13.6%	11.3%	9.7%
% discharged to adoption	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Length of stay of 2nd+ spell discharges as percent of total admissions					
% discharged w/in 3 mo	20.9%	18.1%	20.1%	18.2%	19.6%
% discharged 4-6 mo	8.1%	6.8%	6.5%	7.4%	7.0%
% discharged 7-12 mo	7.3%	8.2%	6.1%	6.6%	5.7%

¹ Admission cohort refers to the group of children placed in foster care in a given year.

² A spell is the time between foster care entry and discharge. A child's 1st spell is his/her 1st episode in foster care. Subsequent episodes in foster care are second or greater spells.

³ Permanency Planning Goal (PPG) refers to a goal that must be specified for every child in foster care at all times.

⁴ Reunification is defined as discharge to parent, relative or primary resource person.

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This portion of the report focuses on those children discharged to adoption. This page describes 1st spell admission cohorts and the next page looks at 2nd or greater spell cohorts. The total number of children in each cohort is displayed on the first line of both pages. The remaining measures examine the status of the admission cohorts at a specific point in time during the calendar year three years following the admission year. The number still in care is broken down by PPG. For those with a goal of adoption the percent freed and the number freed during the current spell is shown. Next the number discharged and to what destination is presented. A summary of how long those discharged stayed in care is then shown. Finally, for those adopted the time in care before adoption and the time between being freed for adoption and being adopted are presented.

First Foster Care Spell					
Admission Year	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006
Number of children w/1st spell admissions in CY	6,070	4,960	4,188	3,671	6,106
Status as of:	MAR 2005	MAR 2006	MAR 2007	MAR 2008	MAR 2009
Number of children still in 1st spell	1,873	1,587	1,423	1,349	2,331
% w/PPG reunification	39.9%	47.8%	49.3%	43.9%	44.0%
% w/PPG adoption	51.4%	44.5%	43.1%	44.9%	44.4%
% w/PPG independent living	7.4%	6.2%	5.9%	9.3%	9.9%
Number of children still in 1st spell with goal of adoption	962	706	613	606	1,035
% freed	29.5%	34.0%	35.6%	27.6%	30.1%
Number with goal of adoption freed during current spell	284	240	218	167	312
% freed within 12 months after goal change	46.1%	39.6%	35.8%	52.1%	42.0%
% freed within 13-24 months after goal change	46.1%	51.3%	44.5%	31.7%	45.8%
% freed more than 24 months after goal change	2.5%	3.3%	3.7%	2.4%	3.5%
Number discharged from 1st spell	4,197	3,373	2,765	2,322	3,775
% discharged to reunification	85.0%	83.3%	80.4%	79.1%	88.5%
% discharged to adoption	3.9%	4.9%	6.1%	6.0%	4.5%
% discharged to independent living	2.0%	2.1%	2.5%	2.8%	2.2%
% discharged to other destinations	9.2%	9.7%	11.0%	12.1%	4.8%
Length of stay as a percent of total admissions					
% discharged within 12 months	47.9%	46.6%	43.8%	43.0%	42.2%
% discharged 13-24 months	14.0%	14.6%	14.6%	13.6%	14.3%
% discharged 25-36 months	7.1%	6.7%	7.4%	6.4%	5.1%
Number discharged to adoption	164	164	168	139	170
Length of stay in 1st spell before adoption as a percent of all adoptions					
% discharged w/in 24 months	22.0%	37.8%	23.2%	31.7%	26.5%
% discharged 25-30 months	39.6%	34.1%	43.5%	39.6%	31.8%
% discharged 31-36 months	34.1%	27.4%	32.1%	26.6%	38.8%
Length of stay in 1st spell between being freed and adopted as a percent of all adoptions for children freed					
% discharged within 12 months of being freed	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
% discharged within 13-24 months of being freed	17.1%	32.9%	19.6%	29.5%	25.9%
% discharged more than 24 months after being freed	75.0%	60.4%	75.6%	67.6%	72.9%

Outcome 2: Faster Permanency, Citywide Summary (continued)

Second or Greater Foster Care Spell					
Admission Year	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006
Number of children w/2nd+ spell admissions in CY	1,920	1,679	1,418	1,170	1,579
Status as of:	MAR 2005	MAR 2006	MAR 2007	MAR 2008	MAR 2009
Number of children still in 2nd+ spell	672	552	482	445	623
% w/PPG reunification	48.2%	60.5%	59.1%	51.7%	45.7%
% w/PPG adoption	37.9%	27.9%	29.3%	26.7%	28.9%
% w/PPG independent living	11.9%	10.3%	9.3%	18.9%	21.8%
Number of children still in 2nd+ spell with goal of adoption	255	154	141	119	180
% freed	25.1%	24.7%	41.8%	26.1%	27.2%
Number with goal of adoption freed during current spell *	64	38	59	31	49
% freed within 12 months after goal change	48.4%	55.3%	40.7%	58.1%	26.5%
% freed within 13-24 months after goal change	37.5%	31.6%	40.7%	25.8%	55.1%
% freed more than 24 months after goal change	3.1%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%
Number discharged from 2nd+ spell	1,248	1,127	936	725	956
% discharged to reunification	79.5%	73.4%	73.6%	75.0%	80.6%
% discharged to adoption	2.6%	2.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.6%
% discharged to independent living	4.4%	5.7%	6.2%	6.2%	6.0%
% discharged to other destinations	13.5%	18.3%	18.2%	16.6%	10.8%
Length of stay as a percent of total admissions					
% discharged within 12 months	41.4%	43.7%	45.3%	41.3%	40.3%
% discharged 13-24 months	15.6%	16.7%	14.5%	13.8%	15.4%
% discharged 25-36 months	7.9%	6.7%	6.0%	6.7%	4.9%
Number discharged to adoption	33	30	19	16	25
Length of stay in 2nd+ spell before adoption as a percent of all adoptions					
% discharged w/in 24 months	15.2%	30.0%	42.1%	25.0%	24.0%
% discharged 25-30 months	48.5%	36.7%	31.6%	31.3%	36.0%
% discharged 31-36 months	33.3%	33.3%	15.8%	31.3%	40.0%
Length of stay in 2nd+ spell between being freed and adopted as a percent of all adoptions for children freed					
% discharged within 12 months of being freed	0.0%	3.3%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%
% discharged within 13-24 months of being freed	9.1%	23.3%	15.8%	18.8%	16.0%
% discharged more than 24 months after being freed	78.8%	70.0%	57.9%	75.0%	68.0%

**The difference in the number freed during the current spell and the percent of children in care with a goal of adoption that are freed is due to children that were freed during a prior foster care spell.*