

# REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

## CHILD WELFARE SERVICES REALIGNMENT: OUTCOME AND EXPENDITURE DATA SUMMARY

April 2015 Annual Report



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# CHILD WELFARE SERVICES REALIGNMENT REPORT

## OUTCOME AND EXPENDITURE DATA SUMMARY

### 2011 Realignment of the Child Welfare System

Senate Bill 1013 added Welfare and Institutions Code section 10104 to require the California Department of Social Services to annually report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, and publicly post on the Department's internet website, a summary of outcome and expenditure data that allows for monitoring of changes over time that may have occurred as a result of the 2011 Realignment of the Child Welfare Services system.

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This report is the third annual report on the impact of 2011 Realignment on the Child Welfare Services (CWS) system. Child welfare outcomes in California have been relatively stable over the past four years. Further, there do not appear to be any negative consequences of having transferred fiscal responsibility for the program to the county level.

### *Safety Constellation*

Referral rates have remained relatively constant since 2008. There has been a slight increase from 51 per 1,000 children in 2008 to 52.7 per 1,000 children in 2013, though there was a very slight decrease between 2012 and 2013. Substantiation rates (referrals that are confirmed through an investigation) for 2008 to 2013 have decreased from 10.2 per 1,000 children to 9.2 per 1,000 children, while rates of entry have remained almost unchanged, varying between 3.3 and 3.5 for the same time period. Child welfare practices of investigating referrals within policy timeframes continue to remain above state standards and children continue to be protected from further maltreatment (recurrence of maltreatment has remained stable), based on the current data collection and display methodology.

Lastly for safety, statewide performance on monthly caseworker visits with children continues to improve, with a ten percent increase in compliance with the monthly requirement between 2009 and 2014.

### *Placement and Caseload Constellation*

There has been a significant decline in the foster care caseload. Caseload has declined more than 45 percent from 108,159 in 2000 to 57,679<sup>1</sup> in 2014. Foster care caseloads were lowest in July 2012 at 55,525.

Between 2009 and 2014, the number of children for whom the first placement is with a relative/kin increased from 16 percent to 25 percent, while the proportion of children placed in group homes decreased from 18 percent to 13 percent. Relative homes continue to be the predominant placement for children in care and the proportion of children experiencing placement instability has been consistent over this time period.

Finally, for entries into foster care in 2006 through 2011, the average length of stay for the most recent cohort decreased by three days. Despite this overall trend of fewer days in care, there was a three-day increase during the most recent year (between 2010 and 2011).

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<sup>1</sup> This figure includes all agencies and children ages 0-17.

### *Permanency Constellation*

Among children entering care for the first time, the proportion exiting to reunification within 36 months of entry increased from 58 percent in 2006 to 60 percent in 2011. Among children entering care for the first time ever, between 2008 and 2013, the proportion who reunified within 12 months of entry decreased from 41.1 percent in 2008 to 34.6 percent in 2013.

The proportion of children re-entering foster care within a year increased from 11.1 percent in 2008 to 12.3 percent in 2013, though there was a very slight decrease between 2012 and 2013. While there may be some overlap, the two measures (reunification and re-entry) are not restricted to the same group of children.

## INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is the single state agency responsible for the administration and supervision of the CWS system, a system authorized through the federal social security act, Subparts IV-E and IV-B and throughout various chapters of the Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC). Oversight and monitoring of the CWS system, including development of programmatic and fiscal policy, and training and technical assistance requirements are central to this responsibility. The fiscal and programmatic administration of the CWS system continues to be data informed to ensure compliance with state plan requirements, and to guarantee maximization of federal financial participation for these programs.

The CDSS increased its level of data utilization to oversee all county CWS systems as a result of the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 636 (Steinberg, Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001). Programmatic data have provided greater accountability for child and family outcomes across California, and serve as the foundation for this annual report to the Legislature required by Senate Bill (SB) 1013 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 35, Statutes of 2012). SB 1013 added W&IC section 10104 to require the CDSS to annually report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, and publicly post on the Department's internet website, a summary of outcome and expenditure data that allows for monitoring of changes over time that may have occurred as a result of the 2011 Realignment of the CWS system. In addition, SB 855 (Committee of Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014) further amended W&IC section 10104 to include, to the extent information is readily and publically available, the amount of realignment growth funds each county receives, the child welfare services social worker caseload per county and the number of authorized positions. Performance measures and process data contained in this report are statewide and reflect a cross section of child welfare practices that impact child and family safety, permanency<sup>2</sup>, and well-being, many of which were developed pursuant to AB 636. Through continuous quality improvement, the state and counties have a systematic review of the data coupled with assessments of the changes that occur in demographics, programs, and practices that account for positive or

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<sup>2</sup> While the definition of "permanency" is complex and should consider social, emotional and legal aspects, for the purposes of this document, it means exiting foster care to a permanent family through reunification, guardianship or adoption.

negative trends. Future reports will be able to address a number of questions that arise through the use of case record reviews, which are set to be implemented statewide in September 2015. Data<sup>3</sup> contained in this report were drawn from the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and are available in the publically accessible CDSS/UC Berkeley Dynamic Report system: [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)<sup>4</sup>.

County-specific data can be found at: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3197.HTM>. It should be noted that certain figures (figures 6a/6b and figure 8b) in this report display statewide data by placing agency (child welfare or probation), however, this data is not displayed by placing agency for the county-specific data. This information is not displayed in the county-specific data due to small populations and because some of these figures contain new data measures that are still being developed and refined. In addition, the figures in the Safety Constellation, with the exception of figures 6a and 6b, contain child welfare data only and do not apply to probation.

## Organization of the Report

The analysis that follows is organized into three sections: 1) Performance Measures, 2) Expenditures Summary, and 3) County Growth and Staffing. Within the Performance Measures section are three separate constellations: 1) Safety Outcomes, 2) Placement and Caseload Outcomes, and 3) Permanency Outcomes. Constellations of outcomes, rather than single measures, are appropriate for the complex CWS system; changes in one part of the system can significantly affect other areas.

Examining longitudinal outcome data requires caution and attention to a number of key analytic considerations. The following should be kept in mind when reviewing the data and trends outlined in the report:

- Child welfare is a system and data related to this system are interconnected; measures should not be viewed in isolation.
- Comparing data between various counties on any given measure has limitations due to economic, geographic, and demographic differences that may require different prevention and intervention strategies from one county to the other.
- In small counties, a small number of children, even one family, can create significant shifts in data.
- Performance in any given year needs to be viewed in the context of prior performance.
- Individual county data may differ from statewide data due to local demographics, economics, size, and other factors.

The CDSS continues to monitor county claiming of federal funds; therefore, counties are required to claim actual costs for the realigned programs in the same manner prior to the

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<sup>3</sup> Over time changes in the data noted in the report are calculated as percent change rather than absolute differences in order to account for the varying “sizes” of the units of data.

<sup>4</sup> Figures 1-8a and 9-14 in this report were prepared by the staff of the California Child Welfare Indicators Project, CSSR, UC Berkeley using the CWS/CMS 2014 Q3 extract and can be found at [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

implementation of 2011 Realignment. Expenditures for all realigned programs displayed on the [Realignment Expenditures Summary](#) (Attachment A) compare two years of actuals prior to the implementation of 2011 Realignment--to the years after realignment. The percentage from year to year has been identified as follows:

- Less than zero percent change
- Between zero percent and 50 percent change
- Between 50 percent and 100 percent change
- Above 100 percent change

The expenditures for fiscal year (FY) 2009-10 and FY 2010-11 only capture the non-federal share that is comprised of state General Fund (GF) and county share. For FY 2011-12, FY 2012-13, and FY 2013-2014 the non-federal share is comprised of Local Revenue Fund (LRF) and county share since 2011 Realignment shifted the funding from the state to the local governments. Because counties have up to nine months to submit revisions to their expenditures, FY 2012-13 data have now been finalized and may differ from last year's report.

Information about county growth and staffing is included in this report for the first time. The county growth is displayed for FY 2012-13 as allocated by the State Controller's Office (SCO) on September 16, 2013. Staffing information comes from County Self Assessments (CSAs) submitted to CDSS as part of the California Child and Family Service Review (C-CFSR) process or from counties self-reporting updated information to CDSS for the purposes of this report.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### A: Safety Constellation

The California CWS System's paramount goal is keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. Child welfare agencies in the state must ensure that children who have been found to be victims of maltreatment are protected from further abuse whether they remain at home or are placed in an out-of-home setting. For children at risk of being removed from their homes, the child welfare agency must appropriately consider providing services to families in crisis to prevent or remedy abuse or neglect. The intent here is preserving families and keeping children safely in their own homes, when possible.

#### A1. Referral, Substantiations and Entry Rates

**Referral rates** tell us how many children with at least one maltreatment allegation are reported to a county. The numbers are represented as *per 1,000 children* in the general child population.

**Substantiation rates** tell us how many children with an allegation of maltreatment have had that allegation confirmed through an investigation. The numbers are represented as *per 1,000 children* in the general child population. Generally, substantiation rates can highlight systemic

and practice issues, assist in evaluating the effectiveness of existing strategies, and/or inform planning for prevention, intervention, and treatment of abuse and neglect.

**Entry rates** tell us how many children entered foster care as a result of a substantiated allegation. The numbers are represented as *per 1,000 children* in the general child population.

Figure 1 illustrates that referral rates<sup>5</sup> have slightly increased from 51 per 1,000 children in 2008 to 52.7 per 1,000 children in 2013, with a very slight decrease between 2012 and 2013. Substantiation rates for 2008 to 2013 have decreased from 10.2 per 1,000 children to 9.2 per 1,000 children, while rates of entry have remained almost unchanged, varying between 3.3 to 3.5 per 1,000 children for the same time period. These trends may be attributed to a combination of factors such as the increased use of standardized safety assessment tools; evolving child welfare practices related to engagement of children and their families during investigations and providing in-home supportive services; and strategies that provide alternative services, such as Differential Response.

**Figure 1: Rate of children with allegations, substantiations, and entries (per 1,000)**

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Children with allegations</b>	<b>per 1,000</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>52.7</b>
	n	485,910	471,485	478,933	475,024	486,658	482,383
<b>Children with substantiated allegations</b>	<b>per 1,000</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>
	n	97,434	92,613	88,764	87,477	84,896	83,981
<b>Children with entries</b>	<b>per 1,000</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>
	n	32,815	31,652	30,676	30,073	30,796	32,005
<b>Child population (0-17 years)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>9,525,912</b>	<b>9,307,822</b>	<b>9,270,132</b>	<b>9,214,425</b>	<b>9,170,526</b>	<b>9,150,549</b>

Agency: Child Welfare, Age: 0-17 Years, Children with Allegations, Substantiations, and Entries per 1,000 Child Population

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx)

## A2. Referrals Evaluated Out

Not all referrals received are investigated by the child welfare agency. On average, more referrals are evaluated out than are substantiated (see Figure 2). Referrals that are evaluated out are not assigned to an Emergency Response (ER) social worker for investigation. Some examples of situations where a referral is evaluated out include:

<sup>5</sup> Referral rates are determined by the unduplicated state count of children with at least one maltreatment allegation during the specified period.



Insufficient information is provided in the initial report (e.g., an anonymous person calls the ER hotline to report that “A mom is beating her child in a local shopping center” and then hangs up).

- The alleged perpetrator is not a parent or caretaker, in which case the allegation is more appropriately referred to local law enforcement.
- The reported incident does not meet the statutory threshold for child abuse or neglect (e.g., two adolescent siblings in a physical altercation).

Criteria or thresholds influencing ER investigations may vary due to informal and formal changes in local policy or practice, differences in state or federal regulations or instructions (or their interpretations), training needs, and other factors. Routine studies of referral data over time may signal the need for further analysis if the proportion of referrals that are evaluated out in a certain jurisdiction varies significantly over time. Also, analysis of the referrals that are evaluated out can help identify emerging or recurring issues for families in the community that do not meet the threshold for intervention. This can inform the county’s prevention/early intervention and Differential Response efforts in assisting families to resolve crises before they escalate to a level that requires child welfare intervention. The state and counties have begun an effort to enhance the continuous quality improvement system. This effort is intended to evaluate which practice efforts impact progress in prevention measures.

**Figure 2: Children and youth with allegations, by disposition type**

		Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014
<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>
	<b>n</b>	94,586	89,997	89,720	85,067	83,960	82,955
<b>Inconclusive</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>n</b>	70,169	74,710	68,613	77,105	91,280	99,358
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>40%</b>
	<b>n</b>	228,765	216,464	229,026	222,988	205,194	194,541
<b>Assessment only/ evaluated out</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>22%</b>
	<b>n</b>	86,179	91,178	87,812	94,685	99,534	106,292
<b>Not yet determined</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	<b>n</b>	453	414	517	527	754	6,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>480,152</b>	<b>472,763</b>	<b>475,688</b>	<b>480,372</b>	<b>480,722</b>	<b>489,239</b>

Agency: Child Welfare, Age: 0-17 Years  
 Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.  
[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx)

### A3. Recurrence of Maltreatment

**Recurrence of maltreatment** is a federal measure of the proportion of children who did not have another substantiated report within six months following a substantiated maltreatment report during the first six months of the reporting period. Although not federally required, the CDSS makes additional data available for a range of follow-up periods from six to 24 months. For this report, Figure 3 shows recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months. As illustrated in Figure 3, children who were victims of substantiated neglect are more likely than any other allegation type to experience another substantiated maltreatment allegation within the next 12 months. These data have remained fairly unchanged in the last four years. The measure provides counties and stakeholders with a look at an important outcome for children: freedom from abuse or neglect. It is a cursory look, however, as the measure is limited in its ability to establish a causal link between one or more prevention or intervention strategies and a county's relative success on the measure. Use of the measure can potentially help the state and counties identify prevention and intervention strategies that work – or perhaps those that do not work.

**Figure 3: Maltreated during six-month period: no recurrence within 12 months**

		Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009	Jan-Jun 2010	Jan-Jun 2011	Jan-Jun 2012	Jan-Jun 2013
<b>No recurrence--after sub. alleg. sexual abuse</b>	%	<b>93.2%</b>	<b>93.7%</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>94.1%</b>
	n	2,897	2,554	2,467	2,228	2,047	1,850
<b>Maltreated 6-month period--sexual abuse</b>		N	3,110	2,725	2,631	2,369	2,170
<b>No recurrence--after sub. alleg. physical abuse</b>	%	<b>92.4%</b>	<b>92.0%</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>92.2%</b>	<b>93.0%</b>
	n	4,236	3,840	3,936	3,918	3,427	3,370
<b>Maltreated 6-month period--physical abuse</b>		N	4,584	4,176	4,289	4,237	3,716
<b>No recurrence--after sub. alleg. neglect</b>	%	<b>88.8%</b>	<b>88.4%</b>	<b>88.1%</b>	<b>88.4%</b>	<b>88.8%</b>	<b>88.6%</b>
	n	22,255	22,698	24,146	25,175	25,098	25,750
<b>Maltreated 6-month period--neglect</b>		N	25,054	25,686	27,406	28,481	28,260
<b>No recurrence--after sub. alleg. other</b>	%	<b>89.4%</b>	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>89.5%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>90.5%</b>	<b>91.3%</b>
	n	7,696	6,314	6,432	6,864	5,897	4,949
<b>Maltreated 6-month period--other</b>		N	8,609	7,019	7,186	7,543	6,514
<b>No recurrence (total)</b>	%	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>89.4%</b>	<b>89.1%</b>	<b>89.6%</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>89.7%</b>
	n	37,084	35,406	36,981	38,185	36,469	35,919
<b>Maltreated 6-month period (total)</b>		<b>N</b>	<b>41,357</b>	<b>39,606</b>	<b>41,512</b>	<b>42,630</b>	<b>40,664</b>

Agency: Child Welfare, Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/SIM1.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/SIM1.aspx)

#### A4. Timely Response to Child Abuse Investigations

**Data from timely response to child abuse investigations** is used to assess performance for state and federal standards and monitoring. Both the immediate and 10-day response measures inform whether investigations were initiated and contact was made with the alleged child victim within the required timeframe. They also help identify possible causes for success, barriers to improvement, potential solutions, and strategies for change. Finally, these measures may offer insight into the effects of changes in policies and practice, particularly at the local level.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5, performance is above the state goal of 90 percent, with immediate responses above 97 percent between 2009 and 2014. The April to June intervals for each year are presented below.

**Figure 4: Immediate response referrals receiving a timely response**

		Apr-Jun 2009	Apr-Jun 2010	Apr-Jun 2011	Apr-Jun 2012	Apr-Jun 2013	Apr-Jun 2014
<b>Immediate response referrals receiving a timely response</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>98.0%</b>	<b>97.8%</b>
	<b>n</b>	17,353	18,841	17,565	18,334	19,611	18,286
<b>Required immediate response referrals</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>17,730</b>	<b>19,280</b>	<b>17,908</b>	<b>18,634</b>	<b>20,007</b>	<b>18,693</b>

Agency: Child Welfare, Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CDSS\\_2B.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_2B.aspx)

Ten-day response referrals have been hovering above 94 percent during the 2010 to 2014 time period. The percentage point decrease from 2009 to 2014 is mostly due to decreases in timely responses for the certain mid- to large-sized counties.

**Figure 5: Ten-day response referrals receiving a timely response**

		Apr-Jun 2009	Apr-Jun 2010	Apr-Jun 2011	Apr-Jun 2012	Apr-Jun 2013	Apr-Jun 2014
<b>Ten-day response referrals receiving a timely response</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>94.6%</b>	<b>94.5%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>94.5%</b>
	<b>n</b>	43,576	42,376	41,854	40,210	40,257	41,501
<b>Required ten-day response referrals</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>45,627</b>	<b>44,800</b>	<b>44,275</b>	<b>42,626</b>	<b>42,755</b>	<b>43,902</b>

Agency: Child Welfare, Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CDSS\\_2B.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_2B.aspx)

## A5. Caseworker Visits with Children

This measure is a two-part federal performance measure that focuses on both timeliness and location of the caseworker's visits for children placed in foster care (out of their home)<sup>6</sup>.

**Timeliness** measures the percentage of monthly face-to-face caseworker visits made with children in foster care placements.

**Location** measures the percentage of visits that occurred in the child's residence. Federal law requires that, of monthly visits that occur, at least 50 percent of those visits occur in the residence of the child (California's target is set at 51 percent).

In addition to being a federal requirement, research<sup>7</sup> demonstrates that there is a strong correlation between frequent caseworker visits with foster children and positive outcomes for these children, such as timely achievement of permanency. The 90 percent mandate was met by the state beginning in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011<sup>8</sup>. California continues to make progress in its performance on the proportion of children who are visited each month, increasing from 85.5 percent to 94.4 percent from 2009 to 2014 for child welfare cases. The proportion of visits occurring in the children's home has increased from 70.1 percent to 78.5 percent during the same time period. The federal mandate for children visited on a monthly basis will increase to 95 percent in FFY 2015.

It should be noted that the monthly caseworker visit requirement also pertains to children and youth in foster care who are supervised by county probation agencies. As shown in Figure 6b below, starting in FY 2012-13, probation data in CWS/CMS became available. Until FY 2010-11, probation agencies did not have access to input information into CWS/CMS and therefore probation performance data for this measure was not able to be captured. While access to the CWS/CMS and the obligation of probation agencies to enter placement data on Title IV-E-eligible wards provided the benefit of statewide data on probation youth, workload' and data integrity complications arose as well. The most onerous, from the perspective of probation agencies, is the duty to enter placement data into the county-specific systems the probation agencies use for meeting their global case management needs, as well as into the CWS/CMS. The requirement to maintain dual electronic records for a subset of their total ward population is an important contributor in the lower percentage of probation agency visits documented in CWS/CMS. However, probation agencies are making an effort to improve as the compliance rate rose nearly one percent in the last year.

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<sup>6</sup> This measure is based on the total number of visits that would occur during the fiscal year if each foster child were visited once every full calendar month that they are in care. In addition, due to the importance of monthly visitation with children who have open cases and remain in their home, a state measure addressing this topic is now publically available on the CDSS/UC Berkeley Dynamic Report system.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.childwelfare.gov/outofhome/casework/children/visits.cfm>

<sup>8</sup> Probation numbers became available for this analysis in FY 2012-2013. Prior FYs only contained the child welfare agency.

**Figure 6a: Caseworker Visits with Children (Child Welfare Only)**

		Agency: Child Welfare					
		Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014
<b>Visit months (visited during month)</b>	%	<b>85.5%</b>	<b>87.8%</b>	<b>90.4%</b>	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>94.4%</b>
	n	556,276	516,645	507,307	503,617	505,568	530,253
<b>Months open (in care entire month)</b>	N	650,369	588,493	560,896	539,858	537,930	561,976
<b>Visited in the residence</b>	%	<b>70.1%</b>	<b>71.4%</b>	<b>73.6%</b>	<b>75.7%</b>	<b>76.9%</b>	<b>78.5%</b>
	n	389,741	369,006	373,432	381,152	388,620	416,411
<b>Visit months (visited during month)</b>	N	556,276	516,645	507,307	503,617	505,568	530,253

Agency: Child Welfare; Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CDSS\\_2F.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_2F.aspx)

**Figure 6b: Caseworker Visits with Children (Probation Only)<sup>9</sup>**

		Agency: Probation	
		Jul 2012-Jun 2013	Jul 2013-Jun 2014
<b>Visit months (visited during month)</b>	%	<b>57.7%</b>	<b>69.7%</b>
	n	18,677	20,444
<b>Months open (in care entire month)</b>	N	32,367	29,311
<b>Visited in the residence</b>	%	<b>86.3%</b>	<b>87.2%</b>
	n	16,121	17,821
<b>Visit months (visited during month)</b>	N	18,677	20,444

Agency: Probation; Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CDSS\\_2F.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_2F.aspx)

<sup>9</sup> Probation agencies did not input data into CWS/CMS until 2012. Please see page 11 for further information.

## B: Placement and Caseload Constellation

For children who cannot remain safely in their homes, a constellation of placement and caseload indicators provide information on the number of children who are in out-of-home care at any given point in time, their initial and subsequent placements, and their stability in those placements. This information is crucial for counties in managing their resources towards achieving the driving goal for children in foster care -- attaining timely permanency. The placement types included below account for over 95 percent of placements<sup>10</sup>.

- Relatives/Kin
- Guardian
- Foster Family Homes
- Foster Family Agency Certified Homes
- Group Homes

### B1. Initial Placements over Time

This measure provides information about children's initial placements when they enter foster care for the first time and how that has changed over time. It does not include children who have re-entered foster care after exiting the system.

Because removal from their parents can be a traumatic event for children, the initial placement is important to consider. Federal law and best practices suggest the importance of placing children in the least restrictive, most family-like setting. Ideally, this means placement with relatives or close family friends with whom children are already connected.

Figure 7 displays the initial placements for children entering care for the first time, by placement type. Since 2009, the percentage of children for whom the first placement was with kin increased from 16 percent to 25 percent, while the proportion of children placed in group homes from 2009 to 2014 decreased from 18 percent to 13 percent. Over the past five years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) have accounted for approximately 40 percent of initial placements.

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<sup>10</sup> Other placement types include: Shelters, court-specified, small family homes, medical facilities, tribe-specified homes, and Supervised Independent Living Placements.

**Figure 7: First entries to out-of-home care, by placement type**

		Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014
<b>Pre-adopt</b>	%	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	n	11	6	15	15	6	2
<b>Kin</b>	%	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>25%</b>
	n	4,113	4,362	5,016	5,419	6,081	6,598
<b>Foster</b>	%	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>
	n	4,791	4,502	4,385	4,064	4,223	4,317
<b>FFA</b>	%	<b>41%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>40%</b>
	n	10,206	10,188	10,204	9,518	10,389	10,362
<b>Court specified</b>	%	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	n	39	45	60	51	34	45
<b>Group</b>	%	<b>18%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>
	n	4,416	3,877	3,600	3,329	3,249	3,276
<b>Shelter</b>	%	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	n	1,030	839	890	1,028	826	864
<b>Guardian</b>	%	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
	n	530	497	508	429	395	411
<b>SILP</b>	%	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	n	0	2	3	3	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>25,136</b>	<b>24,318</b>	<b>24,681</b>	<b>23,856</b>	<b>25,206</b>	<b>25,877</b>

Agency: All, Episode Count: First Entry, Number of Days in Care: 8 days or more, Age: 0-17 Years  
 Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.  
[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/Entries.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Entries.aspx)

## **B2. Point in Time by Placement Type**

This measure provides information about the foster care caseload over time and children’s placement types on July 1st of each year. As depicted in Figure 8a, for child welfare, more children in foster care are placed with a relative than in any other setting. Also included in the kin category are children who are placed with someone with whom they have a close relationship, referred to as “Non-Related Extended Family Members.” The effect that various practice and policy changes may have had on where children are placed can be seen the trends over time. For instance, kinship placements started to decline in 2000 from 44,000 children placed with relatives to a little over 21,200 in 2014. This decline was driven primarily by the implementation of the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program, a program that provides subsidies for children who leave foster care to guardianship with a relative.

**Figure 8a: In care July 1, by placement type**

		Jul 1, 2009	Jul 1, 2010	Jul 1, 2011	Jul 1, 2012	Jul 1, 2013	Jul 1, 2014
<b>Pre-adopt</b>	%	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	n	2,315	1,568	1,531	1,485	1,551	1,563
<b>Kin</b>	%	<b>31%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>37%</b>
	n	19,495	17,874	18,428	18,895	20,113	21,215
<b>Foster</b>	%	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	n	5,729	5,431	5,210	5,049	5,130	5,405
<b>FFA</b>	%	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>
	n	17,027	16,366	15,457	14,024	14,272	14,828
<b>Court specified</b>	%	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	n	258	214	196	197	195	178
<b>Group</b>	%	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	n	6,612	6,065	5,850	5,603	5,481	5,279
<b>Shelter</b>	%	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	n	169	140	119	142	122	129
<b>Non-foster care</b>	%	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	n	381	389	526	665	591	565
<b>Transitional housing</b>	%	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	n	141	100	84	81	68	59
<b>Guardian - dependent</b>	%	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>
	n	2,923	2,461	2,058	1,762	1,489	1,277
<b>Guardian - other</b>	%	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>
	n	4,940	4,910	4,856	4,800	4,780	4,665
<b>Runaway</b>	%	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
	n	1,437	1,443	1,256	1,099	1,034	1,035
<b>Trial home visit</b>	%	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	n	653	539	551	440	435	559
<b>SILP</b>	%	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	n	0	1	2	1	1	3
<b>Other</b>	%	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
	n	1,779	1,653	1,435	1,282	1,176	919
<b>Total</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>63,859</b>	<b>59,154</b>	<b>57,559</b>	<b>55,525</b>	<b>56,438</b>	<b>57,679</b>

Agency: All, Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/PIT.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx)



### Children and Youth in Group Homes Longer than One Year

The 2011 Realignment Trailer Bill added W&IC section 11467(c)(2) requiring CDSS to work with stakeholders to develop a procedure for identifying youth who have been in group care for one year or longer to determine the reason for the continued stay and to develop a plan for each child to transition to a family-like setting as appropriate. In addition, AB 74 (Chapter 21, Statutes of 2013), added W&IC section 16010.8 requiring CDSS to report to the Legislature on the outcomes of the assessment of each youth in group care for longer than one year and the outcomes of planned or actual transitions to family settings. Utilizing CWS/CMS, CDSS conducts a special extraction to capture this information and provides it to county child welfare and probation agencies. Figure 8b, shows the total number of children and youth in a group home longer than one year, stratified by age group (ages 0-6, 7-12, and 13-18) and by placing agency. The largest age group category, 13-18 years of age, represents 89 percent of youth in group care longer than one year, with 77 percent of the youth in this age group supervised by child welfare. In looking at the total number of group home placements on July 1, 2014 (5,279), 46 percent were in a group home for longer than one year (2,478).

**Figure 8b: In care July 1, 2014, number of children/youth in a group home for longer than one year, by age and placement agency**

		Total	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-18 years
<b>Child Welfare</b>	n	1,959	3	261	1,695
<b>Probation</b>	n	519	0	0	519
<b>Total</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>2,214</b>

Agency: Child Welfare/Probation, Age: 0-18 Years  
 Data Source: CWS/CMS, Extracted August 11, 2014.

### B3. Placement Stability

**The placement stability measure** describes the percentage of children who have been in foster care at least eight days and less than 12 months, and who have had no more than two placements. This is one of three federal performance measures on placement stability; the other two measuring placement stability at two additional time intervals: 12-24 months and greater than 24 months. Since placement changes can be disruptive to children, it is important to pay attention to the number of placement changes. Stability increases a child's ability to develop healthy, secure relationships and maintain educational achievement. It also increases the opportunity for a child to develop positive, caring relationships with their foster caregivers. Such relationships sometimes result in a child becoming a permanent member of the family when returning home is not possible. It also should be noted that individual placement changes can be made for positive reasons such as a child moving from a group home to a relative home or to a placement with siblings. As shown in Figure 9, placement stability has

improved from 84.9 percent in FY 2009 to 87.6 percent in FY 2014, achieving the national goal of 86 percent in 2011. The increase in kinship placements may be a contributing factor to the improvement in placement stability.

**Figure 9: Placement stability**

		Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014
<b>Two or fewer placements</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>84.9%</b>	<b>85.3%</b>	<b>86.0%</b>	<b>86.6%</b>	<b>87.6%</b>	<b>87.6%</b>
	<b>n</b>	31,304	30,690	30,812	30,250	31,558	32,292
<b>In care during the year (8 days to 12 months in care)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>36,884</b>	<b>35,986</b>	<b>35,832</b>	<b>34,915</b>	<b>36,045</b>	<b>36,857</b>

Agency: All, Age: 0-17 Years, 8 days to 12 months in care

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/C4M123.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C4M123.aspx)

#### B4. Median Length of Stay

The **medial length of stay** describes the median amount of time children spend in foster care. Length of stay is counted in days and the median number of days reflects how much time it takes half (50 percent) of the children who entered foster care during a calendar year to exit. This measure is a useful way to summarize, with a single number, what might be considered a “characteristic” length of stay in foster care. The median differs from the average in that it reduces the effect of outliers such as those children who are in care for very long or very brief periods.

Since foster care is intended to be a temporary intervention for children until they can return home safely or leave foster care to a permanent family, this measure tracks whether or not children who enter foster care exit care in a timely manner. Median length of stay for children entering care is presented in Figure 10. Among children entering care between 2006 and 2009, the median length of stay was 28 days shorter in 2009 than it was in 2006. However, after 2009 the length of stay began to get longer, with a 23-day increase in 2010 and another slight increase in 2011. A possible explanation for this more recent increase in length of stay is that a number of large counties have seen substantial increases in length of stay.

**Figure 10: Median length of stay, in days**

		Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2008	Jan-Dec 2009	Jan-Dec 2010	Jan-Dec 2011
<b>Median length of stay</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>421</b>
<b>Sample size</b>	<b>N</b>	25,863	25,258	22,558	21,731	21,479	21,221

Agency: Child Welfare; Episode Count: First Entry; Number of Days in Care: 8 days or more; Age: 0-17 Years; Days to exit or 18th birthday, whichever first

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/stay.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/stay.aspx)

## C: Permanency Constellation

When children enter out-of-home care, the central goal of the child welfare or probation agency is to provide children with safe, permanent, and stable homes. The constellations of permanency outcomes illustrate the types of exits and lengths of time children spend in foster care prior to their exit for the following reasons:

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Emancipation (youth that “age out” of foster care)
- Other includes non-permanency exits such as those children who are adjudicated, incarcerated, or ran away

When a child has been removed from his or her family, the most desirable goal is to return that child home as soon as it is safe. When that is not possible, the goal is most often to achieve a permanent family through adoption or guardianship.

### Realignment of Adoptions Services

In response to the 2011 Realignment, twelve of the existing 28 counties that previously had contracted with CDSS for adoption services opted to transition the program from the state to the local level. The programmatic transition occurred over a period of 18 months, with the last county assuming full responsibility for the program effective July 1, 2013. The next several years will provide a clearer picture of what, if any, effect realignment had upon the adoptions program for those counties that opted to transition the program and those who continue to be served by CDSS. Factors that need to be considered include: county hiring, training new adoption staff and the various phases of finalization for the cases transitioned from the state to the county. As entry cohorts are established, CDSS will be able to conduct further analysis on the median length of time to adoptions and percent of children adopted within 12 months.

### C1. Permanency within 36 months over time

This measure describes if and how children achieved a permanent family within 36 months of entering foster care. Specifically, it examines a cohort of children that entered foster care during a six-month period, follows them prospectively for three years, and identifies the proportion who are still in care or if they left foster care, the proportion who achieved reunification, adoption, guardianship, emancipation, or were discharged for some other reason. As shown in Figure 11, this measure has been relatively stable over time with approximately 60 percent of children reunifying with their families. About 14 percent of children are still in foster care after 36 months.

**Figure 11: Six-month entry cohort: permanency within 36 months**

		Jan-Jun 2006	Jan-Jun 2007	Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009	Jan-Jun 2010	Jan-Jun 2011
<b>Reunified</b>	%	<b>58%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>60%</b>
	n	8,503	9,451	8,045	7,619	7,104	7,262
<b>Adopted</b>	%	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>
	n	2,072	2,014	1,560	1,633	1,617	1,618
<b>Guardianship</b>	%	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>
	n	674	731	627	635	703	730
<b>Emancipated</b>	%	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>
	n	520	601	631	502	398	302
<b>Other</b>	%	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>
	n	1,002	754	592	476	433	498
<b>Still in care</b>	%	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>
	n	1,944	1,672	1,555	1,478	1,474	1,721
<b>Entries during 6-month period</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>14,715</b>	<b>15,223</b>	<b>13,010</b>	<b>12,343</b>	<b>11,729</b>	<b>12,131</b>

Agency: All, Episode Count: First Entry, Number of Days in Care: Eight days or more, Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CIM3.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CIM3.aspx)

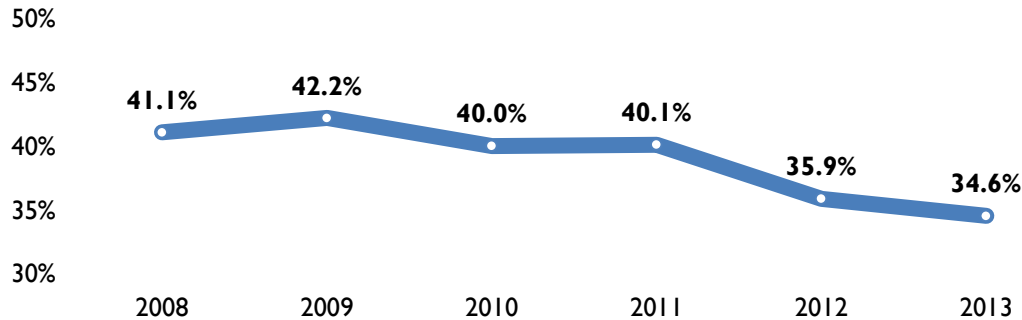
## **C2. Timeliness and Permanence of Reunification**

Although the first choice for permanence is to achieve reunification quickly and safely to minimize disruption to the family, reunification cannot be considered a successful outcome on its own. Reunifying children quickly needs to be balanced by ensuring that the home is safe and stable over time. Factors that led to a child being removed must be sufficiently resolved so that the child may return and remain at home. Recurrence of abuse or neglect and subsequent removal from the home are considered particularly unsuccessful outcomes. While there is overlap, the two measures are not restricted to the same population of children.

**Reunification within 12 months** is one of four federal measures on timeliness and permanency of reunification that describes the percentage of children who entered foster care within a six-month period and reunified within 12 months of being removed from their families. Specifically, this population is children (0-17 years old) entering foster care for the first time. The year describes the time period from entry to foster care during the January through June interval and the child's status from 12 months of entry. As shown in Figure 12, there has been a decrease in the proportion of children who reunified within 12 months from 41.1 percent in 2008 to 34.6 percent in 2013. Similar to the median length of stay, age is a factor in this measure. Further examination of reunification data broken down by age (not illustrated here) suggests that children under the age of one drive the decrease in the reunification within 12 months. These children not only reunify at a much lower rate (25.5 percent) compared to

the state average of 34.6 percent; they also make up 22 percent of the entry population, more than double the number of any other age. Children ages 1-16 reunify between 35-41 percent; youth age 17 reunify at 26.3 percent, but they only constitute two percent of the total population. Additionally, probation agencies reunified at a slightly lower level (31 percent) compared to child welfare agencies.

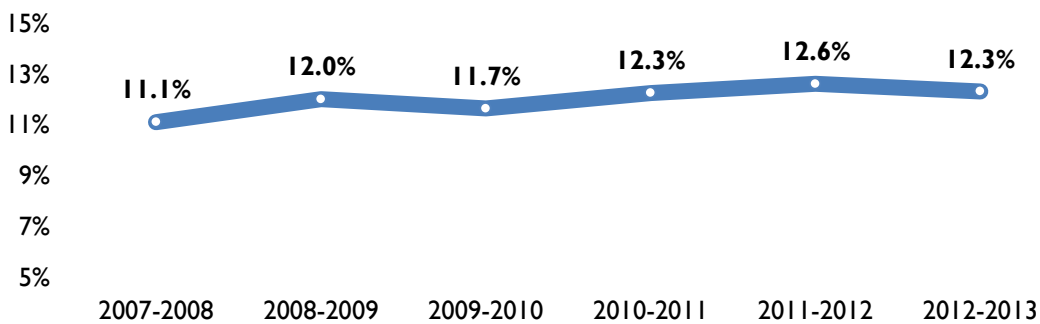
**Figure 12: Six-month entry cohort: reunification within 12 months**



Agency: All, Episode Count: First Entry, Number of Days in Care: 8 days or more, Age: 0-17 Years  
 Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.  
[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CIM3.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CIM3.aspx)

**The Foster Care Reentry Rate Following Reunification** measure describes the percentage of children reentering foster care within a year of returning to their families. Specifically, this is the percentage of children (0-17 years old) who reentered foster care after leaving foster care to return to their family. The year in Figure 13 is the time period in which children left foster care. Foster care reentry rates following reunification provide helpful information in determining whether or not child welfare policies and practices are effective in successfully transitioning children back into their families of origin and whether the services being provided to the children and families during reunification are effective. The proportion of children reentering care within a year has increased from 11.1 percent in 2008 to 12.3 percent in 2013. The national goal for reentry is 9.9 percent (or fewer) children reentering care 12 months following reunification. Upon further examination of the child welfare data, higher rates of reentry are clustered in two groups: children under the age of three and children between the ages of 13-16. Probation youth also reenter at a slightly higher rate than child welfare. Additionally, African American and Native American children reenter at higher rates than other racial/ethnic groups.

**Figure 13: Reentry in less than 12 months**



Agency: All, Age: 0-17 Years

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 3 Extract.

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CIM4.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CIM4.aspx)

### **C3. Status at Exit for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care**

This set of data tracks the status of foster youth when they exit foster care at age 18 or older due to having reached the age of majority while still under the jurisdiction of the court. Foster youth who have legally emancipated from foster care under the age of 18 are also included in this measure. The data for 2014 (Figure 14) reflect changes in youth exiting care with the implementation of AB 12, the extension of foster care benefits beyond age 18. This means fewer youth are exiting foster care; therefore, there are fewer youth included in the data. The information gathered from this population is reported in percentages and is grouped into the following five categories:

**Educational Achievement** is a measure of the percentage of foster youth who exit with a high school diploma or equivalent. This does not include youth who have passed proficiency exams or obtained certificates.

**Employment** is a measure of the percentage of foster youth who are employed on a full-time or part-time basis upon leaving foster care. Employment is important as work experience will help youth build résumés for future employment. However, it is not expected that all youth would need full-time employment to support themselves, as some may enter college or vocational school.

**Housing arrangements** is a measure of the percentage of foster youth who have any type of housing plan for leaving care, including plans such as living free of rent with friends, living with a biological parent, or arrangements for subsidized or transitional housing.

**Permanency connection** is a measure of the percentage of youth who report having at least one adult they can go to for advice, support, and guidance.

**An Independent Living Program (ILP) service** is a measure of the percentage of youth who have received ILP services prior to exiting foster care. Counties are required to offer ILP services at age 16. However, youth participation in ILP is voluntary.

As shown in Figure 14, although the majority of these outcomes have remained relatively unchanged, there have been notable declines in the number of youth who reported obtaining employment, from 30 percent in 2010 to 22 percent in 2014. These trends are consistent with national patterns in unemployment<sup>11</sup>. Another contributing factor could be the economic downturn resulting in youth ages 16 to 19 years old experiencing the lowest rates of employment. The implementation of the Extended Foster Care Program in 2012, whereby a greater number of youth may elect to pursue college or vocational school in lieu of employment as a requirement to participate in the program, may be a factor as well. Some counties report that many of youth who are electing to exit and not stay in care through the Extended Foster Care Program represent those youth who are most frustrated with the foster care system, and may not have the motivation to take advantage of any of the categories listed above.

**Figure 14: Status at exit of youth aging out of foster care**

		Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014
<b>Completed high school or equivalency</b>	%	<b>55%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>54%</b>
	n	1,533	1,514	1,041	830	647
<b>Youth with housing arrangements</b>	%	<b>89%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>85%</b>
	n	2,513	2,344	1,650	1,306	1,010
<b>Obtained employment</b>	%	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>
	n	831	751	434	303	258
<b>Youth with permanency connection</b>	%	<b>90%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>85%</b>
	n	2,521	2,378	1,640	1,323	1,015
<b>Youth received ILP services</b>	%	<b>86%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>79%</b>
	n	2,408	2,281	1,493	1,132	946
<b>Whereabouts known during time period</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,190</b>

Agency: Child Welfare

Data Source: SOC 405E, Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Quarterly Statistical Report

[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/CDSSFiles.aspx?report=8A](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSSFiles.aspx?report=8A)

<sup>11</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistic: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm>

## REALIGNMENT EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

The following assumptions are based on three years of actual expenditures (FY 2011-12, FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14), both statewide LRF (formerly state GF) and county specific, of programs that have been realigned. Because there are only three years of expenditures, these assumptions may only be an indication of county activities.

Please note, adjustment claims (supplementals) are included in the expenditures for FY 2012-13 and are now final. Due to this update, the expenditures may differ from last year's report. For FY 2013-14, expenditures displayed are as of November 2014. Counties have up to nine months after the end of the claim quarter to submit supplemental claims for their expenditures. This may impact the analysis on increases/decreases in expenditures when comparing FY 2012-13 to FY 2013-14, since not all expenditures are accounted for. For example, in FY 2012-13, as of November 2013 a large county expended one percent of the funds for the Supportive Therapeutic Options Program (STOP). However, at the end of the nine-month period, they submitted supplemental claims which expended all of the funds for this program. This delay in submitting supplemental claims may over/understate the differences detailed below.

In FY 2013-14, LRF statewide distributions were \$1,836,990,532, and increase of \$197 million over the FY 2012-13 distribution of \$1,640,400,000. The FY 2012-13 total budgeted base was approximately \$1.66 billion (what GF budget amount was before realignment).

In FY 2013-14, the total SCO Distribution was approximately \$1.84 billion (based on the vehicle license fees and sales tax) excluding the growth amount of \$196 million. The total LRF Expenditures for FY 2013-14 were approximately \$1.75 billion.

As of November 2014 counties are spending more than their LRF SCO Distribution. Based on a comparison of LRF expenditures between FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14, there is a significant increase in spending in the After 18 (Extended Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program [AAP] – Impact), AAP and CWS Programs. It may be the case that the growth funding is being spent in these program areas.

As reported in last year's report, it appeared that counties were focusing on younger children's programs as opposed to older youth programs. However, certain programs that experienced a decline in expenditures in FY 2012-13 increased in FY 2013-14. The increase in expenditures could be due to the increase in the older youth population. As of July 1, 2012, the number of youth in care, aged 16 and older, was 14,811. On July 1, 2013, this number increased to 16,646 (an 11 percent increase), and on July 1, 2014, this number grew to 18,128 (another nine percent increase). The programs that had an increase in expenditures in FY 2013-14 were:

- **Emancipated Youth Stipends (EYS)** - There was a slight increase in statewide spending by \$200,000, or 30 percent. Counties that increased their spending did so in a range of



\$1,000 to \$60,000. Twenty-one counties did not claim any expenditures for this program; though these were typically the smaller counties. This increase could be attributable to a statutory change and policy clarification issued by CDSS to the counties which allows EYS to be claimed for non-minor dependent youth still in care.

- **Federal Guardian Assistance Program (Fed-GAP) Assistance** - There was an increase in statewide spending by 23 percent, or \$5 million. Counties that increased their spending in Fed-GAP did so at an average of 53 percent. The most notable increase was a large county, which increased its spending by \$3 million (or 57 percent). Three smaller counties spent in Fed-GAP for the first time. Fifteen counties decreased their Fed-GAP spending, at an average of 31 percent. The overall increase in statewide spending could be attributed to policy clarification issued by CDSS to the counties regarding requirements to convert state funded Kinship Guardian Assistance Program cases to the federal program.
- **Independent Living Program (ILP)** - There was an increase in statewide spending by \$2.5 million, or 19 percent. Counties that increased their spending did so at an average of 22 percent. The most notable increase was a large county that increased its spending by \$2 million, or 49 percent. Twenty-one counties decreased their spending, at an average of 27 percent; the most notable decrease was a mid-sized county, which decreased its spending by over \$200,000, or 60 percent. The overall increase in statewide spending could be attributed to outreach efforts by CDSS to the counties on data entry and clarification on eligible ILP services. The increase also can be attributed to the increase in the number of older youth in foster care. Although ILP eligibility has always be up to age 21, youth between the ages of 18-21 are more likely to access ILP services when they are in foster care than when they are not.

In contrast, there were a couple of programs that went from an increase in expenditures in FY 2012-13 to a decrease in FY 2013-14, including:

- **County Third Party Contracts (CAPIT)** - There was a slight decrease in statewide spending by four percent, or \$500,000. Twenty-five counties decreased their spending, at an average of 27 percent; most notably a large county, which decreased its spending by 11 percent, or \$300,000.
- **State Family Preservation** - There was a slight decrease in statewide spending by \$300,000, or four percent. Forty counties did not claim any expenditures to this program.

Consistent with last year's report, counties continue to spend less on programs in which the county has the option to operate these programs. These optional programs include:

- **Supportive Therapeutic Options Program (STOP)** - There was a decrease in statewide spending by \$700,000, or six percent. Counties that increased their spending did so at an average of 22 percent. The most notable increase was a mid-sized county, which increased its spending from \$160,000 to \$270,000, or 71 percent. Twenty-four counties decreased their spending, at an average of 37 percent. The most notable decrease was

a large county, which decreased its spending from \$520,000 to \$60, or almost 100 percent. Fifteen counties did not claim any expenditures to this program.

- **Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)** - There was a decrease in statewide spending in THPP by \$300,000, or 34 percent. Fifteen counties claimed expenditures to this program, of which two counties increased spending. The most notable decrease was a mid-sized county, which decreased its spending from \$130,000 to \$30,000, or 75 percent.
- A survey of counties with a significant decrease in THPP expenditures for FY 2013-14 compared to FY 2012-13 shows that there is no single overarching factor contributing to the decrease. For instance, in a large county, staff cited various factors, including THPP providers that have found it too costly to meet the new requirement to have onsite staff supervision of youth in THPP. They also indicated that the majority of THPP-age youth are not ready for the amount of independence required by the program, and a large number of youth in THPP were transferred to THP+FC early in FY 2013-14 because these youth have opted to stay in care up to age 21 through the Extended Foster Care Program. Other counties have cited a small number of applicants, a shortage of providers in the area, and a significant fluctuation in figures being skewed by having only a handful of youth in the county as factors for the decline in THPP expenditures.
- **Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus)** - There was a decrease in statewide spending in THP-Plus by \$4 million, or 12 percent. Ten counties increased their spending, at an average of eight percent. Counties that decreased their spending did so at average of 25 percent. The most notable decrease was a mid-sized county, which decreased its spending from \$3 million to \$1.7 million, or 44 percent. Also, another mid-sized county decreased its spending from \$1 million to \$540,000, or 47 percent.

The decrease in THP-Plus is attributed to the Extended Foster Care Program, which allows qualified nonminor dependents (NMDs) to remain in care up to age 21. THP-Plus was designed for youth who have exited care after age 18. With more youth remaining in care, it appears as though the need to fund this program has decreased since there are fewer youth exiting who would qualify for this program. Information from counties indicates that the implementation of THP-Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) for NMDs has been the most significant factor in the decrease of THP-Plus expenditures. The number of NMDs has increased by 27.3 percent from FY 2012-13 to FY 2013-14. This increase has created less of a demand for THP-Plus as youth are staying in care longer. It is likely that counties are shifting money from THP-Plus to THP+FC, a new placement option for NMDs.

**Title IV-E Waiver** - Spending increased by \$9 million, or one percent. Los Angeles County increased spending by \$11 million, or two percent of its total waiver expenditures, which was offset by a decrease in spending by Alameda by \$2 million, or two percent of its total waiver expenditures.

The Title IV-E waiver, now known as the California Well-Being Project (Project) provides California with the flexibility to invest existing resources more effectively in proven and innovative approaches that better ensure the safety of children and the success of families. This flexibility enables the opportunity to reinvest resources approaches that achieve better outcomes. The target population includes children and youth aged 0–17, inclusive, who currently are in out-of-home placement or who are at risk of entering or re-entering foster care. California’s Project began on July 1, 2007 with Alameda and Los Angeles Counties, and has continued under three short-term bridge extensions through September 30, 2014. The evaluation report for these counties can be found at: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1333.htm>. On September 29, 2014, the federal government approved a five-year extension and expansion of the Project, for seven additional counties through September 30, 2019, which consists of Butte, Lake, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Sonoma.

## COUNTY GROWTH & STAFFING

SB 855 (Statutes of 2014) amended W&IC section 10104 to include, to the extent information is readily and publically available, the amount of realignment growth funds each county receives, the CWS social worker caseload per county and the number of authorized positions. For the first time, this information is being provided in this report and is displayed below in two sections: 1) county realignment growth funds and 2) county staffing.

### County Realignment Growth Funds

In addition to the Protective Services Subaccount base each county receives pursuant to Government Code (GC) section 30027.6, the SCO distributes growth funds to each county annually:

Pursuant to GC sections 30027.5 and 30027.9, funding from the LRF 2011 is allocated as follows:

- To the Support Services Account; 63 percent is then allocated to the Protective Services Subaccount.
- To the Sales and Use Tax Growth Account; 65 percent is then allocated to the Support Services Growth Subaccount.

The following allocations are made from the Support Services Growth Subaccount to the Protective Services Growth Special Account:

- 40 percent is designated for child welfare services until the Department of Finance certifies that a total \$200 million has been allocated.
- 42.03 percent is for general growth (FY 2013-14 this changes to 21.81 percent)

Growth is calculated by the Director of Finance and an allocation schedule is submitted to the SCO that provides funding to the Subaccount.

Section 30025 provides that the money in the Protective Services Subaccount and the Protective Services Growth Special Account may be used for the costs of CWS as described in statute, regulation, and the Title IV-E Project. This includes the use of these funds to hire additional CWS staff or provide additional funds to support various child welfare programs.

<b>County</b>	<b>Total FY 2012-13 Growth Allocation</b>
Alameda	\$ 7,496,359
Alpine	\$ 92,619
Amador	\$ 144,665
Butte	\$ 1,465,884
Calaveras	\$ 243,463
Colusa	\$ 139,399
Contra Costa	\$ 4,029,209
Del Norte	\$ 373,058
El Dorado	\$ 697,373
Fresno	\$ 4,102,522
Glenn	\$ 292,783
Humboldt	\$ 1,011,967
Imperial	\$ 868,244
Inyo	\$ 154,631
Kern	\$ 4,897,575
Kings	\$ 669,900
Lake	\$ 376,259
Lassen	\$ 276,473
Los Angeles	\$ 57,091,017
Madera	\$ 627,554
Marin	\$ 556,276
Mariposa	\$ 178,736
Mendocino	\$ 940,349
Merced	\$ 1,285,840

<b>County</b>	<b>Total FY 2012-13 Growth Allocation</b>
Modoc	\$ 106,660
Mono	\$ 110,250
Monterey	\$ 1,369,718
Napa	\$ 510,658
Nevada	\$ 285,362
Orange	\$ 9,321,598
Placer	\$ 1,583,069
Plumas	\$ 184,969
Riverside	\$ 10,139,769
Sacramento	\$ 8,965,986
San Benito	\$ 211,532
San Bernardino	\$ 8,728,182
San Diego	\$ 13,348,616
San Francisco	\$ 3,678,172
San Joaquin	\$ 3,104,456
San Luis Obispo	\$ 1,482,156
San Mateo	\$ 1,948,959
Santa Barbara	\$ 1,290,393
Santa Clara	\$ 7,294,211
Santa Cruz	\$ 953,517
Shasta	\$ 1,045,268
Sierra	\$ 91,838
Siskiyou	\$ 301,459
Solano	\$ 1,166,022

<b>County</b>	<b>Total FY 2012-13 Growth Allocation</b>
Sonoma	\$ 1,896,618
Stanislaus	\$ 2,083,764
Sutter	\$ 550,302
Tehama	\$ 524,147
Trinity	\$ 243,104
Tulare	\$ 2,067,469
Tuolumne	\$ 289,535
Ventura	\$ 1,930,086
Yolo	\$ 734,975
Yuba	\$ 667,558

## County Caseload and Staffing

Information displayed below provides county-specific data on the total number of CWS cases, total number of case-carrying workers and the total number of authorized positions. As specified by SB 855, CDSS is to provide this information if it is publicly and readily available. For this reason, the staffing information below comes from the publically available County Self Assessments (CSAs) submitted to CDSS as part of the C-CFSR process. The CSAs span several years beginning with 2009. Some of the information contained in the CSAs make it difficult to determine the exact number of case carrying workers as well as the total number of authorized positions. For these reasons, conclusions should not be drawn from this data. In some instances, counties chose to update this information with current information from 2015.

In the table below, the number of cases corresponds with the reporting year and includes all open child welfare cases. Case-carrying workers include workers with an active caseload in hotline, emergency response (immediate and 10-day), family maintenance (voluntary and court ordered), permanency planning, and adoptions. For authorized positions, this information includes all child welfare-authorized positions including case-carrying and non-case-carrying workers, specialized support staff, supervisors and management.

County	Number of Cases*	Total Number of Case Carrying Workers**		Total Number of Authorized Positions***
		#	Reporting Year	
Alameda	2,364	236	2015	267
Alpine	0	1	2013	Unavailable
Amador	94	6	2015	10
Butte	710	67	2015	144
Calaveras	203	11	2015	17
Colusa	43	4	2015	8
Contra Costa	1,529	201	2015	328
Del Norte	133	13.5	2015	27.5
El Dorado	417	34	2015	75
Fresno	2,797	187	2015	298
Glenn	137	12	2015	21
Humboldt	494	44	2015	116
Imperial	344	43	2011	81
Inyo	52	Unavailable	2009	9



County	Number of Cases*	Total Number of Case Carrying Workers**		Total Number of Authorized Positions***
		#	Reporting Year	
Kern	2,228	239	2015	298
Kings	373	34	2011	59
Lake	181	21	2015	45
Lassen	71	8	2011	16
Los Angeles	37,278	3,511	2011	7,323
Madera	463	26	2015	Unavailable
Marin	157	23.3	2015	51.2
Mariposa	30	4	2010	10
Mendocino	397	29	2015	136
Merced	862	63	2015	133
Modoc	14	Unavailable	2009	Unavailable
Mono	26	5	2015	7
Monterey	503	59	2015	71
Napa	193	21	2015	57
Nevada	149	9	2011	16
Orange	3,389	337	2015	627
Placer	446	Unavailable	2012	Unavailable
Plumas	78	5	2011	13.5
Riverside	6,491	428	2015	975
Sacramento	4,080	436	2015	785
San Benito	111	10	2013	10.5
San Bernardino	6,303	460	2015	866
San Diego	4,840	504	2015	1,363
San Francisco	1,489	145	2015	378
San Joaquin	1,950	119	2015	193
San Luis Obispo	454	57	2015	135
San Mateo	569	76	2012	205
Santa Barbara	708	67	2015	132
Santa Clara	2,192	286	2015	388
Santa Cruz	509	57	2010	87
Shasta	675	70	2010	129
Sierra	11	4	2010	5
Siskiyou	151	9	2014	29
Solano	608	53	2015	131

County	Number of Cases*	Total Number of Case Carrying Workers**		Total Number of Authorized Positions***
		#	Reporting Year	
Sonoma	775	68	2010	184.5
Stanislaus	1,174	102	2015	109
Sutter	202	19	2015	28
Tehama	275	17	2015	34
Trinity	89	5	2013	12
Tulare	1,414	105	2015	226
Tuolumne	137	13	2014	21
Ventura	1,206	133	2014	336
Yolo	412	38	2015	57
Yuba	217	20	2013	42

\* Caseload based on October 1 for the reporting year. (Exception: Reporting Year 2015, caseloads are as of October 2014.)

\*\*Total number of case-carrying workers as identified in CSAs submitted to CDSS from 2009-2014, or as provided to CDSS by counties choosing to update this information.

\*\*\*Total number of authorized positions as identified in CSAs or provided to CDSS by counties choosing to update this information.