

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

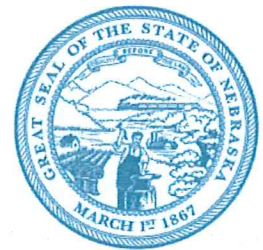
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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Good Life. Great Mission.

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Pete Ricketts, Governor

September 15, 2017

Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-3133 the Division of Children and Family Services is submitting the following goals and measures.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew T. Wallen".

Matthew T. Wallen, Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment

Report: Division of Children and Family Services Plan, Key Goals, Benchmarks
Report Date: September 15, 2017
Statute: 81-3133(2)(a)
Contact Person: Doug Beran, DHHS CFS Deputy Director of Research, Planning & Evaluation, 402-471-0729

General Information

Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-3133(2)(a) For the biennium ending June 30, 2015, the biennium ending June 30, 2017, and the biennium ending June 30, 2019, the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services shall, as part of the appropriations request process pursuant to subsection (1) of section 81-132, include a strategic plan that identifies the main purpose or purposes of each program, verifiable and auditable key goals that the division believes are fair measures of its progress in meeting each program's main purpose or purposes, and benchmarks for improving performance on the key goals for the state as a whole and for each Department of Health and Human Services service area designated pursuant to section 81-3116. The Division shall also report whether the benchmarks are being met and, if not, the expected timeframes for meeting them.

Purpose and Goal

Child Protective Services (CPS) is part of the Division of Children and Family Services within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). CPS is mandated by law to conduct initial assessment of report of child abuse and neglect. CPS promotes the safety and well-being of children through intervention in reported child abuse cases.

The goal is to keep children in their homes when it is deemed safe, and to provide them with a safe environment when they are determined to be at risk.

Measures and Benchmarks

The goals and measures for DCFS reflect federal performance measures that DHHS is held accountable for by the federal Administration for Children and Families. DCFS has a performance gauge called Children's Outcomes Measured in Protection and Safety Statistics (COMPASS).

COMPASS includes the outcomes established in the second round of the Federal Children and Family Reviews and the state developed performance accountability measures. COMPASS presents the measures, indicators and composites along with appropriate state and federal standards both as percentages and as the total number of children associated with each measure and indicator. Because there are no federal standards for the federal permanency measures, the national 75th percentile established in federal fiscal year 2004 is displayed. The trend for each indicator and composite is also presented.

The following are the federal measures and the target goal. Please refer to Attachment A for definitions.


Benchmarks and Targets

- Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence. Target: 94.6%
- Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care. Target: 99.68%
- Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification. Target: 122.6
- Timeliness of Adoption. Target: 106.4
- Permanency for Children in Foster Care. Target: 121.7
- Placement Stability. Target: 101.5

Please refer to Chart 1 below for performance as of June 2017 and Charts 2-7 for performance over the last six months.

Chart 1

Review Period: June 2017

	Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence	Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care	Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification	Timeliness of Adoption	Permanency for Children in Foster Care	Placement Stability
Federal Target:	94.60%	99.68%	122.6	106.4	121.7	101.5
Eastern	95.84%	99.89%	108.9	122.8	146.8	106.2
Southeast	96.19%	100.00%	109.7	148.6	148.6	113.2
Central	98.93%	100.00%	126.0	191.5	188.4	117.1
Northern	97.18%	99.88%	140.1	167.1	165.6	115.2
Western	96.32%	99.44%	127.8	200.4	181.2	116.3
State	96.43%	99.88%	112.6	151.9	158.3	110.8



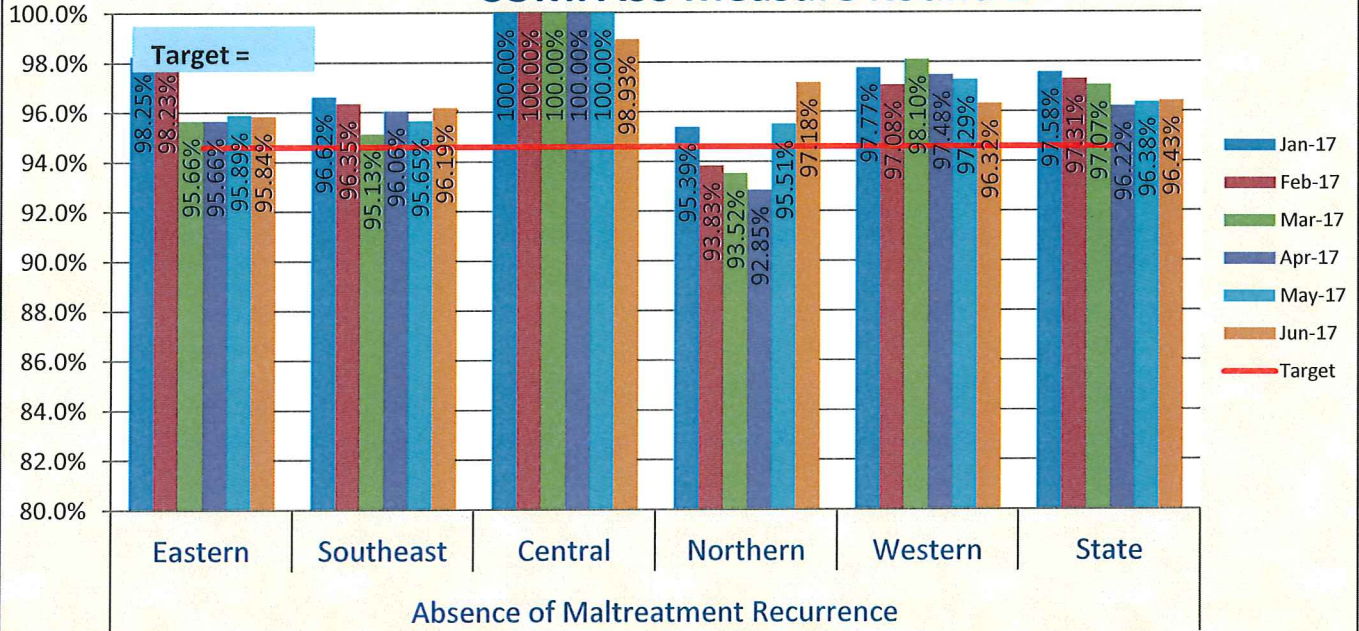
 = Passing the Federal Indicator
 = Not Passing the Federal Indicator

Chart 2

Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence COMPASS Measure Round 2

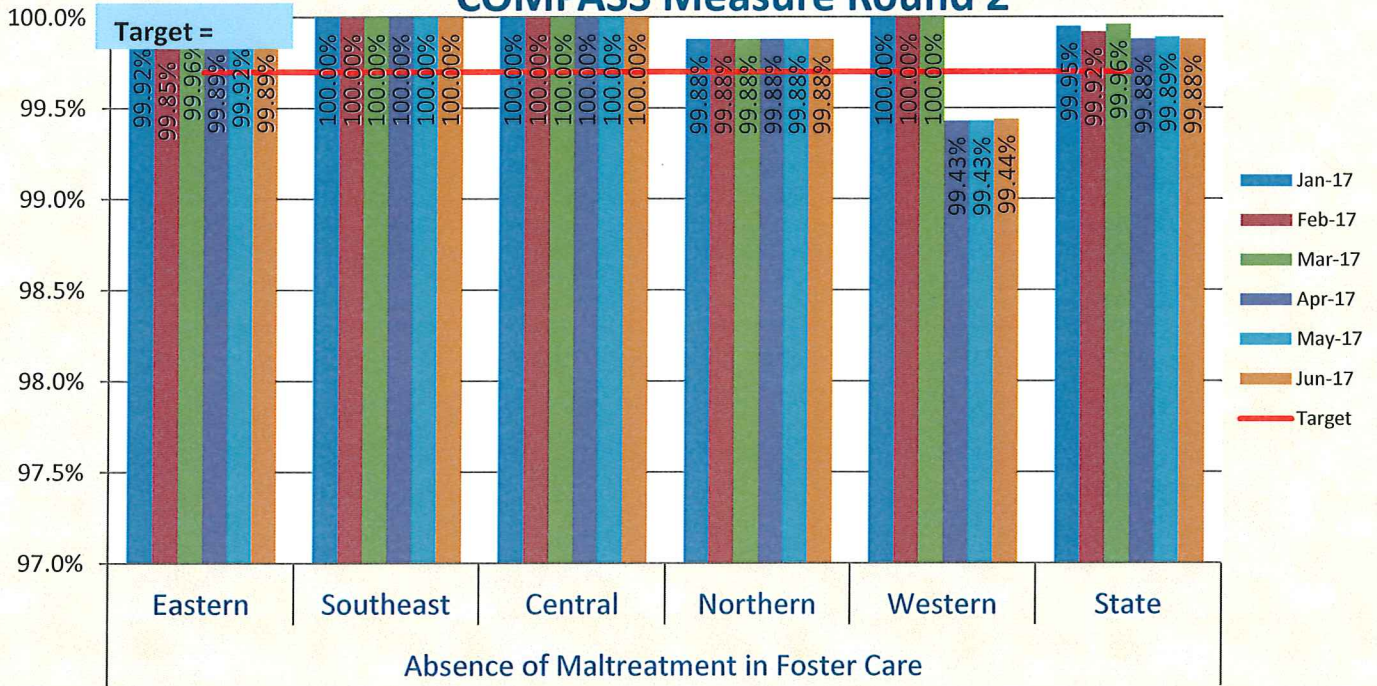


This is a federal measure that reports on a rolling 12-month period. Data Source: N-FOCUS COMPASS-State Wards. The children included in this report were victims of abuse or neglect during the first 6 months of the 12-month period. If the child was a victim of a subsequent abuse or neglect incident within 6 months of the first incident of abuse or neglect, they appear on this report. Victims are defined as children where the court or DHHS has substantiated the allegations of abuse or neglect.

Chart 3



Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care COMPASS Measure Round 2

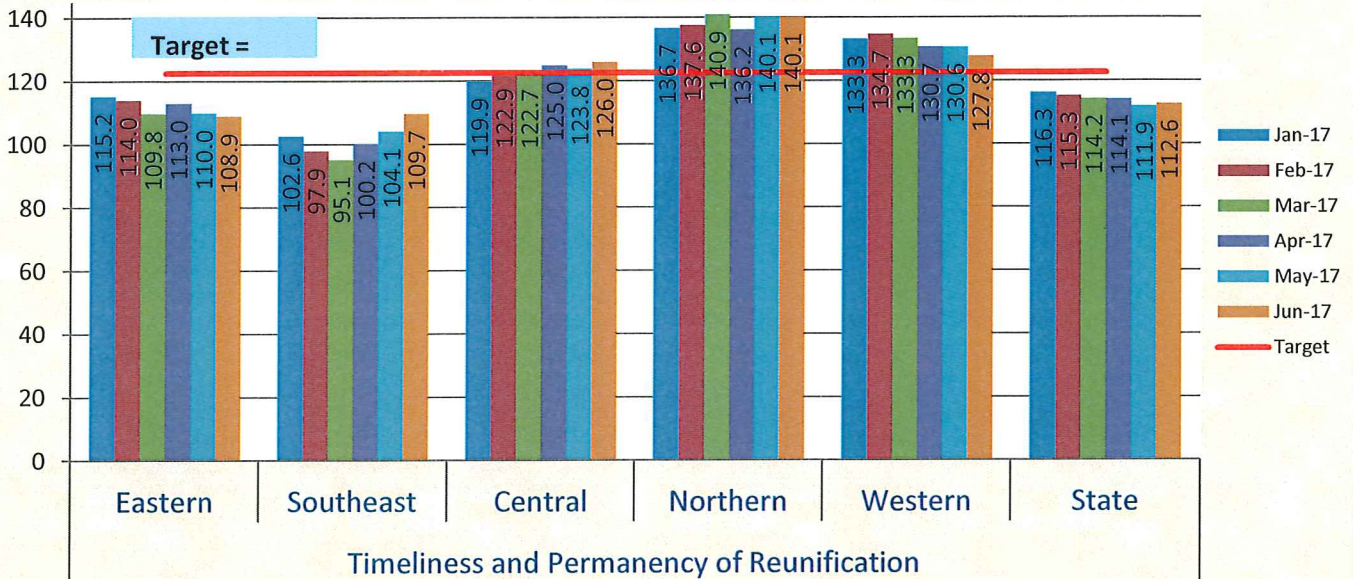


This is a federal measure that reports on a rolling 12-month period. Data Source: N-FOCUS COMPASS-State Wards. This measure is of all children who are placed outside of their parental home either in a foster home or group care, and the percent that were not abused or neglected by either a foster parent or a facility staff member.

Chart 4



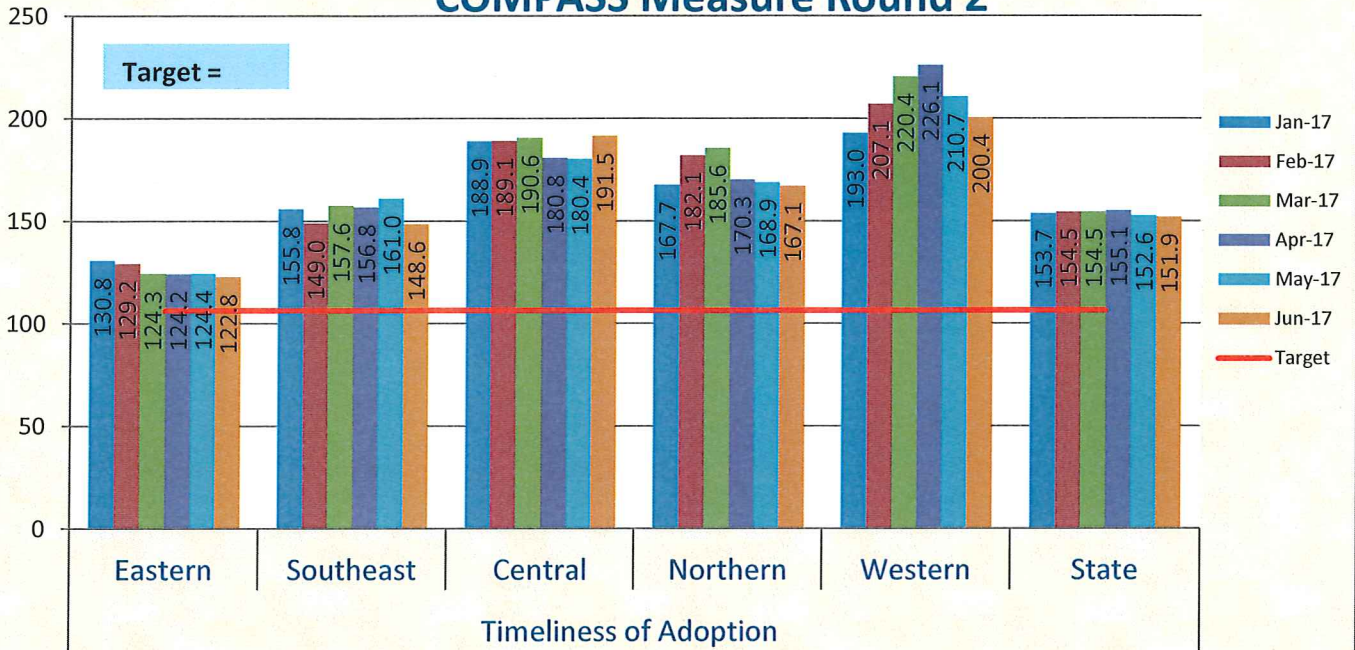
Timeliness & Permanency of Reunification COMPASS Measure Round 2



This is a federal composite measure. Data Source: N-FOCUS COMPASS- State Wards. This is a federal composite that reports on a rolling 12-month period. The Reunification Composite measures the timeliness of reunification and whether the reunification was permanent over a specific period of time. The Reunification Composite includes four measures: Reunification in Less Than 12 Months, Median Time to Reunification, Entry Cohort Reunification in Less Than 12 Months,

Chart 5

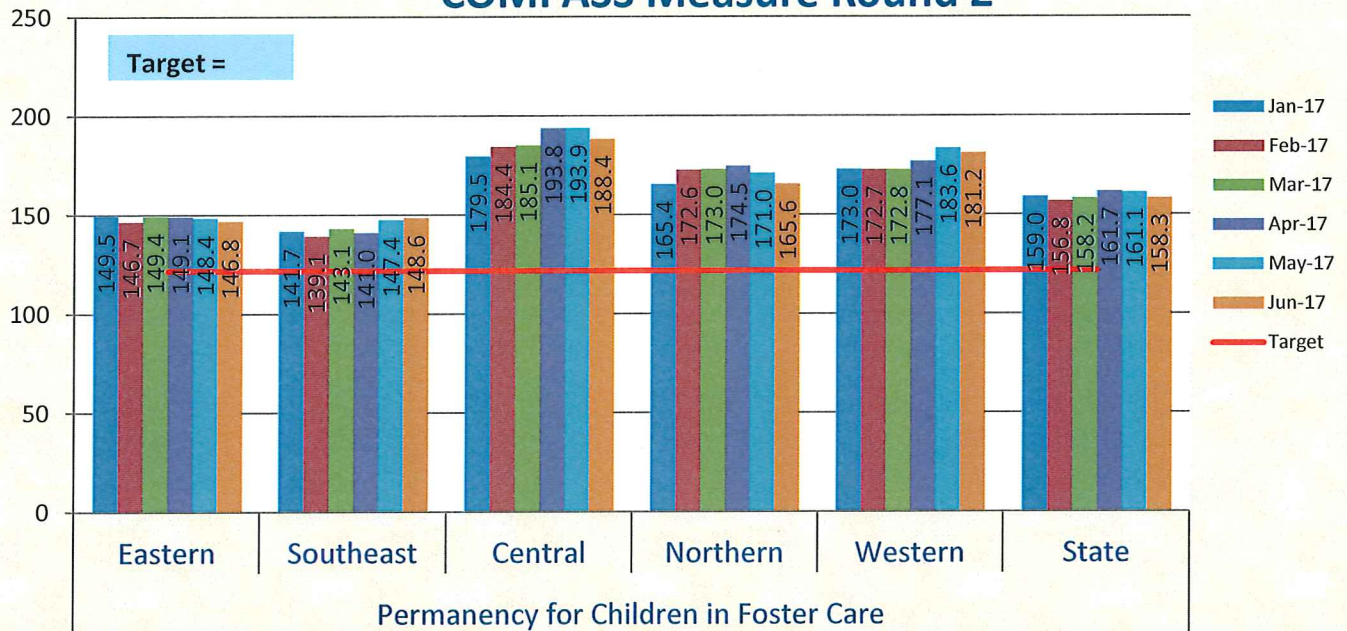
Timeliness of Adoption COMPASS Measure Round 2



This is a federal composite measure: Data Source: N-FOCUS COMPASS- State Wards. This is a federal measure that reports on a rolling 12-month period. The Adoption Composite measures the timeliness of adoptions and includes the following five measures: Adoption in Less Than 24 Months, Median Time to Adoption, Children in Care for 17 Months or Longer Who Are Adopted by the End of the Year, Children in Care for 17 Months or Longer Who Are Legally Free for Adoption within 6 Months, and Children Who Are Legally Free for Adoption Who Are Adopted within 12 Months.

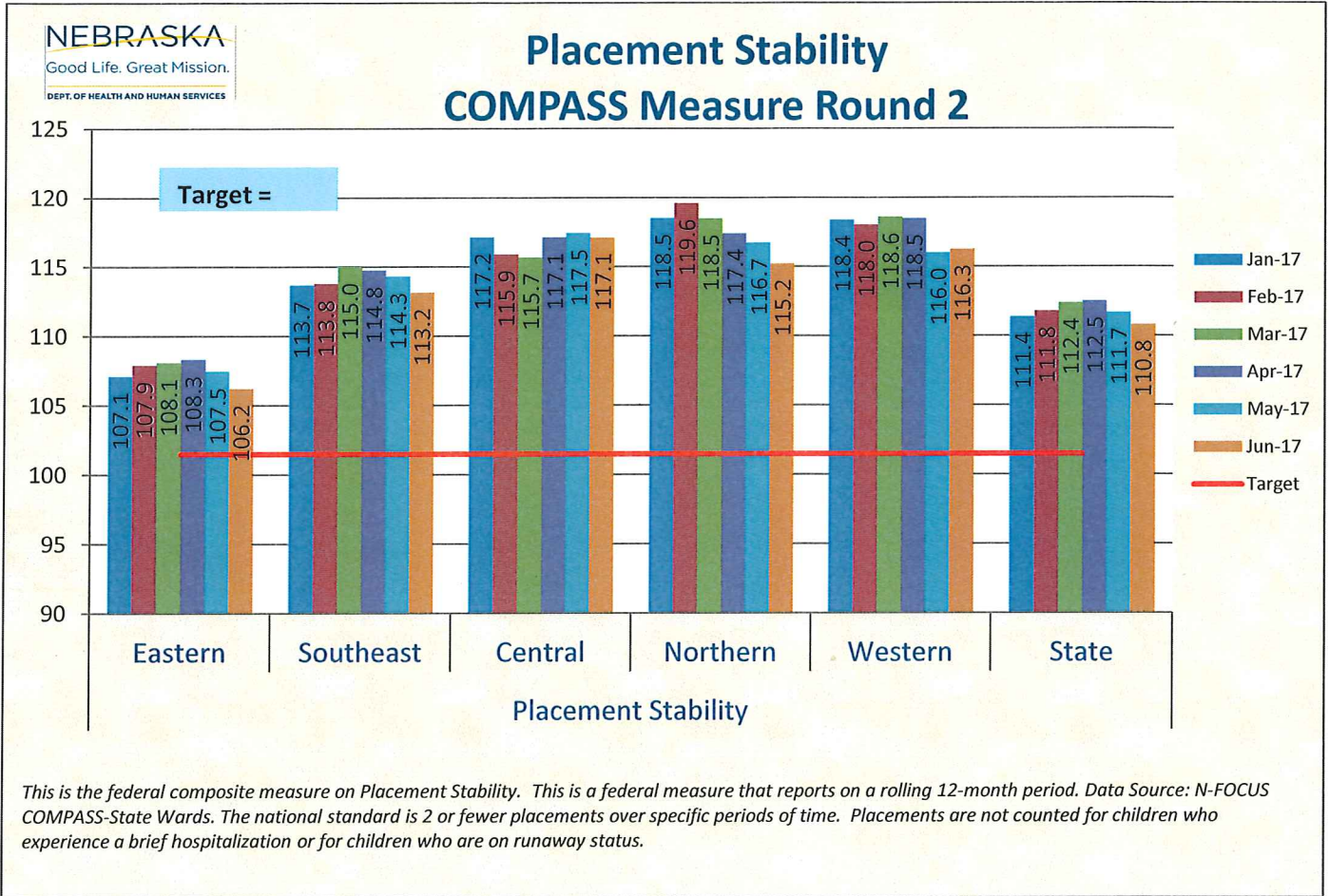
Chart 6

Permanency for Children in Foster Care COMPASS Measure Round 2



This is a federal composite measure that reports on a rolling 12-month period. Data Source: N-FOCUS COMPASS-State Wards. The Permanency Composite measures the frequency that permanency is achieved for children and youth who have been in care for longer periods of time. Permanency is defined as exiting care to reunification, adoption or guardianship. The composite includes three measures: 1. Exits to Permanency Prior to the Child's 18th Birthday for Children in Care for 24 More Months or More; 2. Exits to Permanency for Children Who Are Free for Adoption; and 3. Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care for 3 Years or More.

Chart 7



Progress

On-going updates of the COMPASS measures are posted on the Department website at: http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/performancegauges.aspx. Each outcome report identifies the outcome measurement, provides a brief description of the measurement, provides numerical data by month for the State and each of the DHHS Service Areas and provides the federal outcome measurement target. Each outcome report also provides a graph to depict data over time. Measurement definitions and definitions of composite scores are provided as part of Attachment A.

Attachment A

Measure Definitions

Measure	Definition
Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence	Of all children who were victims of abuse or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting year, the percent that were <i>not victims</i> of another maltreatment within a 6 months period.
Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care	Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting year, the percent that were <i>not victims</i> of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.
Reunification Composite	The Reunification Composite looks at timeliness and permanency of reunifications. The Reunification Composite includes four measures: Reunification in Less Than 12 Months, Median Time to Reunification, Entry Cohort Reunification in Less Than 12 Months, and Permanence of Reunification.
Reunification in Less Than 12 Months	For the reporting year, of all children discharged from foster care to reunification who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, the percent that met either of the following criteria: (1) the child was reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from the home, or (2) the child was placed in a trial home visit within 11 months of the date of the latest removal and the child's last placement prior to discharge to reunification was the trial home visit.
Median Time to Reunification	For the reporting year, of all children discharged from foster care to reunification who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, the median length of stay in months from the date of the most recent entry into foster care until either of the following: (1) the date of discharge to reunification; or (2) the date of placement in a trial home visit that exceeded 30 days and was the last placement setting prior to discharge to reunification.
Entry Cohort Reunification in Less Than 12 Months	: For the prior reporting year, of all children entering foster care in the second 6 months of the year who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, the percent who met either of the following criteria: (1) the child was reunified in less than 12 months from the date of entry into foster care, or (2) the child was placed in a trial home visit in less than 11 months from the date of entry into foster care and the trial home visit was the last placement setting prior to discharge to reunification.
Permanence of Reunification	Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the year prior to the reporting year, the percent that re-entered foster care in less than 12 months from discharge from a prior episode. A lower score is preferable.
Adoption Composite	The Adoption Composite is concerned with the timeliness of adoptions and includes the following five measures: Adoption in Less Than 24 Months, Median Time to Adoption, Children in Care for 17 Months or Longer Who Are Adopted by the End of the Year, Children in Care for 17 Months or Longer Who Are Legally Free for Adoption within 6 Months, and Children Who Are Legally Free for Adoption Who Are Adopted within 12 Months.

Attachment A

Measure Definitions

Measure	Definition
Adoption in Less Than 24 Months	For the reporting year, of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, the percent that were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from the home.
Median Time to Adoption	For the reporting year, of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption, the median length of stay in foster care (in months) from the date of removal from the home to the date of discharge to adoption.
Children in Care for 17 Months or Longer Who are Adopted by the End of the Year	For the reporting year, of all children in foster care on the first day of the year who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, the percent that was discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption before the end of the fiscal year.
Children in Care for 17 Months or Longer Who Are Legally Free for Adoption within 6 Months	For the reporting year, of all children in foster care on the first day of the year who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, the percent that became legally free for adoption within 6 months from the beginning of the reporting year.
Children Who Are Legally Free for Adoption Who Are Adopted within 12 Months	Of all children who became legally free for adoption in the prior reporting year, what percent was discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months.
Permanency Composite	Exits to Permanency Prior to the Child's 18th Birthday for Children in Care for 24 Months or More, Exits to Permanency for Children Free for Adoption, and Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care of 3 Years or More.
Exits to Permanency Prior to the Child's 18th Birthday for Children in Care for 24 Months or More	Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the reporting year shown, the percent that were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by the end of the reporting year. A permanent home is defined as having a discharge reason of adoption, guardianship or reunification.
Exits to Permanency for Children Free for Adoption	Of all children who were discharged from foster care in the year shown, and who were legally free for adoption at time of discharge, (there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father), the percent that were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday. A permanent home is defined as having a discharge reason of adoption, guardianship, or reunification.
Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care for 3 Years or More	Of all children who during the year shown, either (1) were discharged from foster care prior to age 18 with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) reached their 18th birthday while in foster care, the percent that were in foster care for 3 years or longer. A lower score is preferable.
Placement Stability Composite	Two or Fewer Placement Settings for Children in Care for Less Than 12 Months, Two or Fewer Placement Setting for Children in Care for 12 to 24 Months, and Two or Fewer Placement Settings for Children in Care for More Than 24 Months.

Attachment A

Measure Definitions

Measure	Definition
Two or Fewer Placement Settings for Children in Care for Less Than 12 Months	Of all children served in foster care during the 12 month target period that were in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, the percent that had two or fewer placement settings.
Two or Fewer Placement Settings for Children in Care for 12 to 24 Months	Of all children served in foster care during the 12 month target period that were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, the percent that had two or fewer placement settings.
Two or Fewer Placement Settings for Children in Care for 24 Months or More	Of all children served in foster care during the 12 month target period that were in foster care for at least 24 months, the percent that had two or fewer placement settings.