

# Top 12 User Guide

## Outcome 2: Faster Permanency

The best measure for this indicator is the time in foster care for an annual admission cohort – the group of children placed in foster care in a given year.

### Key Notes on Source Data

The source of the data is the Child Care Review Service (CCRS)/Welfare Management System (WMS), one of New York City's data systems of record. CCRS/WMS captures data on foster care and preventive services.

- Discharges with destinations of release to natural parent, release to relative or release to primary resource person are considered to be discharges to reunification.
- For the borough and Community District (CD) reports, the child's home borough and CD are defined by her case address at the time of the placement as recorded in WMS.

### Total Number and Types of Reports

Two levels of reporting have been developed for presenting the data: summary reports and comparative reports. There is a citywide, or system wide, summary report and three similar reports – Borough, CD and Agency – which consider subpopulations of the citywide. In addition, two comparative reports have been designed, 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 system wide report for the city.
2. Borough – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses on the permanency experience of children originally from a particular borough.
3. CD – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses on the permanency experience of children originally from a particular CD.
4. Agency – This report mimics the citywide report, but provides information for children who are currently placed with, or were discharged from, facilities managed by a particular agency.

#### Comparative Reports

5. CD Comparative with City and Borough – This report compares information about the permanency experiences of children from a particular CD in a particular borough with the permanency experiences of children from the same borough and the city as a whole.
6. Agency Comparative with City – This report compares the permanency experiences of children who are currently placed with, or were discharged from, a facility managed by a particular agency with the permanency experiences of children currently placed with, or discharged from, all contract agencies/ACS direct foster care services and the city as a whole.

### Reports 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 five most recent admissions years, based on calendar years; and
- The status (still in care, discharged, length of stay etc.) at a specified point-in-time during the calendar year following the admission year.

*For example*, for the June 2003 report, the five most recent admission years are calendar years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. The status as of the most recent quarter (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – June 30<sup>th</sup>) in the year following the admission year is shown. The point-in-time status of the calendar year (CY) 2002 admission year group is reported as of the close of June 2003. For the CY 2001 admission year group, their status is reported as of the close of June 2002. The same holds for each of the other admission years.

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For the adoption section on the second and third pages, the status is shown three years after the admission year. The status of the CY 2000 admission year group is reported as of the close of June 2003. For the CY 1999 admission year group, their status is shown as of the close of June 2002. The same holds for each of the other admission years.

**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 and the City. The Agency comparative report provides a comparison of a particular agency's performance with that of all contract agencies/ACS direct foster care services and the city as a whole. The layout for each of these reports shows:

- The status of the most recent admission cohort as of the closing of the most recent quarter; and
- The percentage change from the previous admission cohort at the same point-in-time during the calendar year following that admission year.

*For example*, for the first two sections of the September 2003 report, the CY 2002 cohort is shown as of September 2003. The percentage change from the previous cohort year data reflects the change from the 2002 and 2001 cohorts.

## Details on Performance Report

All permanency reports describe performance for two populations: (1) admission cohorts and (2) adoption discharges.

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

When examining the performance of these populations, we are looking at the group of children who entered care in a given year and their status at the end of a particular quarter of a particular year following the admission year.

## Population 1: Admission Cohorts – Page 1

This page of the report considers the overall performance of admission cohorts. The basic cut of the data is determined by foster care spells. Cohorts are divided into two groups: 1<sup>st</sup> spells or 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spells.

- A spell is the time between a foster care entry and discharge. A child's first spell is her first episode in which she is placed into a foster care setting. Subsequent episodes in foster care are higher-order spells (2<sup>nd</sup> spell, 3<sup>rd</sup> spell...).

## First Foster Care Spell

**Number of children with 1<sup>st</sup> spell admissions in CY**

This reported number reflects the group of children who entered foster care in a given CY for the first time ever.

**Number of children still in 1<sup>st</sup> spell**

This number for the subgroup of the 1<sup>st</sup> spell admission reflects those who are still in care as of the specified point-in-time. For those still in care, information regarding their permanency planning goal (PPG) is shown. Permanency planning goal refers to a goal that must be specified for every child in foster care at all times.

- Of those still in care in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided. Goals that are indicated in CCRS as discharge to

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parents/legal guardian (01) and discharge to primary resource person (02) are considered reunification goals.

- Of those still in care in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of adoption (discharge to adoption – 04) is provided.
- Of those still in care in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of independent living (discharge to independent living- 03) is provided.

## Number of children discharged from 1<sup>st</sup> spell

This subgroup is the number of children who have been discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time. This number combined with the count for those still in care totals the overall number of children admitted to their 1<sup>st</sup> spell. For those discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to reunification is provided. As reported in CCRS, the discharge destinations indicated as release to natural parent (570), release to relative (571) and release to primary resource person (572) are considered discharges to reunification.
- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to independent living is provided. As reported in CCRS, the discharge destinations indicated as release to own responsibility (575) and adulthood attained (581) are considered discharges to independent living.
- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to other destinations is provided. This is the “catch-all” for the other discharge destination codes that are listed in CCRS and that do not fall into one of ACS’ basic discharge reporting groups.
- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to adoption is provided. As reported in CCRS, the discharge destinations indicated as adoption subsidized (573) and adoption not subsidized (574) are considered discharges to adoption.

## Length of stay of 1<sup>st</sup> spell cohort discharges as a percent of total admissions cohort

This is a summary of the length of stay of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell. Percentages are shown for varying time boundaries and are reflective of the total admission cohort, including those still in care. The length of stay percentages shown were calculated by dividing those discharged within a certain time frame by the total admission cohort.

- Of the total number of children in an admission cohort, the percent that were discharged within 3 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in an admission cohort, the percent that were discharged between 4 and 6 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in admission cohort, the percent that were discharged between 7 and 12 months of entering care is provided

## Second or Greater Foster Care Spell

### Number of children with 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell admissions in CY

This reported number reflects the group of children who entered foster care in a given calendar year (CY) for at least the second time.

### Number of children still in 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell

This number reflects those in a higher-order (2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spell) who are still in care as of the specified point-in-time. For those still in care, information regarding their PPG is shown.

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- Of those still in a higher-order spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided.
- Of those still in care in a higher-order spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of adoption is provided.
- Of those still in care in a higher-order spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of independent living is provided.

## Number of children discharged from 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell

This is the number of children who have been discharged from their higher-order spell as of the specified point-in-time. This number combined with the count for those still in care totals the overall number of children admitted to their 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell. For those discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

- Of those discharged from a higher-order spell, the percent discharged to reunification is provided.
- Of those discharged from a higher-order spell, the percent discharged to independent living is provided.
- Of those discharged from a higher-order spell, the percent discharged to other destinations is provided.
- Of those discharged from a higher-order spell, the percent discharged to adoption is provided.

## Length of stay of 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell cohort discharges as a percent of total admissions cohort

This is a summary of the length of stay of those discharged from a higher-order spell by admission cohort year. Percentages are shown for varying time boundaries and are reflective of the total admission cohort, including those still in care. That is, the length of stay percentages shown were calculated by dividing those discharged within a certain time frame by the total admission cohort.

- Of the total number of children in an admission cohort, the percent that were discharged within 3 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in an admission cohort, the percent that were discharged between 4 and 6 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in admission cohort, the percent that were discharged between 7 and 12 months of entering care is provided.

## **Population 2: Adoption Discharges – Pages 2 and 3**

These pages of the report focus on those children discharged to adoption from a particular admission cohort. The basic cut of the data is determined by foster care spells. Cohorts are divided into two groups: 1<sup>st</sup> spell or 2+ spell.

### First Foster Care Spell

#### Number of children with 1<sup>st</sup> spell admissions in CY

This reported number reflects the group of children who entered foster care in a given calendar year for the first time ever.

#### Number of children still in 1<sup>st</sup> spell

This number for the subgroup of the 1<sup>st</sup> spell admission reflects those who are still in care as of the specified point-in-time. For those still in care, information regarding their PPG is shown.

- Of those still in care in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided.

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- Of those still in care in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of adoption is provided.
- Of those still in care in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of independent living is provided.

## Number of children still in 1<sup>st</sup> spell with a goal of adoption

This number includes children from the 1<sup>st</sup> spell admissions group that are still in care as of the specified point-in-time and have a goal of adoption.

## Number of children with a goal of adoption freed during current spell

This number includes children from the 1<sup>st</sup> spell admissions group that are still in care as of the specified point-in-time, have a goal of adoption and were freed for adoption (A499). For these children information regarding the time between when they were freed and when their goal was changed to adoption is shown.

- Of those freed for adoption, the percent freed within 12 months after goal change.
- Of those freed for adoption, the percent freed within 13-24 months after goal change.
- Of those freed for adoption, the percent freed more than 24 months after goal change.

## Number discharged from 1<sup>st</sup> spell

This is the number of children that have been discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell as of the specified point-in-time. This number combined with the count for those still in care totals the overall number of children admitted to their 1<sup>st</sup> spell. For those discharged, the discharge destination is shown.

- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to reunification is provided.
- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to adoption is provided.
- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to independent living is provided.
- Of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to other destinations is provided.

## Length of stay as a percent of total admissions

This is a summary of the length of stay of those discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell. Percentages are shown for various time boundaries and reflect the total admissions cohort, including those still in care. The length of stay percentages are calculated by dividing the number discharged within a certain time frame by the total number of children in the admissions cohort.

- Of the total number of children in an admissions cohort, the percent that were discharged within 12 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in an admissions cohort, the percent that were discharged between 13 and 24 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in an admissions cohort, the percent that were discharged between 25 and 36 months of entering care is provided.

## Number discharged to adoption

This is the number of children that were discharged to adoption from their 1st foster care spell as of the specified point-in-time.

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A summary of the length of stay of those discharged to adoption from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell in foster care is provided. Percentages are shown for various time boundaries and are based on the total number of children adopted.

- Of the total number of children adopted, the percent that were adopted within 24 months is shown.
- Of the total number of children adopted, the percent that were adopted between 25 and 30 months is shown.
- Of the total number of children adopted, the percent that were adopted between 31 and 36 months is shown.

For children that were adopted after being freed the length of stay in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell between being freed and adopted is provided. Percentages are shown for various time frames and are based on the total number of freed children that were adopted.

- Of the total number of freed children adopted, the percent adopted within 12 months of being freed is provided.
- Of the total number of freed children that were adopted, the percent adopted within 13-24 months of being freed is provided.
- Of the total number of freed children that were adopted, the percent adopted more than 24 months after being freed is provided.

## Second or Greater Foster Care Spell

### Number of children with 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell admissions in

This reported number reflects the group of children who entered foster care in a given calendar year for at least the second time.

### Number of children still in 2<sup>nd</sup> + spell

This number for the subgroup of the higher order spell admissions reflects those who are still in care as of the specified point-in-time. For those still in care, information regarding their PPG is shown.

- Of those still in care in a higher order spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided.
- Of those still in care in a higher order spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of adoption is provided.
- Of those still in care in a higher order spell as of the specified point-in-time, the percent that have a PPG of independent living is provided.

### Number of children still in 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell with a goal of adoption

This number includes children from the 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell admissions group that are still in care as of the specified point-in-time and have a goal of adoption.

### Number of children with a goal of adoption freed during current spell

This number includes children from the higher order spell admissions group that are still in care as of the specified point-in-time, have a goal of adoption and were freed for adoption during the current spell. For these children information regarding the time between when they were freed and when their goal was changed to adoption is shown. For some cohorts there is a difference in the number freed during the current spell and the percent of children in care with a goal of adoption that are freed. This is due to children that were freed during a prior foster care spell.

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- Of those freed for adoption during current spell, the percent freed within 12 months after goal change.
- Of those freed for adoption during current spell, the percent freed within 13-24 months after goal change.
- Of those freed for adoption during current spell, the percent freed more than 24 months after goal change.

## Number discharged from 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell

This is the number of children that have been discharged from their higher order spell as of the specified point-in-time. This number combined with the count for those still in care totals the overall number of children admitted to their higher spell. For those discharged, the discharge destination is shown.

- Of those discharged from their 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell, the percent discharged to reunification is provided.
- Of those discharged from their 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell, the percent discharged to adoption is provided.
- Of those discharged from their 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell, the percent discharged to independent living is provided.
- Of those discharged from their 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell, the percent discharged to other destinations is provided.

## Length of stay as a percent of total admissions

This is a summary of the length of stay of those discharged from their higher order spell. Percentages are shown for various time boundaries and reflect the total admissions cohort, including those still in care. The length of stay percentages were calculated by dividing the number discharged within a specified time frame by the total number of children in the admissions cohort.

- Of the total number of children in an admissions cohort, the percent that were discharged within 12 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in an admissions cohort, the percent that were discharged between 13 and 24 months of entering care is provided.
- Of the total number of children in an admissions cohort, the percent that were discharged between 25 and 36 months of entering care is provided.

## Number discharged to adoption

This is the number of children that were discharged to adoption from their higher order foster care spell as of the specified point-in-time.

A summary of the length of stay of those discharged to adoption from their 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell in foster care is provided. Percentages are shown for various time boundaries and are based on the total number of children adopted.

- Of the total number of children adopted, the percent that were adopted within 24 months is shown.
- Of the total number of children adopted, the percent that were adopted between 25 and 30 months is shown.
- Of the total number of children adopted, the percent that were adopted between 31 and 36 months is shown.

For children that were adopted after being freed the length of stay in their 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spell between being freed and adopted is provided. Percentages are shown for various time frames and are based on the total number of freed children that were adopted.

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- Of the total number of freed children adopted, the percent adopted within 12 months of being freed is provided.
- Of the total number of freed children that were adopted, the percent adopted within 13-24 months of being freed is provided.
- Of the total number of freed children that were adopted, the percent adopted more than 24 months after being freed is provided.