

Outcome 2 Citywide

Faster Permanency

The central tenets of ACS Permanency Principles state that all children deserve safe, nurturing permanent families who can provide an unconditional, lasting commitment to them, and that children and families deserve services that meet their needs. To this end, effort is made to keep foster children's families engaged in planning for services so that children can return safely to their homes as soon as possible. The agency also commits substantial resources toward expediting the adoption process so as to achieve timely, permanent homes for children whose parents cannot provide a safe and stable environment.

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 cohort - a group of children placed in foster care in a given year.**

Definitions of terms used in this report:

- **Admissions cohort** refers to the group of children placed in foster care in a given year.
- A **spell** is the time between foster care entry and discharge. A child's 1st spell is his/her first episode in foster care. Subsequent episodes in foster care are second or greater spells.
- **Permanency Planning Goal (PPG)** refers to a goal that must be specified for every child in foster care at all times.
- **Reunification** is defined as discharge to parent, relative or primary resource person.
- **Other Destinations** refers to all other discharge destinations that are not categorized as reunification, adoption or independent living.
- A child is **freed for adoption** when parental rights have been terminated and he/she is available for adoption.

The **first section** of this report provides an overview of the overall performance of admissions cohorts, both for 1st spell admissions and 2nd or greater spell admissions.

Basic Concept:

- When examining permanency, the admissions cohorts looked at are those who were admitted into foster care in a given calendar year. The **foster care status at the close of the most recent quarter of the year following the admission year** is shown.
- Example: if a child is admitted into foster care for the first time (1st spell) in any month of 2000, he/she is part of the CY 2000 1st spell admissions cohort. The CY 2000 cohort's point-in-time status is reported as of the close of the most recent quarter of the current calendar year. The status of the CY 1999 admissions cohort is reported as of the close of the most recent quarter of CY 2000. The same holds true for each of the other admission years.

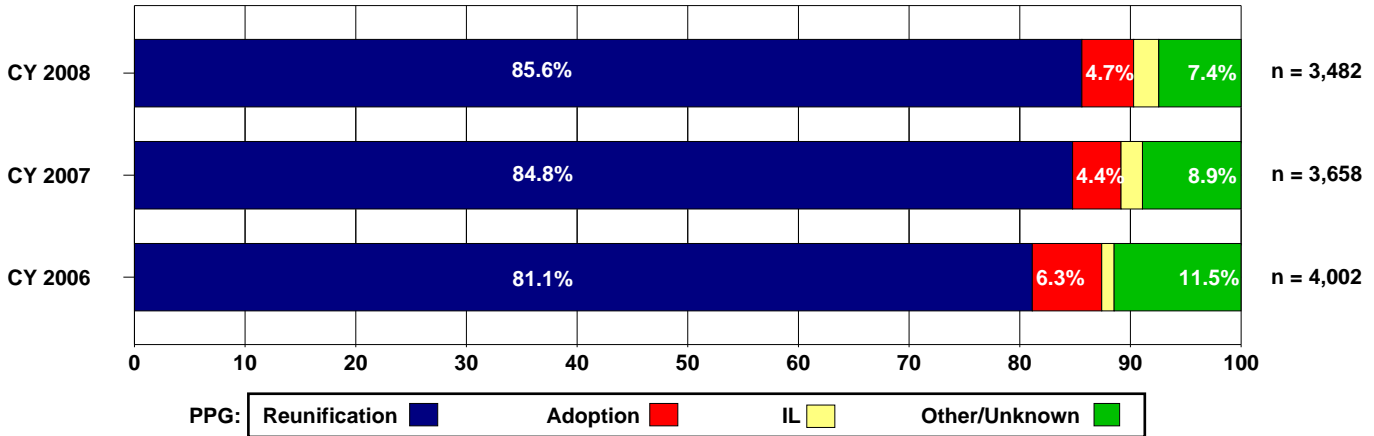
1st Spell Admissions

| First Foster Care Spell | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Admission Year | CY 2006 | CY 2007 | CY 2008 |
| Number of Children Admitted into Foster Care in their 1st Spell | 6,106 | 5,949 | 5,852 |
| Status as of: | MAR 2007 | MAR 2008 | MAR 2009 |
| Number of Children still in their 1st Spell | 4,002 | 3,658 | 3,482 |
| Number of Children Discharged from 1st Spell | 2,104 | 2,291 | 2,370 |

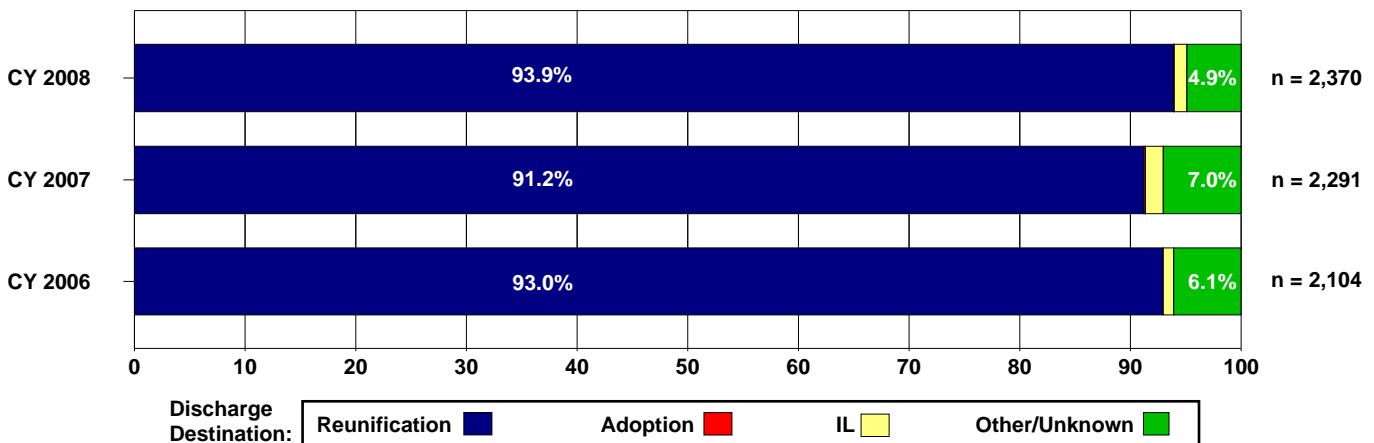
Outcome 2 Citywide
Faster Permanency

The remaining indicators in this section of the report examine the status of the 1st spell admissions. For children still in care, the most recent Permanency Planning Goal (PPG) is provided. The second chart displays the discharge destinations for those who were discharged from their 1st spell. In addition, for the discharge group, a summary of how long those discharged stayed in care is included.

PPG for those still in their 1st foster care spell



Discharge destinations for those discharged from their 1st spell



Length of Stay of 1st Spell Discharges as a Percent of Total Admissions Cohort

| Admission Year | CY 2006 | CY 2007 | CY 2008 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number of Children Admitted into Foster Care in their 1st Spell | 6,106 | 5,949 | 5,852 |
| Status as of: | MAR 2007 | MAR 2008 | MAR 2009 |
| % discharged within 3 months | 20.4% | 23.1% | 26.6% |
| % discharged 4-6 months | 6.8% | 7.5% | 7.8% |
| % discharged 7-12 months | 6.6% | 7.4% | 5.7% |

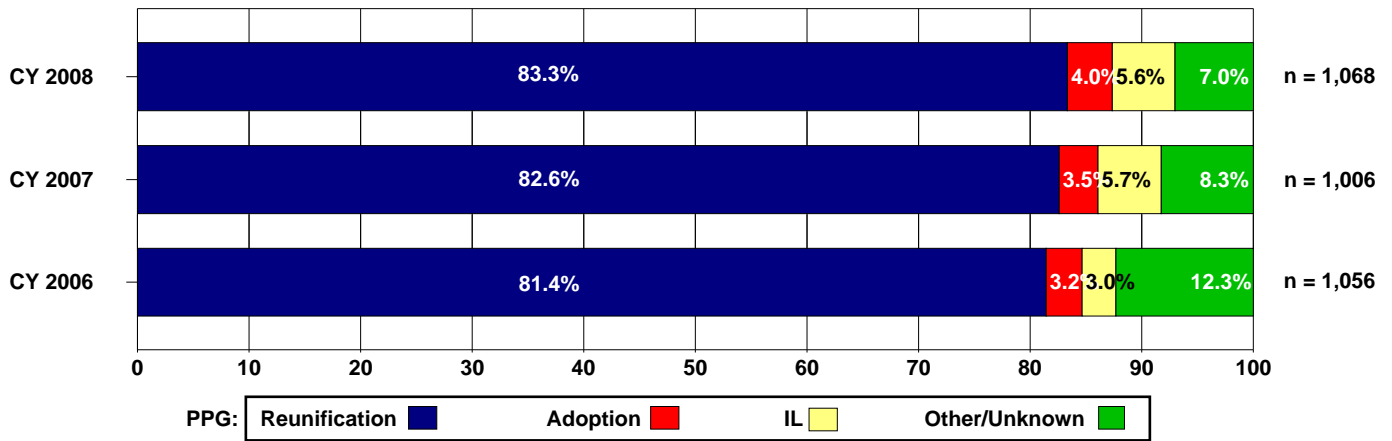
Outcome 2 Citywide
Faster Permanency

2nd or Greater Spell Admissions

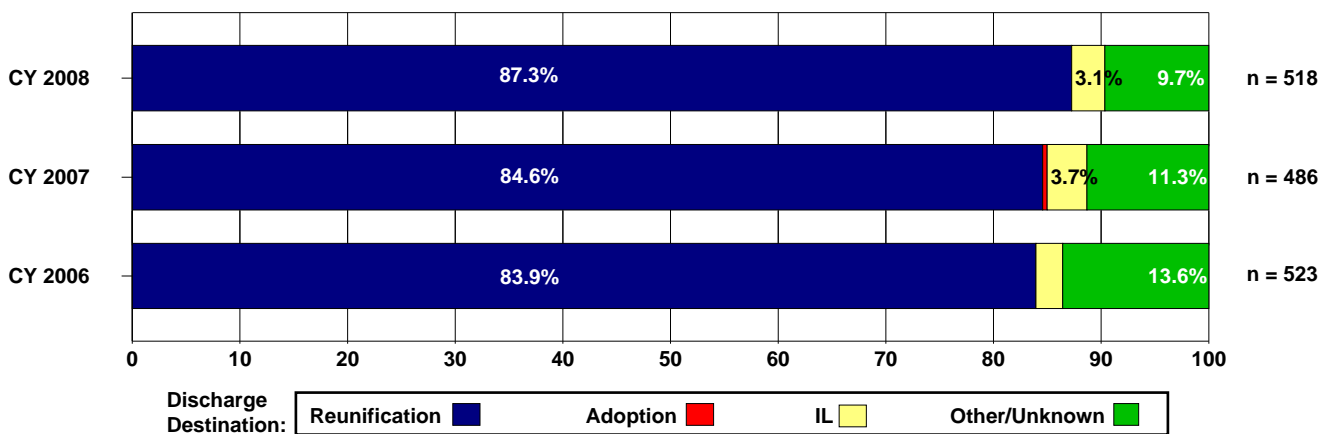
| Admission Year | CY 2006 | CY 2007 | CY 2008 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Number of Placements of Children with 2nd or Greater Spell Admissions | 1,579 | 1,492 | 1,586 |
| Status as of: | MAR 2007 | MAR 2008 | MAR 2009 |
| Number of Children still in 2nd or Greater Spell | 1,056 | 1,006 | 1,068 |
| Number of Children Discharged from 2nd or Greater Spell | 523 | 486 | 518 |

The remaining indicators in this section of the report examine the status of the 2nd or greater spell admissions. For children still in care, the most recent PPG is provided. The second chart displays the discharge destinations for those who were discharged from their 2nd or greater spell. In addition, for the discharge group, a summary of how long those discharged stayed in care is included.

PPG for those still in their 2nd or greater foster care spell



Discharge destinations for those discharged from their 2nd or greater spell



Outcome 2 Citywide Faster Permanency

Length of Stay of 2nd or Greater Spell Discharges as a Percent of Total Admissions Cohort

| Admission Year | CY 2006 | CY 2007 | CY 2008 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Number of Placements of Children with 2nd or Greater Spell Admissions | 1,579 | 1,492 | 1,586 |
| Status as of: | MAR 2007 | MAR 2008 | MAR 2009 |
| % discharged w/in 3 months | 20.1% | 18.2% | 19.6% |
| % discharged 4-6 months | 6.5% | 7.4% | 7.0% |
| % discharged 7-12 months | 6.1% | 6.6% | 5.7% |

The **second section** of this report focuses on children discharged to adoption, both for 1st spell admissions and 2nd or greater spell admissions.

Basic Concept:

- For this section, the report focuses on children discharged to adoption from a particular admissions cohort. Status is shown at the close of the most recent quarter of the year that is three years from the cohort year.
- Example: If a child is admitted into foster care for the first time (1st spell) in any month of 1998, he is part of the CY 1998 1st spell admissions cohort. The CY 1998 cohort's point-in-time status is reported as of the close of the most recent quarter of the current calendar year, CY 2001. For the CY 1997 admissions cohort, their status is reported as of the close of the most recent quarter of CY 2000.

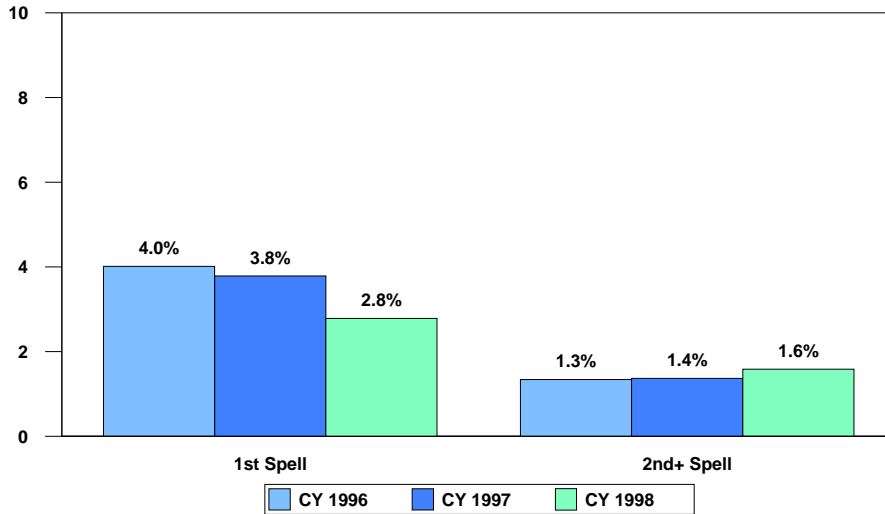
The first table below shows for both 1st and 2nd or greater spell cohorts, the number of children admitted, the total number discharged, the number adopted and the goals for children still in care.

| Spell | 1st Spell | 2nd+ Spell | 1st Spell | 2nd+ Spell | 1st Spell | 2nd+ Spell |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Admission Year | CY 2004 | CY 2004 | CY 2005 | CY 2005 | CY 2006 | CY 2006 |
| Number of children admitted into foster care | 4,188 | 1,418 | 3,671 | 1,170 | 6,106 | 1,579 |
| Status as of: | MAR 2007 | MAR 2007 | MAR 2008 | MAR 2008 | MAR 2009 | MAR 2009 |
| NUMBER DISCHARGED | 2,765 | 936 | 2,322 | 725 | 3,775 | 956 |
| Number discharged to adoption | 168 | 19 | 139 | 16 | 170 | 25 |
| NUMBER STILL IN CARE | 1,423 | 482 | 1,349 | 445 | 2,331 | 623 |
| % with PPG of Reunification | 49.3% | 59.1% | 43.9% | 51.7% | 44.0% | 45.7% |
| % with PPG of Adoption | 43.1% | 29.3% | 44.9% | 26.7% | 44.4% | 28.9% |
| % with PPG of IL | 5.9% | 9.3% | 9.3% | 18.9% | 9.9% | 21.8% |
| % with PPG of Other | 1.4% | 2.3% | 1.8% | 2.7% | 1.7% | 3.5% |

Outcome 2 Citywide
Faster Permanency

The first chart shows the percent of the admissions cohorts that were adopted. The last chart shows the time between being freed for adoption and being adopted for those children that were adopted.

Percent of Admissions Cohorts Adopted



Length of Stay of 1st and 2nd Spell Between Being Freed and Adopted as a Percent of all Adoptions for Children Freed During Current Spell, CY 2006 Admissions as of MAR 2009

