

Outcome 6 **Citywide**

Increase Permanency for Adolescents

All foster children, should be discharged to a permanent family, whether it is to their own families, to relatives, or to adoptive families. Foster children often discover that as they grow older, the possibilities of returning to their parents or of being adopted diminish with time. This outcome provides a measure of the foster care system's success at moving adolescents (youths 12 years and older) into permanent, stable homes on a timely basis.

This report focuses on three perspectives:

- 1) the status of adolescents included in annual admissions cohorts;
- 2) placements of adolescents; and
- 3) adolescents in care at a given point in time.

Definitions used in this measure:

- **Annual Adolescent Admissions Cohort** refers to the group of adolescents, 12 years and older at the time of admission, placed in foster care in a given year.
- 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...).
- **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 a parent, relative or primary resource person.
- A discharge to **Independent Living (IL)** indicates that youth received help in making the transition to adulthood through the IL program, which provides assistance in the areas of education, employment, housing and basic life skills.
- **Absent Without Leave (AWOL)** refers to any child who is absent without permission for more than twenty-four hours.
- **Other destinations** refer to all other discharge destinations that are not categorized as reunification, adoption, Independent Living or AWOL.
- **Kinship placements** refer to children placed with a relative up to the third degree.
- **Foster Boarding Home placements (FBH)** refer to children placed in a non-kinship family residence setting.
- **Congregate care placements** refer to children placed into a facility such as an agency operated boarding home, a group home, a group residence or an institutional setting.
- **Calendar year-to-date (CYTD)** refers to the time period from January to the most current month on the report.

The **first perspective** looks at the status of all adolescents admitted into foster care in a given year, i.e., an annual admission cohort.

Basic Concept:

- When examining adolescent permanency, the adolescent admissions cohorts examined 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: an adolescent admitted into foster care for the first time (1st spell) anytime in CY 2000, 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 CY 2001. 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.

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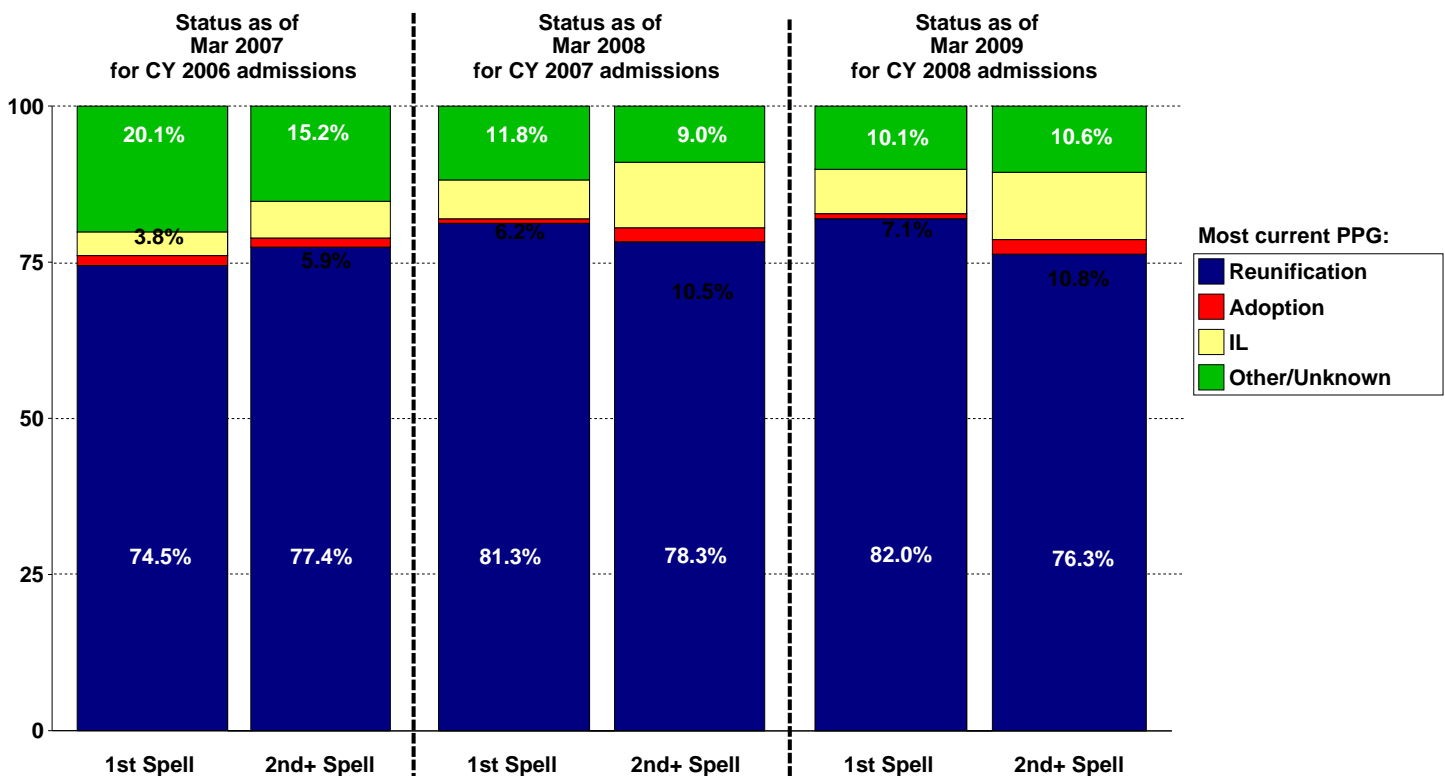
The best indicators of success at achieving increased permanency from this perspective are the percent discharged to reunification and the percent discharged to adoption.

For both 1st spell and 2nd or greater spell annual admissions cohorts, the number of adolescents placed into care and their age group (12 to 13; 14 to 15; and 16 to 17 years) are provided.

Admission Year	CY 2006		CY 2007		CY 2008	
	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell
Number of Adolescents Admitted in CY	1,846	838	2,018	797	1,987	892
# that are 12-13 years old at Placement	487	215	469	209	460	202
% 12-13 years old at Placement	26.4%	25.7%	23.2%	26.2%	23.2%	22.6%
# that are 14-15 years old at Placement	817	351	904	317	876	356
% 14-15 years old at Placement	44.3%	41.9%	44.8%	39.8%	44.1%	39.9%
# that are 16-17 years old at Placement	539	266	642	264	643	322
% 16-17 years old at Placement	29.2%	31.7%	31.8%	33.1%	32.4%	36.1%
Status as of:	MAR 2007		MAR 2008		MAR 2009	
Number of Children still in care	1,132	545	1,126	534	1,109	557

The chart and tables follow show these same admission cohorts at a comparable point-in-time. For adolescents still in care, the chart below provides the most current PPG. For those adolescents who have been discharged, information on discharge destination and time in care appear on the next page.

Most Recent PPG for Adolescents Still in Care by Admission Spell in CY 2006 - 2008



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Discharge Destinations by Adolescent Age Groups & Spell

	Status as of Mar 2007 for CY 2006 Admissions		Status as of Mar 2008 for CY 2007 Admissions		Status as of Mar 2009 for CY 2008 Admissions	
	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell
Number discharged who were 12-13 at admission	182	74	190	50	217	68
% discharged to reunification	92.3%	91.9%	90.0%	92.0%	93.5%	95.6%
% discharged to adoption	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% discharged to IL	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%
% discharged to AWOL	0.5%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%
% discharged to other destinations	7.1%	8.1%	7.4%	8.0%	3.7%	4.4%
Number discharged who were 14-15 at admission	309	130	409	119	392	145
% discharged to reunification	78.3%	70.8%	78.0%	77.3%	84.2%	80.7%
% discharged to adoption	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% discharged to IL	1.0%	3.1%	1.0%	2.5%	0.8%	2.1%
% discharged to AWOL	3.9%	4.6%	7.3%	4.2%	4.1%	4.8%
% discharged to other destinations	16.8%	21.5%	13.7%	16.0%	11.0%	12.4%
Number discharged who were 16-17 at admission	223	87	292	91	266	119
% discharged to reunification	78.0%	64.4%	72.6%	56.0%	79.3%	74.8%
% discharged to adoption	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% discharged to IL	6.7%	9.2%	11.3%	15.4%	6.8%	7.6%
% discharged to AWOL	5.4%	8.0%	7.2%	13.2%	4.9%	8.4%
% discharged to other destinations	9.9%	18.4%	8.9%	15.4%	9.0%	9.2%

Length of Stay for Discharges for 1st Spell & 2nd or Greater Spells

	Status as of Mar 2007 for CY 2006 Admissions		Status as of Mar 2008 for CY 2007 Admissions		Status as of Mar 2009 for CY 2008 Admissions	
	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell	1st Spell	2nd+ Spell
Total admissions of adolescents	1,846	838	2,018	797	1,987	892
Length of stay as a percent of Total Admissions						
% discharged within 3 months	21.1%	19.6%	23.9%	16.7%	27.3%	22.8%
% discharged 4-6 months	7.6%	7.3%	9.1%	9.4%	9.2%	9.2%
% discharged 7-12 months	9.0%	7.9%	11.0%	6.4%	7.3%	5.4%

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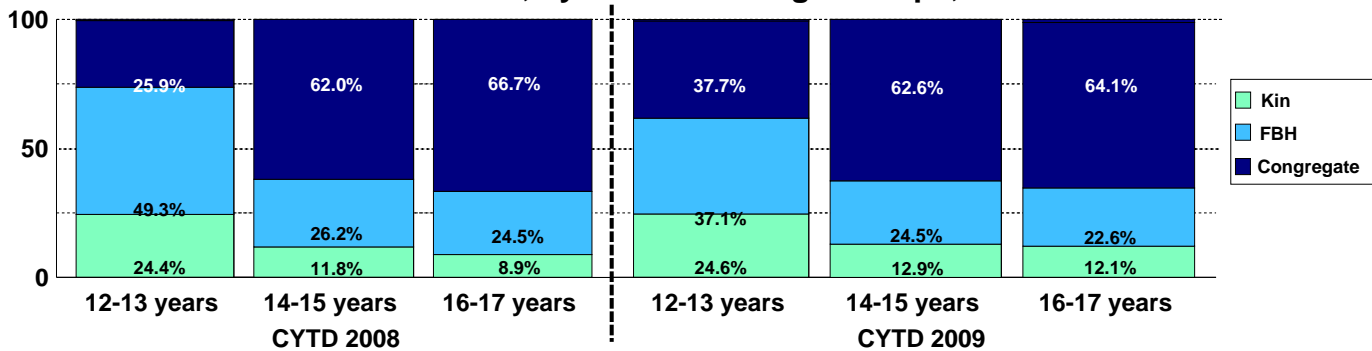
The **second perspective** focuses on the number of placements of adolescents who were 12-13, 14-15 and 16-17 years old at the time they entered foster care. The level of care for these placements for both age groups is provided.

The **best indicator of success from the second perspective** is the percent of adolescents placed in family settings such as kinship and foster boarding homes.

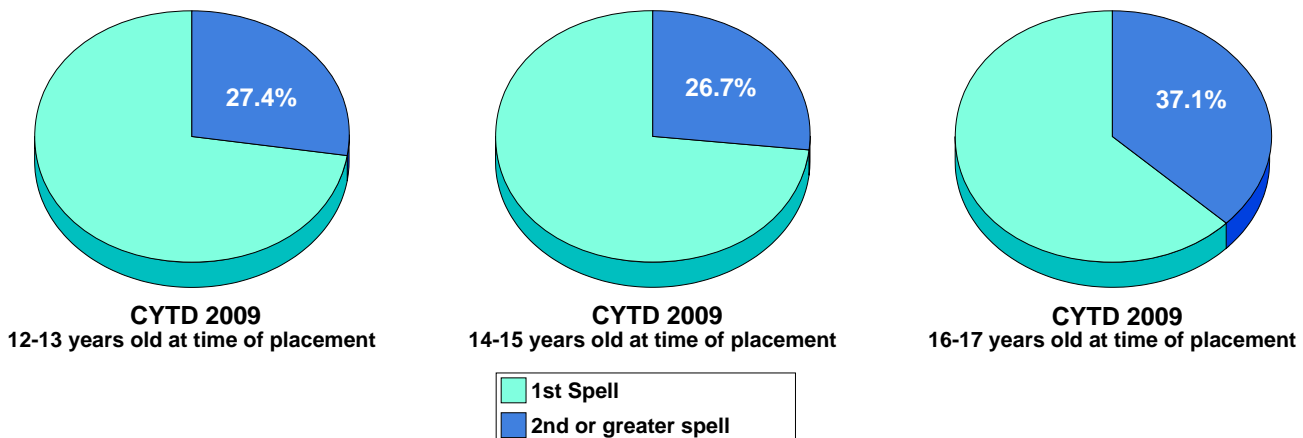
Placements by Adolescent Age Group

Placements	JAN 2009	FEB 2009	MAR 2009	CYTD 2009	CYTD 2008
All Placements	669	627	693	1,989	1,852
% of all placements that are adolescents	38.7%	36.0%	37.5%	37.5%	40.5%
Number of adolescent placements	259	226	260	745	750
Number of placements of adolescents 12-13	50	57	68	175	205
% adolescents placed that were 12-13	19.3%	25.2%	26.2%	23.5%	27.3%
Number of placements of adolescents 14-15	119	87	112	318	305
% adolescents placed that were 14-15	45.9%	38.5%	43.1%	42.7%	40.7%
Number of placements of adolescents 16-17	89	79	80	248	237
% adolescents placed that were 16-17	34.4%	35.0%	30.8%	33.3%	31.6%

Level of Care at Placement, by Adolescent Age Groups, CYTD 2008 - 2009



Percent of Adolescent Placements in CYTD 2009 that were a 2nd or Greater Spell



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The third perspective focuses on the status of adolescents at a given point in time. Adolescents are divided into three age groups: 12-13, 14-15, 16-17 and those older than 17 years. The point in time for this perspective is the last day of the month of reporting.

The critical indicator from the third perspective is the percent in care with adoption and reunification PPGs.

Adolescents in Care by Age Groups

In care on last day of month	JAN 2009	FEB 2009	MAR 2009	MAR 2008
Number of Adolescents in Care	8,410	8,493	8,579	8,272
% adolescents 12-13 years old in care	16.6%	16.4%	16.4%	18.3%
% adolescents 14-15 years old in care	23.6%	23.4%	23.5%	24.2%
% adolescents 16-17 years old in care	31.5%	31.8%	31.6%	30.5%
% adolescents 18 years and older in care	28.2%	28.4%	28.6%	27.1%

PPG Distribution by Adolescent Age Groups, March 2009

