

# TOP 12 INDICATOR

## Outcome 4 Citywide

### Re-entries into Foster Care from Reunification & Adoption<sup>1</sup>

A child's return or re-entry to foster care suggests that the original effort at permanency was not successful.

**ACS is committed to driving down the re-entry rate from its current 13.2%.**

ACS has benchmarked the citywide re-entry rate to be 8% by July 2002 and 5% by 2003.

Definitions used in this measurement:

- **Reunification** is defined as discharge to a parent, relative or primary resource person.
- **Re-entry from reunification** is defined as an admission whose previous discharge was to reunification.
- **Percent with re-entry within 1 year of reunification discharge** is defined as the percent of children with a reunification discharge that re-entered care within one year of that discharge.
- A **Spell** is the time between a foster care entry and discharge. A child's first spell is his/her first episode in which he/she is placed into a foster home setting. Subsequent episodes in foster care are higher-order spells (2nd spell, 3rd spell...)
- **Calendar year-to-date (CYTD)** refers to the time period from January to the most current month on the report.

Basic Concept:

- When examining the re-entry rate, we are looking at the group of children who were discharged one year ago and who re-entered care anytime during that year.
- **Example:** If a child is discharged from care on January 1st, 2000 and then re-enters care anytime before January 1st, 2001, he/she is counted as a re-entry.

This performance report focuses on two perspectives: (1) discharges from, and (2) admissions into foster care. The **first perspective** focuses on what is perceived to be the best measure of Outcome 4: **measuring the rate at which children discharged to reunification return to care within one year**. This portion of the report also measures the rate of re-entry based on length of stay at time of discharge, comparing the re-entry rates of discharges within 90 days of care to the re-entry rates of discharges after 90 days of care.

### Summary of Re-entry from Reunification Discharge

Discharged in:	JAN 2008	FEB 2008	MAR 2008	CYTD 2008	CYTD 2007
Reunification Discharges from ALL Spells	435	383	437	1,255	1,033
% re-entered <u>w/in 1 year</u>	12.2%	12.0%	15.3%	13.2%	11.7%
Reunification discharges from 1st spell	353	310	361	1,024	844
% 1st spell re-entered <u>w/in 1 year</u>	12.2%	11.9%	15.5%	13.3%	12.3%
Reunification discharges from 2nd spell or greater	82	73	76	231	189
% 2nd (+) spell re-entered <u>w/in 1 year</u>	12.2%	12.3%	14.5%	13.0%	9.0%

<sup>1</sup> The re-entry rate for children discharged to adoption will be reported, but currently the data to complete this analysis are unavailable.

**Shaded** rows highlight critical measures for this Top 12 indicator.

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Trend analysis has shown that children who are discharged to reunification after shorter stays (less than 90 days) in foster care are consistently far more likely to re-enter care within one year of discharge.

Basic Concept:

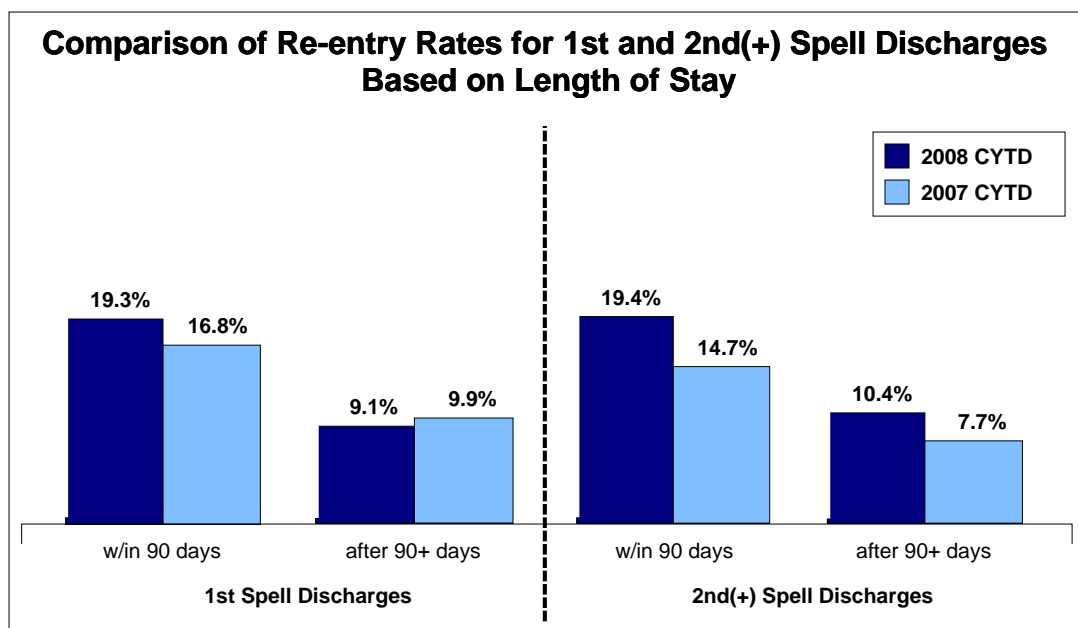
-- The same basic re-entry concept is true of this breakdown. However, here we examine the outcome by grouping the children into two categories: those with a short stay in care (discharge occurs within 90 days of placement into care) and those with a longer stay in care (discharge occurs after 90 days of placement).

#### Re-entry Rates for 1st Spell Discharges Based on Length of Stay

Discharged in:	JAN 2008	FEB 2008	MAR 2008	CYTD 2008	CYTD 2007
Discharges w/in 90 days of placement	162	114	144	420	297
% Re-entered w/in 1 year	14.2%	19.3%	25.0%	19.3%	16.8%
Discharges after 90+ days of placement	191	196	217	604	547
% Re-entered w/in 1 year	10.5%	7.7%	9.2%	9.1%	9.9%

#### Re-entry Rates for 2nd or Greater Spell Discharges Based on Length of Stay

Discharged in:	JAN 2008	FEB 2008	MAR 2008	CYTD 2008	CYTD 2007
Discharges w/in 90 days of placement	31	18	18	67	34
% Re-entered w/in 1 year	19.4%	22.2%	16.7%	19.4%	14.7%
Discharges after 90+ days of placement	51	55	58	164	155
% Re-entered w/in 1 year	7.8%	9.1%	13.8%	10.4%	7.7%



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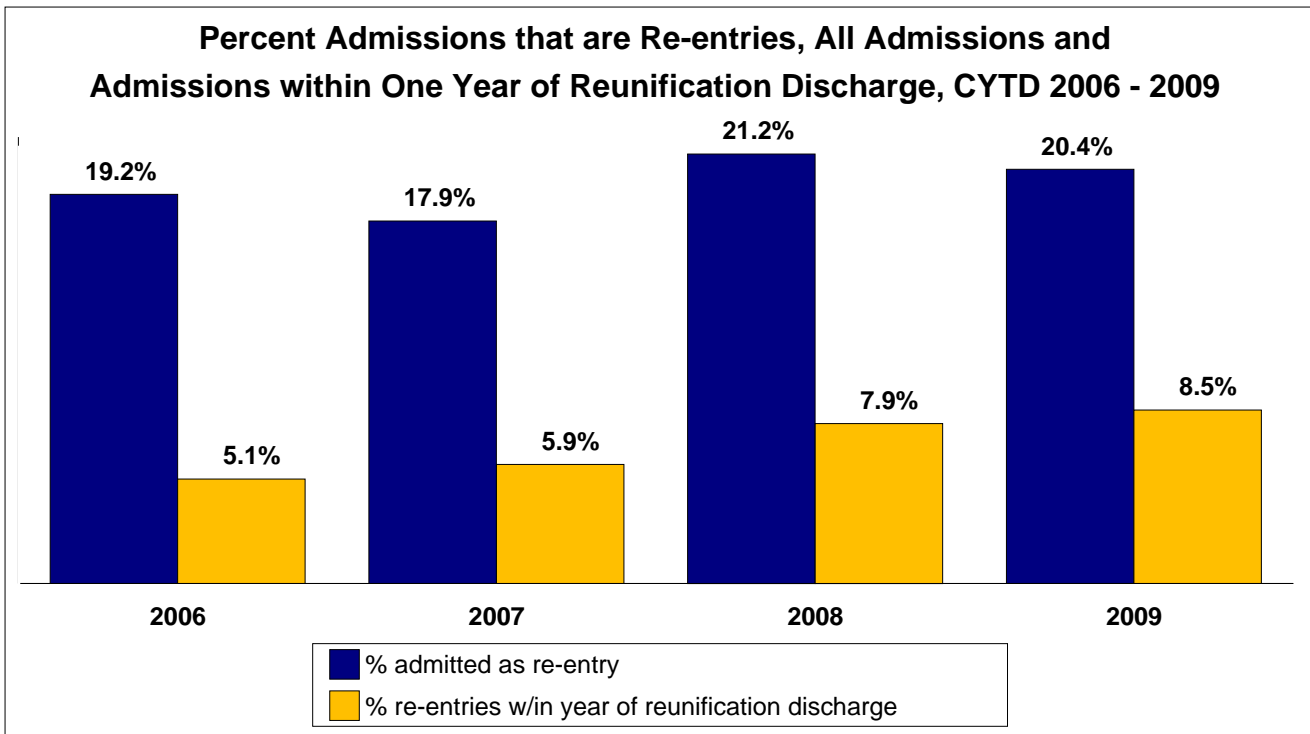
The **second perspective** considers the total number of placements from home (admissions) and provides information on foster care history for those children.

Basic Concept:

- This is a broadly based measure in that any re-entry is counted, regardless of timeframe.
- **Example:** If a child is admitted into care in January 2001, his prior foster care experiences are examined to see if he has re-entered care: (1) from any spell; (2) from any reunification discharge regardless of time; and/or (3) from a reunification discharge that occurred within one year ago.

### Summary of Admissions into Foster Care

Month/Year of entry:	JAN 2009	FEB 2009	MAR 2009	CYTD 2009	CYTD 2008
Total Placements	669	627	693	1,989	1,852
% admitted as re-entry from <u>any</u> prior foster care	18.4%	19.5%	23.2%	20.4%	21.2%
% re-entry from <u>any</u> reunification discharge	16.7%	17.9%	21.5%	18.8%	19.0%
% re-entry <u>w/in 1 year</u> of reunification discharge	8.1%	8.0%	9.5%	8.5%	7.9%



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