

Federal Analysis Shows that New York State is Failing to Keep Children Safe or to Find Permanent Homes for Children in Foster Care within a Reasonable Time



Every three years the federal Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families' Children's Bureau conducts an assessment of states' performance on child welfare outcomes. The review, called the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), assesses states' performance in areas related to child welfare. Here, we focus on the Review's evaluation of New York State's performance on the following measures: safety of children involved in the child welfare system; speed with which children are placed in a permanent home and remain there; and the number of times children are moved while in care. Each of these measures is compared to a national standard.

According to its 2015 review, New York ranks near the bottom nationally on safety and permanency measures, indicating that children in New York are more likely to experience a recurrence of maltreatment than children in other states, and are less likely to be placed quickly in permanent homes. New York scores well nationally on one measure: placement stability. This indicates that children in its foster care system are moved less frequently while in care than children in other states.

County-level data for New York State and current (Round Three) CFSR data for all states can be found on our website: www.scaany.org.

New York State Child Welfare Data: Child & Family Services Review

Outcome	Observed Performance (FFY 2011-2012)*		Wave 2 (FFY 2014)	Desired Direction of Change	National Standard	National Standard Met or Not Met	Rank (comparison to other states) (FFY 2011-2012)
	Wave 1 (FFY 2013)	Wave 2 (FFY 2014)					
Safety							
Maltreatment While in Care ⁱ	15.6%	15.6%	14.7%	↓	8.5%	Not Met	46 of 48 states
Recurrence of Maltreatment ⁱⁱ	17.8%	17.8%	17.4%	↓	9.1%	Not Met	47 of 47 states
Permanency							
Exits Within 12 Months ⁱⁱⁱ	33.6%	33.6%	34.5%	↑	40.5%	Not Met	36 of 47 states
Exits 12-23 Months ^{iv}	25.9%	25.9%	27.4%	↑	43.6%	Not Met	48 of 49 states
Exits 24+ Months ^v	27.4%	27.4%	27.1%	↑	30.3%	Not Met	37 of 49 states
Re-Entries Within 12 Months ^{vi}	10.5%	10.5%	10.4%	↓	8.3%	Not Met	37 of 48 states
Placement Stability ^{vii} **	2.92%	NA	NA	↓	4.12%	Met	5 of 46 states

Please note: this federal review excludes youth ages 18 and older from its measurements, as many states do not extend foster care beyond age 18.

*Released May, 2015.

**Wave 1 and Wave 2 data unavailable for this measure.

ⁱ Measures the rate of victimization for all children in foster care in a 12-month period. The number here is the rate per 1,000 days in care.

ⁱⁱ The percentage of children who experience a second report of maltreatment within one year of an initial indicated report of maltreatment.

ⁱⁱⁱ The percentage of children who enter foster care and are placed into a permanent home – by returning to their family, being adopted, or through guardianship with a relative – within 12 months.

^{iv} The percentage of children who are placed into a permanent home within 12 months of the start of the period, after having already been in foster care for 12 to 23 months.

^v The percentage of children who are placed into a permanent home within 12 months of the start of the period, after having already been in foster care for 24 months or more.

^{vi} The percentage of children enter foster care within a 12 month period and who return to foster care within 12 months of being discharged from care to a permanent home (returning to their family, being adopted or through guardianship with a relative).

^{vii} Measures the rate of moves among foster care placements for all children in foster care in a 12-month period. The number here is the rate per 1,000 days in care.