

California Child Welfare Services
Outcome & Accountability County Data Report
(Welfare Supervised Caseload)
(County)
January 2004

Quarterly Outcome and Accountability County Data Reports published by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provide summary level Federal and State program measures that will serve as the basis for the county self assessment reviews and be used to track State and county performance over time. The initial January 2004 report will serve as the baseline level of performance for each county and represents the starting point that each county will use to measure improvement. It is important that counties not draw comparisons to performance in other counties or even the State as a whole due to the differences in demographics, resources and practice. The intent of the new system is for each county, through their self assessment review based on their data, to determine the reasons for their current level of performance and to develop a plan for measurable improvement.

Assembly Bill (AB) 636 requires a series of measures that provide indicators of key program outcomes, processes, and receipt of critical services. The outcome measures are also, at a minimum, consistent with those outcomes of the federal Child and Family Services Review in that the federal indicators are a subset of the State's indicators under this new system. Under the new Outcomes and Accountability System it is expected that the state will not only improve its performance on the federal indicators but on an even broader set of state enhanced indicators. The data identified below are focused on critical safety, stability, family, and well-being measures that are currently available, and that are provided to counties for initial assessment of their programs performance. The data in this report reflects the outcomes for data available through June 30, 2003. Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) included in this document direct the viewer to summary data across counties and breakouts by age, race, gender, and over time. This Outcome Accountability County Data Report will provide the state with a county-by-county detailed description of each element that comprises the service delivery system.

The data source for these reports is the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) which became fully operational in all 58 counties on December 31, 1997. Counties are responsible for inputting data on CWS/CMS as part of their process to manage their caseloads of children and families who receive child welfare services. The accuracy of the information derived from CWS/CMS is continuously improving. As with any large automation system it provides a broad range of challenges and benefits as it continues to undergo improvements to keep abreast of the changing child welfare system.

Comparison of data across counties should be done with caution. First, counties may have different data management practices. Though data are recorded on one statewide database system (CWS/CMS), differences in data entry and update may influence outcome measures reported here. Second, the social and economic contexts within

which child welfare services are provided vary widely among the fifty-eight counties of California.

In this report data measures have been grouped into the five general categories of outcome measures: Child Welfare Services Participation Rates; Safety Outcomes; Permanency & Stability Outcomes; Family Relationships and Community Connection Outcomes; The data for these categories are presented as follows:

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PARTICIPATION RATES

This section provides data on the number, and number per 1,000 children in the county/state, for key child welfare indicators. It is intended as background information and was developed by the University of California, Berkeley (UCB).

Number of children < 18 in population

Population projections for 2002, from Claritas, Inc. (Projections from California Dept. of Finance will be used as soon as they are available based on 2000 Census)

Number of children < 18 in population	#####
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Number and rate of children with referrals

Unduplicated count of child clients < age 18 in referrals in 2002, per 1,000 children < age 18 in population

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Referrals/rates.asp#countyrate>

Number and rate of children with referrals ¹	#####	# per 1,000
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Number and rate of children with substantiated referrals

Unduplicated count of child clients < age 18 in referrals in 2002 that had substantiated allegations, per 1,000 children < age 18 in population

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Referrals/rates.asp#countyrate>

Number and rate of children with substantiated referrals ¹	####	# per 1,000
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Number and rate of first entries

Unduplicated count of children < age 18 entering a child welfare supervised placement episode of at least five days duration for the first time in 2002, per 1,000 children < age 18 in population

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Cohorts/firstentries/Rates.asp>

Number and rate of first entries ¹	####	# per 1,000
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Number and rate of children in care

Number of children < age 19 in child welfare supervised foster care on July 1, 2003, per 1,000 children < age 19 in population.

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Pointintime/fostercare/childwel/prevalence.asp>

Number and rate of children in care	####	# per 1,000
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SAFETY OUTCOMES

These measures are designed to reflect the effectiveness of efforts to protect children from abuse/neglect by reporting instances of abuse and neglect at various stages of child welfare services and process measures which reflect the frequency of social worker contact with children and the speed of face to face investigation of abuse/neglect allegations.

Recurrence of Maltreatment (1B)

This measure reflects the percent of children who were victims of child abuse/neglect with a subsequent substantiated report of abuse/neglect within specific time periods. It is both a state and federal outcome measure. This measure was developed by UCB.

Federal: Of all children with a substantiated allegation within the first six months of the study year (7/1/02-12/31/02), what percent had another substantiated allegation within six months? (limited to dispositions within the study year, according to federal guidelines).

URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cfsrdata/standards/cfsr_recurrence.asp

1A. Recurrence of maltreatment (Fed)	# %
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State: Of all children with a substantiated referral during the 12 month study period (7/1/01-6/30/02), what percent had a subsequent referral within 12 months?

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Referrals/recurrence.asp>

1B. Recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months	# %
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State: Of all children with a **first** substantiated referral during the 12 month study period (7/1/01-6/30/02), what percent had a subsequent referral within 12 months?

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Referrals/recurrence.asp>

1B. Recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months after first substantiated allegation	#%
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Rate of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (1C)

This measure reflects the percent of children in foster care who are abused or neglected while in foster care placement (currently limited due to data constraints to children in foster or FFA homes). This data was developed by UCB. It is a federal outcome measure.

For all children in county supervised or Foster Family Agency child welfare supervised foster care during the most recent nine month review period (10/1/02-6/30/03) (timeframe established according to federal guidelines), what percent had a substantiated allegation by a foster parent during that time?

URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cfsrdata/standards/cfsr_abuse.asp

1C. Rate of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care (Fed)	# %
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Rate of Recurrence of Abuse and/or Neglect in Homes Where Children Were Not Removed (2A)

This measure reflects the occurrence of abuse and/or neglect of children who remain in their own homes receiving child welfare services. This data was developed by CDSS. It is a state outcome measure.

Of all the children with an allegation (inconclusive or substantiated) during the 12 month study period (7/1/01-6/30/02) who were not removed from the home, what percent had a subsequent substantiated allegation within 12 months?

URL: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/>

2A. Rate of recurrence of abuse/neglect in homes where children were not removed	#%
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Percent of Child abuse/Neglect Referrals with a Timely Response (2B)

This is a process measure designed to determine the percent of cases in which face to face contact with a child occurs, or is attempted, within the regulatory time frames in those situations in which a determination is made that the abuse or neglect allegations indicate significant danger to the child. This data was developed by CDSS. It is a state process measure.

Percent of child abuse and neglect referrals that have resulted in an in-person investigation for the study period (4/1/03-6/30/03), stratified by immediate response and ten-day referrals, for both planned and actual visits.

URL: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/>

2B. Percent of child abuse/ neglect referrals with a timely response	Immediate Response Compliance #%	10 Day Response Compliance #%
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Timely Social Worker Visits With Child (2C)

This is a process measure designed to determine if social workers are seeing the children on a monthly basis when that is required. Children for whom a determination is made that monthly visits are not necessary (e.g. valid visit exception) are not included in this measure. This data was developed by CDSS. It is a state process measure. This report is based on CWS/CMS only. (Other data analysis measurements such as the SafeMeasures application may provide different results.)

Of all children who required a monthly social worker visit for the study period (4/1/03-6/30/03), how many received a monthly visit?

URL: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/>

2C. Timely social worker visits with child	April 2003 #%	May 2003 # %	June 2003 # %
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PERMANENCY AND STABILITY OUTCOMES

These measures are designed to reflect the number of foster care placements for each child, the length of time a child is in foster care, and the rate that children re-enter foster care after they have returned home or other permanent care arrangements have been made.

Length of Time to Exit Foster Care to Reunification (3E and 3A)

This is an outcome measure reflecting the percent of children reunified within 12 months of removal of a child from the home. The data was developed by UCB. It is a federal and state outcome measure.

Federal: Of all children who were reunified from child welfare supervised foster care during the most recent 12 month study period (7/1/02-6/30/03), what percent had been in care for less than 12 months?

URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cfsrdata/standards/cfsr_standardsForm.asp

3E. % reunified within 12 months (Fed)	#%
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State: For all children who entered foster care for the first time (and stayed at least five days) during the most recent 12 month study period (7/1/01-6/30/02), what percent were reunified within 12 months?

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Cohorts/exits/>

3A. % reunified within 12 months (entry cohort) ⁵	#%
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Length of Time to Exit Foster Care to Adoption (3D and 3A)

This is an outcome measure reflecting the percent of children adopted within 24 months of removal of a child from the home. The data was developed by UCB. It is a federal and state outcome measure.

Federal: Of all children who were adopted from child welfare supervised foster care during the most recent 12 month study period (7/1/02-6/30/03), what percent had been in care for less than 24 months?

URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cfsrdata/standards/cfsr_standardsForm.asp

3D. % adopted within 24 months (Fed)	#%
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State: For all children who entered child welfare supervised foster care for the first time (and stayed at least five days) during the most recent 12 month study period (7/1/00-6/30/01), what percent were adopted within 24 months?

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Cohorts/exits/>

3A. % adopted within 24 months (entry cohort)	#%
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Multiple Foster Care Placements (3B and 3C)

These measures reflect the number of children with multiple placements within 12 months of placement. This data was developed by UCB. It is a federal and state outcome measure.

Federal: For all children in child welfare supervised foster care for less than 12 months during the most recent 12 month study period (07/1/02-06/30/03), what percent had no more than two placements?

URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cfsrdata/standards/cfsr_standardsForm.asp

3B. % with 1-2 placements within 12 months (Fed)	#%
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State: For all children who entered child welfare supervised foster care for the first time (and stayed at least five days) during the most recent 12 month study period (7/1/01-6/30/02), and were in care for 12 months, what percent had no more than two placements?

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cohorts/stability/>

3C. % with 1-2 placements –if still in care at 12 months (entry cohort) ⁷	#%
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Rate of Foster Care Re-Entry (3F and 3G)

This measure reflects the number of children who re-enter foster care subsequent to reunification or guardianship. The data was developed by UCB. It is a federal and state outcome measure.

Federal: For all children who entered child welfare supervised foster care during the most recent 12 month study period (07/1/02-06/30/03), what percent were subsequent entries within 12 months of a prior exit?

URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cfsrdata/standards/cfsr_standardsForm.asp

3F. % of admissions who are re-entries (Fed)	#%
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State: For all children who entered child welfare supervised foster care for the first time (and stayed at least five days) during the most recent 12 month study period (7/1/00-6/30/01) and were reunified within 12 months of entry, what percent re-entered foster care within 12 months of reunification?

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Cohorts/reentries/>

3G. % who re-entered within 12 months of reunification (entry cohort reunified within 12 months) ⁶	#%
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FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

These measures are designed to reflect the degree to which children in foster care retain relationships with the family and extended communities with whom they are associated at the time of their removal from their parents

Siblings Placed Together in Foster Care (4A)

These measures reflect the number of children placed with all or some of their siblings in foster care. The data was developed by UCB. It is a state outcome measure.

For all children in child welfare supervised foster care on the most recent point-in-time (July 1, 2003), of those with siblings in care, what percent were placed with some and/or all of their siblings?

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/pointintime/fostercare/childwel/siblings.asp>

4A. Percent of children in foster care that are placed with ALL siblings ⁸	#%
4A. Percent of children in foster care that are placed with SOME siblings ⁸	#%

Foster Care Placement in Least Restrictive Settings (4B)

This measure reflects the percent of children placed in each type of foster care setting. The data was developed by UCB. It is a state outcome measure.

For all children who entered child welfare supervised foster care for the first time (and stayed at least five days) during the most recent 12 month study period (7/1/02-6/30/03), what percent were in kin, foster, FFA, group, and other placements (first placement type, predominant placement type); What percent of children in child welfare supervised foster care were in kin, foster, FFA, group, and other placements in the most recent point in time (July 1, 2003)?

URL: (entry cohort) <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cohorts/firstentries/>

URL: (point in time) <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/pointintime/fostercare/childwel/ageandethnic.asp>

	Initial Placement	Primary Placement	Point in Time Placement
4B. Relative	# %	# %	# %
4B. Foster Home	# %	# %	# %
4B. FFA	# %	# %	# %
4B. Group Home ³	# %	# %	# %
4B. Other	# %	# %	#%

Rate of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Placement Preferences (4E)

This measure reflects the percent of ICWA eligible children placed in foster care settings defined by the ICWA. This data was developed by CDSS. It is a state outcome measure. For this question placement data was analyzed for the 2nd quarter of 2003 (Apr-June, 2003).

Of those children identified as American Indian, what percent were placed with relatives, non-relative Indian and non-relative non-Indian families?

URL: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/>

4E. Relative Home	# %
4E. Non-Relative Indian Family	# %
4E. Non- Relative Non-Indian Family	# %

WELL-BEING OUTCOMES

These measures are designed to reflect the degree to which children and families receiving child welfare services are receiving the services necessary to provide for their care and developmental needs.

Children Transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood (8A)

This measure reflects the percent of foster children eligible for Independent Living Services who receive appropriate educational and training, and/or achieve employment or economic self-sufficiency. The data was collected by CDSS. This measure includes data regarding youths, ages 16 through 20, who receive services from the Independent Living Foster Care Program. It identifies the number of youths receiving Independent Living Program services, the program outcomes for those youths, and certain client characteristics. This report is limited to a subset population obtained from State of California form 405A. It is a state outcome measure.

This data is based on hard copy reports submitted by counties to the CDSS for the time period covered by the report.

URL: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/>

Number of Children Transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood with:

8A. High School Diploma	#
8A. Enrolled in College/Higher Education	#
8A. Received ILP Services	#
8A. Completed Vocational Training	#
8A. Employed or other means of support	#

Family-To-Family Outcome Measures

<p>1. Reducing the number and rate of children placed away from their birth families.</p>
<p>2. Increasing the number and rate of children coming into foster care who are placed in their own neighborhoods or communities.</p> <p><i>* Not currently available on County Form.</i></p> <p><i>* Use % placed within 1 or 5 miles and maps of removal/placement</i></p>
<p>3. Reducing the number of children served in institutional and group care.</p>
<p>4. Decreasing lengths of stay of children in placement.</p> <p><i>* Use % still in care at 12 and 24 months and median LOS</i></p>
<p>5. Increasing the number and rate of children reunified with their birth families.</p> <p><i>* Use % reunified within 12 and 24 months</i></p>
<p>6. Decreasing the number and rate of children reentering care.</p>
<p>7. Reducing the number of placement moves children in care experience.</p> <p><i>* Use % with 1-2 placements within 12 and 24 months</i></p>
<p>8. Increasing the number and rate of brothers and sisters placed together.</p>
<p>9. Reducing any disparities associated with race/ethnicity, gender or age in each of these outcomes.</p>