

## Outcome 6: Increase Permanency for Adolescents

*This outcome report measures the performance of the foster care system in moving adolescents (children 12 years and older) into permanent homes on a timely basis.*

### Key Notes on Source Data

The source for 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 his/her case address at the time of placement as recorded in the WMS.

### Total Number and Types of Reports:

Two levels of reporting have been devised for presenting the data: summary reports and comparative reports. There is a citywide, or system wide, summary report and three similar reports, i.e. Borough, CD, and Agency, which consider smaller sub-populations 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 only on the performance of increasing permanency for adolescents who are originally from a particular borough.
3. Community District (CD) Summary – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses on the performance of increasing permanency for adolescents who are originally from a particular CD.
4. Agency Summary – This report mimics the citywide report, but provides information for youth 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 adolescents from a particular CD in a particular borough with the permanency experiences of adolescents from the same borough and the city as a whole.
6. Agency Comparative with City – This report compares the permanency experiences of adolescents who are currently placed with, or were discharged from, a facility managed by a particular agency with the permanency experiences of adolescents from all contract agencies/ACS direct foster care services and the city as a whole.

### Report 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 for pages 1 and 2 shows:

- the five most recent admission 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 admissions year.

*For example*, for the September 2001 report, the five most recent admissions years are calendar years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. The status as of the closing of the most recent quarter (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – September 30<sup>th</sup>) in the year *following* the admission year is shown. The status of the Calendar Year (CY) 2000 admission year group is reported as of the close of September 2001. For the CY 1999 admissions year group, their status is reported as of the close of September 2000. The same holds for each of the other admission years.

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For page 3 in each of these summary reports, placements into care for the most recent months are shown. The layout for page 3 displays the following:

- the three most recent months of data for the current calendar year; and
- calendar year-to-date (CYTD) cumulative totals for the current year and the three years prior.

For page 4 the status of the current in care population on the last day of the month, regardless of when they entered care is shown. The layout for page 4 displays the following:

- the three most recent months of data for the current calendar year; and
- the most recent month of the current year and that same month for the three years prior.

**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's and the City's performances. The Agency comparative report provides a comparison of a particular agency's performance with the City's performance. The layout for each of these reports for pages 1 and 2 shows:

- the status of the most recent admissions cohort as of the closing of the most recent quarter; and
- the percentage change from the previous admissions 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 2001 report, the CY 2000 cohort is shown as of September 2001. The percentage change from the previous cohort year data reflects the comparative change from the 2000 cohort and the 1999 cohort.

For page 3 of each of these comparative reports, the layout shows:

- the most recent month of data for the current calendar year;
- CYTD cumulative total for the current year; and
- the percentage change from the previous CYTD cumulative total.

The layout for page 4 displays the following:

- the most recent month of data for the current calendar year; and
- the percentage change from the same month of the previous year.

## Details on Performance Report

All reports describe the performance of this indicator from three perspectives: (1) the status of adolescents placed in annual admissions cohorts; (2) the most recent group of placements of adolescents; and (3) status of all adolescents in care, regardless of when they entered care and their age at placement, at a given point-in-time.

- Annual adolescent admission cohort refers to the group of adolescents, 12 years and older at the time of placement, placed in foster care in a given year.

When examining the performance of this population, we are looking at the group of youth who entered care in a given year and their status as of the end of the month that is listed in this report.

There are two basic cuts of the data. The first cut is determined by foster care spells. Cohorts are divided into two groups: 1<sup>st</sup> spells or 2<sup>nd</sup>+ spells. Information on children in 1<sup>st</sup> spells appears on page 1 while information on children in 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spells appears on page 2.

- 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-ordered spells (2<sup>nd</sup> spell, 3<sup>rd</sup> spell...).

The second cut of data separates adolescents into three groups based on age at time of placement. Adolescents are grouped in 12 to 13, 14 to 15 and 16 to 17 year-old categories.

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## **Perspective 1: Status of Adolescents Placed in Annual Admissions Cohorts – pp. 1 & 2**

Both of these pages of the report consider the overall performance of admissions cohorts. The best indicators of success at achieving increased permanency from this perspective are the percent discharged to reunification and the percent discharged to adoption.

### **First Foster Care Spell**

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

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

- Of the admissions cohort, the percent of adolescents between the ages of 12 years and 13 years at time of placement is provided.
- Of the admissions cohort, the percent of adolescents between the ages of 14 years and 15 years at time of placement is provided.
- Of the admissions cohort, the percent of adolescents between the ages of 16 years and 17 years at time of placement is provided.

#### **Number still in 1<sup>st</sup> spell**

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

- Of the adolescents still in care from 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 parents/legal guardian (01) and discharge to other primary resource person (02) are considered reunification goals.
- Of the adolescents still in care from 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 the adolescents still in care from 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.

Note: The percentage not shown represents those adolescents still in care with a different PPG (e.g., discharge to adult residential care, prevent placement, protect child) or a missing a PPG.

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

This sub-group is the number of adolescents 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 adolescents admitted in their 1<sup>st</sup> spell. For the adolescents discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

- Of the adolescents 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 the adolescents 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.
- Of the adolescents 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.

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- Of the adolescents discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell, the percent discharged to absent without leave (AWOL) is provided. As reported in CCRS, the discharge destination indicated as AWOL (583) is considered an AWOL discharge.
- Of the adolescents 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, i.e., discharge to a mental institution, a correctional facility, the military, etc.

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

This is a summary of the length of stay of adolescents discharged from their 1<sup>st</sup> spell. Percentages are shown for varying time frames and are reflective of the total admissions cohort, including the adolescents still in care. That is, the length of stay percentages shown were calculated by dividing the number of adolescents discharged within a certain time frame by the *total* adolescent admissions cohort.

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

## **Number 12-13 at admission discharged from 1<sup>st</sup> spell**

This section describes the discharge group of a sub-population of the total admissions cohort that consists of adolescents who entered care for the first time when they were between the ages of 12 and 13 years. The number discharged from this group is provided. For the adolescents discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

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

## **Number 14-15 at admission discharged from 1<sup>st</sup> spell**

This section describes the discharge group of a sub-population of the total admissions cohort that consists of adolescents who entered care for the first time when they were between the ages of 14 and 15 years. The number discharged from this group is provided. For the adolescents discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

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

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## **Number 16-17 at admission discharged from 1<sup>st</sup> spell**

This section describes the discharge group of a sub-population of the total admissions cohort that consists of adolescents who entered care for the first time when they were between the ages of 16 and 17 years. The number discharged from this group is provided. For the adolescents discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

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

## **Second or Greater Foster Care Spell**

### **Number of adolescents with a 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spell admissions in CY**

This reported number reflects the higher-order spell group of adolescents who entered foster care in a given calendar year, all of whom had at least one previous foster care episode.

- Of the adolescent admissions cohort, the percent of adolescents between the ages of 12 years and 13 years at time of placement is provided.
- Of the adolescent admissions cohort, the percent of adolescents between the ages of 14 years and 15 years at time of placement is provided.
- Of the adolescent admissions cohort, the percent of adolescents between the ages of 16 years and 17 years at time of placement is provided.

### **Number of children still in 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spells**

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

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

Note: The percentage not shown represents those adolescents still in care with a different PPG (e.g., discharge to adult residential care, prevent placement, protect child) or a missing a PPG.

### **Number discharged from 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spells**

This sub-group is the number of adolescents who have been discharged from a higher-order spell as of the specified point-in-time date. This number combined with the count for the adolescents still in care totals the overall number of adolescents admitted in a higher-ordered spell. For those discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

- Of the adolescents discharged from a higher-order spell, the percent discharged to reunification is provided.

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

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

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

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

## **Number 12-13 at admission discharged from 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spell**

This section describes the discharge group of a sub-population of the total admissions cohort that consists of adolescents who entered care in a higher-order spell when they were between the ages of 12 and 13 years. The number discharged from this group is provided. For those discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

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

## **Number 14-15 at admission discharged from 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spell**

This section describes the discharge group of a sub-population of the total admissions cohort that consists of adolescents who entered care in a higher-order spell when they were between the ages of 14 and 15 years. The number discharged from this group is provided. For those discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

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

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- Of the adolescents discharged from a higher-order spell, the percent discharged to AWOL is provided.
- Of the adolescents discharged from a higher-order spell, the percent discharged to other destinations is provided.

## **Number 16-17 at admission discharged from 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater spell**

This section describes the discharge group of a sub-population of the total admissions cohort that consists of adolescents who entered care in a higher-order spell when they were between the ages of 16 and 17 years. The number discharged from this group is provided. For those discharged, the discharge destination breakdown is shown.

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

## **Perspective 2: Placements of Adolescents – Page 3**

This section of the report presents the number of placements of adolescents, grouped by the three age categories. The best indicator of success from this perspective is the percent of adolescents placed in family settings, i.e., kinship and foster boarding homes (FBH).

## **Number of adolescent placements**

This first section of this page provides an overview of the in-flow of adolescent placements into foster care in a given time period. This is not a count of unique adolescents, but rather a count of placement episodes into foster care.

## **% of all placements that are adolescents**

The second section provides the percentage of placements into foster care that were of youth 12 or older in a given time period.

## **Number of adolescents 12-13 placed**

This number reflects a count of placements of adolescents who were between the ages of 12 and 13 years at the time they were placed into care during a given time period.

- Of the total number of adolescent placements, the percent that entered care between the ages of 12 and 13 years is provided.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 12-13 years of age at the time of placement, the percent that were to kinship care is provided. Kinship placement is foster care provided by a relative up to the third degree (grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great uncles, siblings and first cousins).
- Of placements of adolescents who were 12-13 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were to an FBH facility is provided. An FBH is a family residential home that is licensed for one or more beds.

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- Of placements of adolescents who were 12-13 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were in a congregate care facility is provided. Congregate care is a type of foster care placement that includes agency operated boarding homes, group homes, group residences, and institutional settings.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 12-13 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were entries into care in a higher-order spell (2<sup>nd</sup> or greater) is provided.

## Number of adolescents 14-15 placed

This number reflects a count of placements of adolescents who were between the ages of 14 and 15 years at the time they were placed into care during a given time period.

- Of the total number of adolescent placements, the percent that entered care between the ages of 14 and 15 years is provided.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 14-15 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were to kinship care is provided
- Of placements of adolescents who were 14-15 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were to an FBH facility is provided.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 14-15 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were placed in a congregate care facility is provided.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 14-15 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were entries into care in a higher-order spell (2<sup>nd</sup> or greater) is provided.

## Number of adolescents 16-17 placed

This number reflects a count of placements of adolescents who were between the ages of 16 and 17 years at the time they were placed into care at a given time period.

- Of the total number of adolescent placements, the percent that entered care between the ages of 16 and 17 years is provided.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 16-17 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were to kinship care is provided
- Of placements of adolescents who were 16-17 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were to an FBH facility is provided.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 16-17 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were placed in a congregate care facility is provided.
- Of placements of adolescents who were 16-17 years of age at time of placement, the percent that were entries into care in a higher-order spell (2<sup>nd</sup> or greater) is provided.

### **Perspective 3: Adolescents in Care at a Given Point-in-time - Page 4**

This last page of the report presents the in care adolescent population in foster care as of the last day of the reporting period shown. The critical indicator from this perspective is the percent in care with adoption and reunification permanency planning goals (PPGs).

## Number of adolescents in care

This number is the point-in-time unique count of the adolescent in care population.

## % In Care that are adolescents

This is the percent of all children in foster care at a given point in time that is 12 or older.

## Number of adolescents 12-13

This is count of the adolescent in care population that is between the ages of 12 and 13 years.

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- Of the total adolescents in care at a given time, the percent that are between the ages of 12-13 years is provided.
- Of the 12-13 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided.
- Of the 12-13 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of adoption is provided.
- Of the 12-13 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of independent living is provided.

## **Number of adolescents 14-15**

This is count of the adolescent in care population that is between the ages of 14 and 15 years.

- Of the total adolescents in care at a given time, the percent that are between the ages of 14-15 years is provided.
- Of the 14-15 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided.
- Of the 14-15 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of adoption is provided.
- Of the 14-15 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of independent living is provided.

## **Number of adolescents 16-17**

This is count of the adolescent in care population that is between the ages of 16 and 17 years.

- Of the total adolescents in care at a given time, the percent that are between the ages of 16-17 years is provided.
- Of the 16-17 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided.
- Of the 16-17 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of adoption is provided.
- Of the 16-17 year old adolescents, the percent that have a PPG of independent living is provided.

## **Number of adolescents > 17**

This is count of the adolescent in care population that is older than 17 years of age.

- Of the total adolescents in care at a given time, the percent that are over the age of 17 years is provided.
- Of the adolescents older that 17 years, the percent that have a PPG of reunification is provided.
- Of the adolescents older that 17 years, the percent that have a PPG of adoption is provided.
- Of the adolescents older that 17 years, the percent that have a PPG of independent living is provided.