



*FEDERAL CHILD AND
FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW
OUTCOMES / NATIONAL STANDARDS*

Safety Outcomes:

✓ Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

- **Recurrence of maltreatment**

Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, a percent (see below) had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

National Standard:	6.1% (or less)
Federal data for California:	10.7%
UC Berkeley for California:	10.9%

- **Incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Of all children in foster care in the State during the period under review, a percent (see below) were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff.

National Standard:	0.57% (or less)
CDSS data for California:	1.06% *

* This data is provided using an alternate data source, representing cohort of children reported as abused by foster parents in non-kin foster family homes.

Permanency Outcomes:

✓ Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

- **Foster care re-entries**

Of all the children who entered care during the year under review, a percent (see below) re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.

National Standard:	8.6% (or less)
Federal data for California:	10.7%
UC Berkeley data for California:	9.3%

- **Stability of foster care placement**

Of all children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal, a percent (see below) had no more than two placement settings.

National Standard:	86.7% (or more)
Federal data for California:	77.8%
UC Berkeley data for California:	82.9%

- **Length of time to achieve adoption goal**

Of all the children who exited foster care during the period under review to a finalized adoption, a percent (see below) exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

National Standard:	32.0% (or more)
Federal data for California:	18.0%
UC Berkeley data for California:	16.4%

- **Length of time to achieve reunification**

Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of the discharge from foster care, a percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

National Standard:	76.2% (or more)
Federal data for California:	53.2%
UC Berkeley data for California:	53.7%

UC BERKELEY PERSPECTIVE

We welcome a focus on outcomes, and the outcomes we are required to measure are important. However, the data used for the Safety and Permanency Profiles and the National Standards come from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). Currently, neither of these data sources is longitudinal; each year's file only includes data about the children receiving services during that year, and data are not linked across years. Therefore, the outcomes it is possible to measure are limited. Using longitudinal data (e.g., entry cohort data compiled by UC Berkeley at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSReports>) makes it possible to track children from their entry into the system throughout their entire child welfare experience, and enables more comprehensive outcome measurement. Lack of understanding about the limitations of the Profiles and Standards could drive changes in policy and practice that may not be best for children and families.

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