



FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO START TRANSFORMING THE CPS SYSTEM

An Overview of Existing Outcome Measures for our Child Protection System and Recommendations for Improvement

By Jennifer Lucy, MPAff and Sophie Phillips, LMSW, November 2021

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Texas' longstanding federal lawsuit, foster care capacity crisis, and continued fall-out from the COVID-19 pandemic have brought to the surface not only the immediate challenges to providing safety for children who are in the state's care but also increased attention by lawmakers, stakeholders, and the public on how we can better assess whether or not our system and our taxpayer dollars are producing positive outcomes. Embedded in this question lie the inevitable and complicated questions around data availability and transparency, but also, more foundational questions about whether our existing system is measuring what matters to ensure accountability and that investments, practices, and policy are moving the needle in the right direction for children and for Texas as a whole.

The vision of the Department of Family and Protective Services is to improve the lives of those they serve by achieving their mission of promoting safe and healthy families and protecting children (and vulnerable adults) from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The question is whether or not our investments and strategies are achieving those results.

To begin answering this question, TexProtects has begun an exploration of child welfare outcome indicators to assess where we are as well as where improvements might be made to better capture what all child welfare stakeholders desire — safety, permanency, and well-being for all children who are removed from their families because of abuse and neglect and ultimately, a child protection system that is rarely needed because child abuse and neglect are prevented.

This report aims to bring forward existing child welfare outcome measures as defined by the federal government as well as state leadership. In doing so, our goal is to improve understanding of existing performance measures, compare Texas performance to national performance as well as examine statewide trends, and prompt analysis of how existing measures do or do not capture successes and failures of the existing system or the system that children and families need.

A statewide and effective system to improve lives, promote healthy families, and protect children is one worth supporting. But to achieve those goals requires the right questions, appropriate goals, strategic decisions, and unwavering dedication to purpose. And it requires that we measure what matters to change outcomes.

FEDERAL OUTCOMES MEASURES

A federal performance measurement system has evolved since the 1980's and is administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Two primary processes create a framework in which the public can access the results of these federal/state accountability systems and the accompanying data toward defined outcomes. One is the Annual Child Welfare Outcomes Report and the other is the Child and Family Services Review Reports.

Child Welfare Outcomes Report

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report is created to meet requirements of Section 203(a) of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) which requires HHS to issue an annual report that assesses state performance in operating child protection and child welfare programs.

The most recent report, Child Welfare Outcomes Report 2018, includes data from that year as well as trends from 2014–2018. The report was published in May 2021.

Existing Federal Performance Measures outlined in that report include:

1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
3. Increase permanency for children in foster care
4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry
5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption
6. Increase placement stability
7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

Data for most of the measures in this report come from two national child welfare related data collections — the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). States submit NCANDS data voluntarily, but they are required by regulation to submit AFCARS data.

In addition to the federal performance measures, this report allows state comparisons of child victimization rate, foster care entry rate, and child fatality rates.

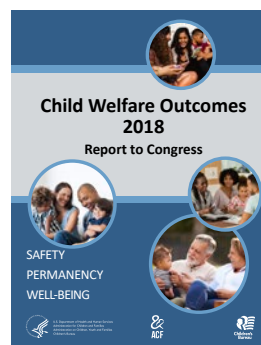
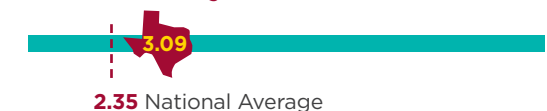
Child Victimization Rate (per 1,000)



Foster Care Entry Rate (per 1,000)



Child Fatality Rate (per 100,000)



Access the Complete Report:
www.cf.hhs.gov/cb/report/cwo-2018



Access the Child Welfare Outcomes Data Site:
www.cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite

Child and Family Services Review Reports

In addition to the annual Child Welfare Outcomes Report, ACF makes available statewide data indicators and comparisons to National Performance for the most recent 12-month reporting period as part of the Child and Family Services Review process. The most recent was released in July 2021 and includes data for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

The federal government conducts the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) in partnership with state child welfare agency staff. The process has three key elements.

- A Statewide assessment
- An onsite review which includes (1) case reviews; (2) interviews with children and families engaged in services; and (3) interviews with community stakeholders
- States determined not to have achieved substantial conformity in all the areas assessed must develop and implement Program Improvement Plans addressing the areas of nonconformity. States must successfully complete their plans to avoid financial penalties for nonconformity.

Each state had their first review by 2004, their second by 2010, and their third by 2018. The fourth round of reviews are set to begin in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022.

In addition to the seven federal performance measures, the CFSR process also measures performance on seven systemic factors including:

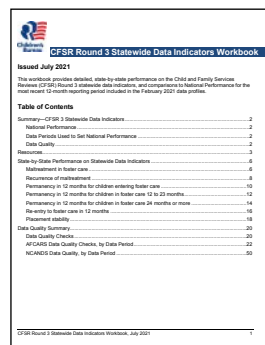
1. The effectiveness of the statewide child welfare information system;
2. The case review system;
3. The quality assurance system;
4. Staff and provider training;
5. The service array and resource development;
6. The agency’s responsiveness to the community;
7. Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention.



Access information about the Child and Family Services Reviews.
www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews




Access the Self-Assessment, CFSR report, and Program Improvement Plan(PIP) for Texas.
www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/cfsr-reports?field_rpt_type_value=All&title%5B%5D=Texas




Access the Statewide Data Indicators Workbook:
www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/cfsr-round-3-statewide-data-indicators-workbook

AT A GLANCE - TEXAS OUTCOMES BY FEDERAL MEASURES

	PROGRESS 2014 - 2018	TX 2018	FEDERAL MEDIAN	TX COMPARED TO FEDERAL MEDIAN
OUTCOME 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect				
Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the year, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?	5.9% BETTER	2.6%	5.5%	BETTER
OUTCOME 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care				
Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the year, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?	25.9% BETTER	0.23%	0.26%	COMPARABLE
OUTCOME 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care				
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	93.5%	90.3%	BETTER
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	79.4%	82.4%	WORSE
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	8.5% BETTER	63.1%	63.1%	COMPARABLE
Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care during the year to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?	28.3% BETTER	24.4%	15.8%	WORSE
OUTCOME 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry				
Measure 4.1: Of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care during the year, what percentage were reunified less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care?	10% BETTER	52.3%	63.6%	WORSE
Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the year, what percentage reentered care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?	15.5% WORSE	3.4%	7.1%	BETTER
OUTCOME 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption				
Measure 5.1: Of all children discharged from foster care during the year to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care less than (a) 12 months from the time of latest removal from home?	12.3% WORSE	2.8%	2.7%	COMPARABLE
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	15.4% BETTER	53.8%	28.7%	BETTER
OUTCOME 6: Increase placement stability				
Measure 6.1: Of all children served in foster care during the year who had been in care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placements within (a) 12 months from the time of latest removal from home?	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	83.1%	83.5%	COMPARABLE
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	56%	65.8%	BETTER
(c) At least 24 months but less than 36 months	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	23.2%	41.1%	BETTER
OUTCOME 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions				
Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or an institution?	38.3% BETTER	4.9%	3.1%	WORSE

 **Improving (2014-2018)
Better than federal median**

 **No significant change (2014-2018)
Comparable to federal median**

 **Getting worse (2014 - 2018)
Below federal median**

Child Welfare Outcomes Report 2018, Texas Outcomes 2014 - 2018, Data Published May 2021

Key Takeaways

Most Significant Improvements

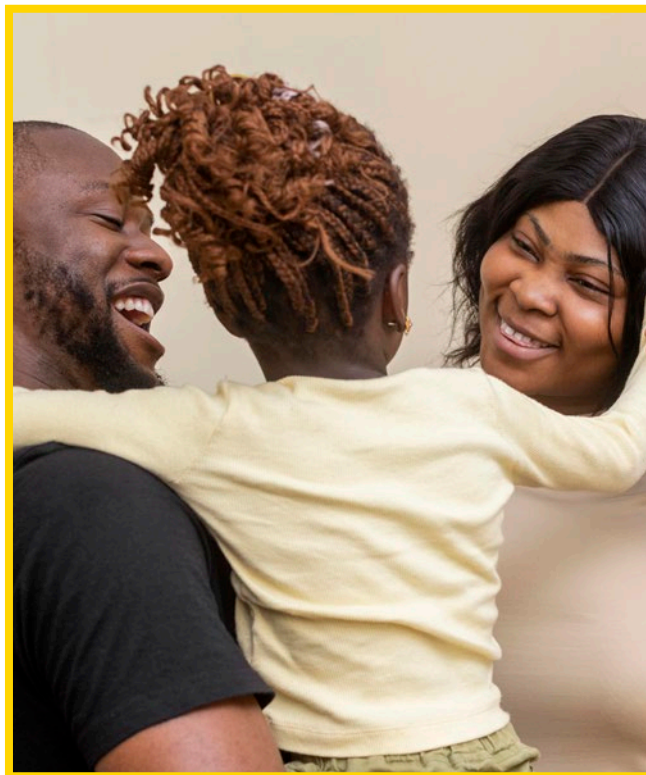
- Texas was able to reduce the number of children under age 12 who were placed in a group home or institution by 38.3%. This was the most significant improvement over the course of this report and a critically important one as we know that children typically do better in family like settings. However, even with this massive improvement, Texas still falls below the federal median. (Outcome 7.1)
- This is also true for the number of children who age out of care after coming into the system before age 12. While Texas was able to significantly improve this outcome by 28.3%, here too, the rate is still higher than the federal median by over 8%. (Outcome 3.4)

Declining Performance

- Although Texas performed better than the federal median, the rate of recurrence within 12 months of reunification increased by 15.5%. (Outcome 4.2)
- Unfortunately, alongside the 12-month recurrence rate was also a decreased number of children who were discharged from foster care to adoption in less than 12 months. (Outcome 5.1) Together, these changes may reflect the insufficiency of family support, lack of capacity, and ultimately more children in the system for longer.

Concerning Correlations

- Outcome 4 is defined as increasing reunifications without an increase in recurrence and the interaction between outcomes 4.1 and 4.2 demonstrate cause for concern regarding Texas' performance in this domain. While reunifications within 12 months increased by 10%, recurrence within 12 months increased by 15.5% indicating some possible concerning correlation. (Outcome 4.1 & 4.2)



For more details on Texas' performance on Each Federal Performance Measure between 2014 and 2018, see [Appendix A](#).

For more details on how Texas' performance on federal performance measures compares to the national median, see [Appendix B](#).

For more details on Texas' CFSR Data Indicators Compared to National Performance, see [Appendix C](#).

STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

While significant amounts of data are reported both annually and monthly by DFPS and published on their website and in the Databook, most reflect the current status of the system or characteristics of clients/cases rather than providing tools to judge outcomes for children and families. The data is often difficult to discern without significant knowledge and understanding of the system.

With the establishment of Community Based Care (CBC)¹, the 85th Legislature outlined a set of new performance metrics and reporting mechanisms in Senate Bill 11 (Texas Family Code Section 264.151 (b)). Community based care contractors report performance quarterly and outcome data defined

by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the agency are published in March and September of each year. The latest report was released Sept. 30, 2021.

DFPS is currently implementing Community Based Care in four catchment areas and appropriations by the 87th Legislature will fund new contracts in four more.

An analysis of Community Based Care or Single Source Continuum Contractors' outcomes is beyond the scope of this report; however, these same goals and reporting mechanisms serve as the best available data on statewide outcomes. It is for that purpose that they are summarized here.

CBC OUTCOMES

LBB MEASURES

SAFETY

Children/youth are safe from abuse and neglect

Recurrence in 12 months from Reunification (corresponds to federal measure)

PERMANENCY

Children/youth have stability in their placements

Legal resolution within 12 months

Children/youth are placed in the Least Restrictive environment

Permanency within 12 months (corresponds to federal measure)

Children/youth are placed in their home communities

Permanency in 12-18 months

Children/youth are placed with their siblings

Children who achieved permanency after 18 months

Children/youth are placed with kin

Children in FPS Conservatorship until the Age of Majority

Children with termination of parental rights adopted within 12 months (corresponds to federal measure adjusted)

Average Time to permanency in months

WELLBEING

Youth age 16 and older have a driver's license or state identification card

Youth complete Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) training

Children/youth participate in service planning

Children/youth attend court hearings

Children/Youth remain in their school of origin

Case Worker Turnover

For more details on Texas' performance on CBC and LBB Performance Measures, see **Appendix D**.

Rider 15 Report and Appendix (published in May and Sept each year)

www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Reports_and_Presentations/Rider_Reports/documents/2021/2021-09-30_Rider_15_Report.pdf

¹"Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based grant agreement, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community (also known as "catchment area"). In Stage I, this Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state's legal conservatorship. SSCCs also support adoption recruitment, matching and home studies. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements, services to parents, and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. In Stage III, the SSCC continues the provision of all Stage I and II services and is awarded with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being." (CBC description from Rider 15 report, Sept 2020)

AT A GLANCE - TEXAS OUTCOMES BY STATE MEASURES

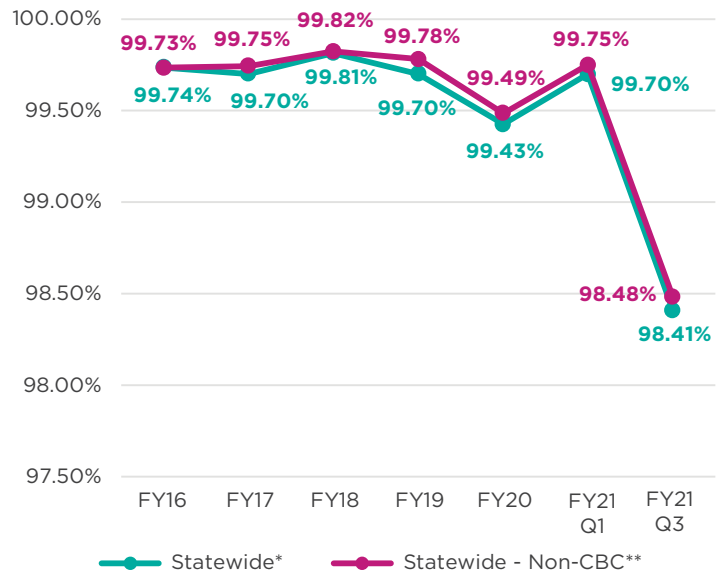
SAFETY

Clearly, a baseline and expected outcome for the child protection system is child safety. Any performance less than 100% deserves attention, accountability, and strategic, focused strategies for improvement.

State data shows a sharp decrease in safety for children in care this quarter and no significant change in safety rates since 2016. In addition, the 12-month recurrence rate after reunification has continued to rise (currently 13%) indicating substantive unmet needs for families to maintain safety after reunification.

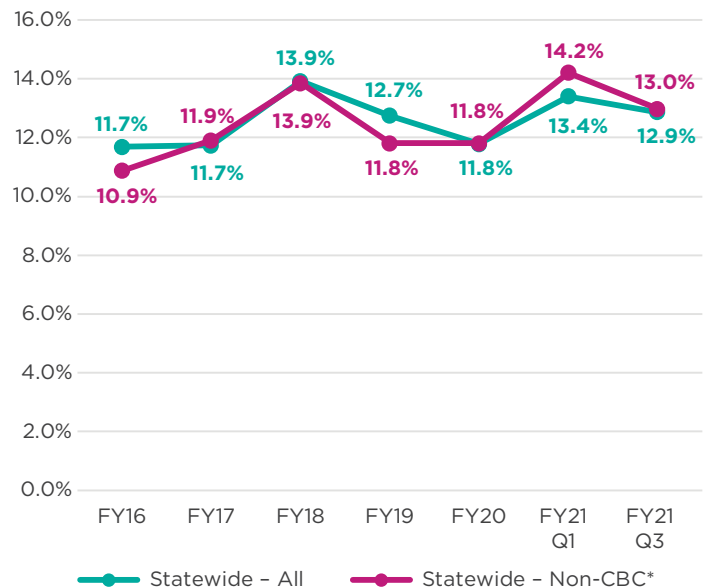
SAFETY IN CARE

% Children who do not experience abuse /neglect, or exploitation while in Foster Care



SAFETY - 12 MONTH RECURRENCE AFTER REUNIFICATION

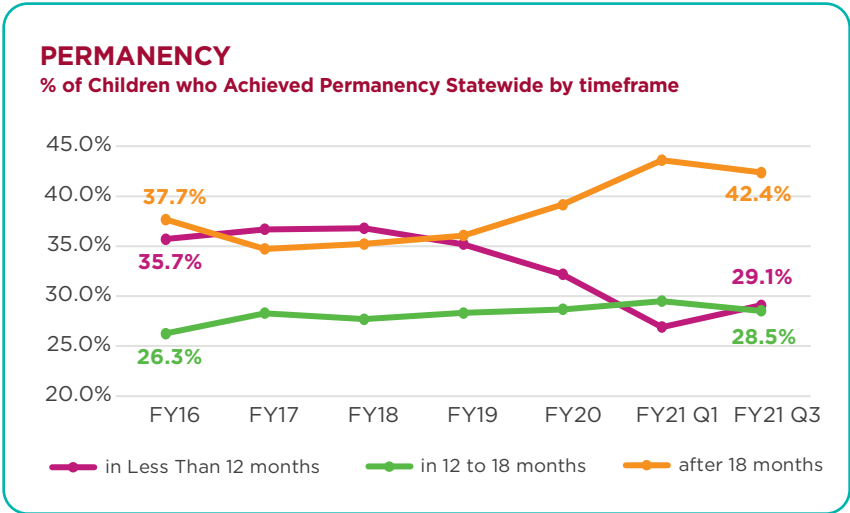
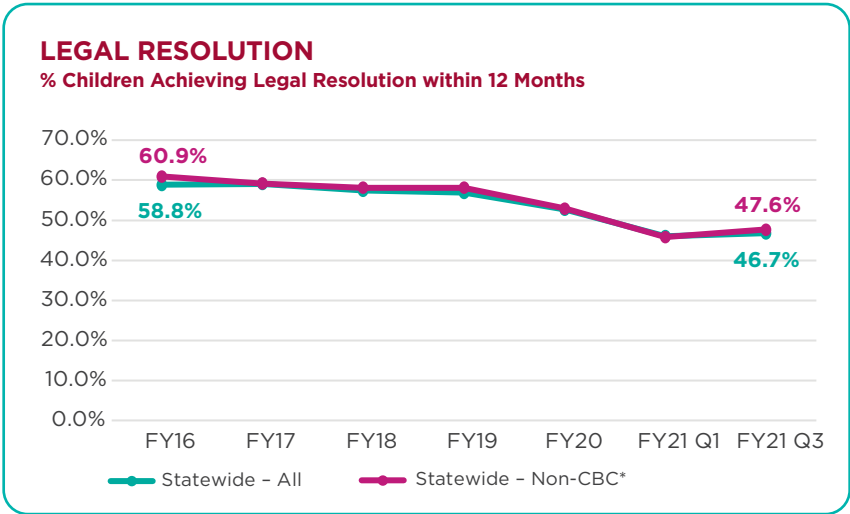
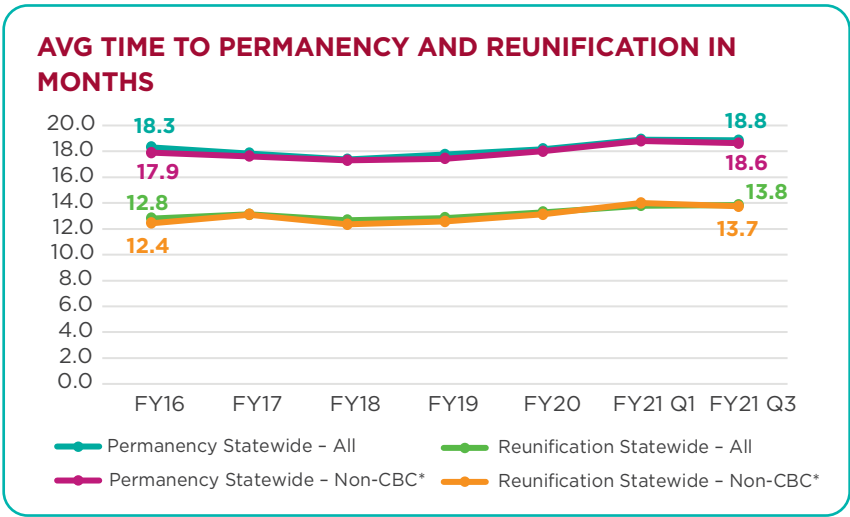
% New CPS intervention within 12 months of Family Reunification



PERMANENCY

Every child deserves a family, and permanency measures reflect progress toward that end. Since 2016 the rate of legal resolution within 12 months has decreased by over 10%. The average time to permanency is over 18 months and the average time to reunification is over 13 months, numbers that have not improved in real measure of the course of this data set.

Permanency in under 12 months decreased significantly since 2019 although FY 21 Q3 saw improvements over FY 21 Q1. Local factors as well as the impact of COVID-19 likely played a role in that decrease. While permanency rates for children in care 12-18 months as well as 18+ months have shown consistent improvements, speedy permanency would require continued focus on improving outcomes in the first 12 months after removal to minimize disruption and trauma and empower healing for children after experiencing abuse and neglect.



WELLBEING

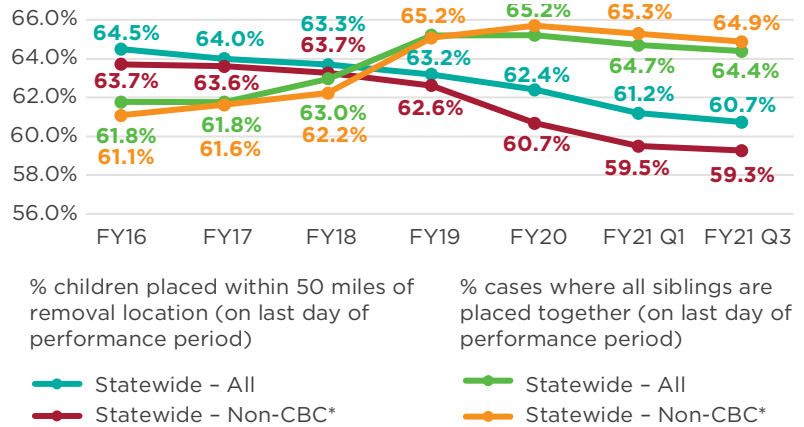
Ultimately, to assess whether they have indeed improved the lives of those served, DFPS measurements of child and family wellbeing are primary. Existing measures of variables affecting placement stability (siblings placed together and kinship placements) have shown steady improvement and the number of youth completing Preparation for Adult Living Curriculum has shown dramatic improvement since 2016.

Alternately, placement within 50 miles has decreased, likely impacted by the state’s ongoing capacity crisis although the decline has been ongoing since 2016 (at least). This pattern exists both for the state as a whole (including CBC regions) and those regions which have not yet implemented CBC.

A number of existing performance measures for wellbeing are not made publicly available in the Rider 15 or other reports. They include:

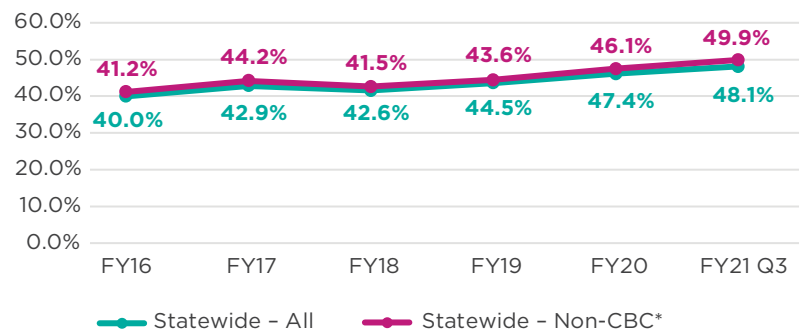
- Youth age 16 and older who have a driver’s license or state identification card
- Children/youth participate in service planning
- Children/youth attend court hearings
- Children/youth remain in their school of origin

VARIABLES CONTRIBUTING TO PLACEMENT STABILITY



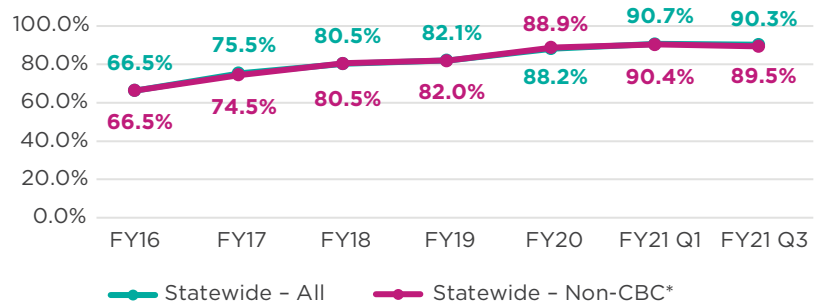
TIMELEY KINSHIP PLACEMENTS

% Children and Youth in Kinship Placements on 60th Day After Removal (CVS)



COMPLETION OF PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIVING (PAL)

% Youth turning 18 who have completed PAL Life Skills Training (CVS)



RECOMMENDATIONS

Federal performance measures and outcomes defined by the LBB for Community Based Care Implementation serve as a baseline for our understanding of critical outcomes of our child protection system and enable some analysis of current success and challenges. However, this infrastructure leaves a number of opportunities for improvement. Our recommendations are included here:

Increase Transparency and Accessibility of Current Outcome Data

While the DFPS Databook makes access to many datapoints easily accessible, reporting on outcomes and analysis of trends and relevant comparisons are often harder to find and/or understand for the general public. DFPS should bring to the forefront timely and accurate data on established benchmarks so that stakeholders can quickly understand what results are being achieved with taxpayer dollars and existing policy and strategy. This includes, not only, federal performance measures but also the complete list of performance measures

established for Community Based Care as some have yet to be made available for the state or individual catchment areas.

Additionally, and of critical importance, that data must be disaggregated by meaningful subunits such as geographic region, race/ethnicity, and child age to assist leaders in better understanding areas of strength and weakness that aggregated data can often hide, including the long standing and disproportionately negative impact of our systems on children and families of color.

Develop a Performance Management System that Accurately Reflects Desired Outcomes for Children and Families

System leaders and stakeholders look at multitudes of data points to determine the functionality of processes and impact of policy choices; however, it can often be the case that fewer metrics might be able to provide answers to the questions that most need answers and could best drive decisions. In contrast to measures that focus on compliance, process outputs, or the crisis of the moment, well chosen outcome measures help maintain focus on the ultimate accountability of the system — that of the protection and well being of the children in Texas and the clients served. Existing measures may get us part of the way there; however, with varying time periods and scattered across multiple reports, it is difficult

to use the data in meaningful ways and in real time to drive day-to-day decisions.

A scan of other states and other systems demonstrates that there may be additional or better questions to ask of our child protection system as well as additional measures to gauge its success and failures. Because improvement is unlikely without measurement, there is likely additional work to do to create a complete dashboard of measures that can be used to efficiently tell the story of system effectiveness across time and assess the effect of investments, leadership, policies, and public health challenges like COVID-19 on the children and families of Texas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Create Appropriate Benchmarks for Assessment of Progress, Failures, and Successes of the Child Protection System

As reflected in this report, an assessment of trends across time on many of these performance measures demonstrates a lack of substantive improvement or even consistent movement in the wrong direction despite increased funding, a growing agency, and invested leaders and staff. While there will always be variables outside the control of the

agency (like the impact of COVID-19), it is best practice, not only to clearly establish the agency's desired outcomes, but also to define benchmarks and target goals for improvement and success. This allows a contextualized understanding of growth and progress as well as a continued focus on excellence and success rather than just improvement or mitigation.

Empower Robust Partnerships Between State Agencies and Public, Private, Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Child protection is not the responsibility of DFPS alone. The best child protection system will be one that is rarely needed and many of the most meaningful outcomes for abuse and neglect survivors will likely depend upon services in other systems and with other community partners. Therefore, state systems, communities, and citizens together must work in ways that are collaboratively and

strategically aligned to ensure that Texas, as a whole, promotes strong healthy families and protects children. In this way of working to create a system focused on family and child well-being, there is the opportunity to not only prevent abuse and neglect from occurring in the first place, but also, ensure that survivors' lives are improved in ways that are consistent with the vision and mission defined for our state.

Conclusion

To achieve their noble mission of improving the lives of those they serve by promoting safe and healthy families and protecting children, DFPS faces many challenges. A capacity crisis, a rapidly growing child population, and the pressures of an ongoing lawsuit are only a few. However, despite significant investments, adjusted strategies, and sincere and well-trained staff, the agency continues to struggle to demonstrate that their work is changing outcomes for Texas children and families.

Our intention here was to begin a conversation by forwarding existing data and measures to see how Texas has or has not improved outcomes overtime. However, more work must be done to ensure that we are measuring what matters. To do so would empower data's ability to inform practice, increase accountability and transparency, and identify what works and what doesn't with accuracy and



an unwavering focus on safety and wellbeing. Well-designed, collaborative, and outcomes based performance measures can ensure that the agency, stakeholders, and providers keep their eyes on what matters most — getting results for children and families.

APPENDIX A: TEXAS OUTCOMES 2014 – 2018

	TX 2014	TX 2015	TX 2016	TX 2017	TX 2018	TX % CHANGE 2014 - 2018
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE						
OUTCOME 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect						
Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the year, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?	2.8%	2.4%	3%	2.7%	2.6%	-5.90%
OUTCOME 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care						
Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the year, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?	0.31%	0.29%	0.31%	0.27%	0.23%	-25.90%
PERMANENT HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE						
OUTCOME 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care						
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	91.9%	92.9%	92.9%	92.8%	93.5%	1.70%
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	78.1%	78.9%	77.6%	77.7%	79.4%	1.60%
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	58.2%	63.1%	64.3%	62.6%	63.1%	8.50%
Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care during the year to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?	34%	31.6%	32.5%	26.3%	24.4%	-28.30%
TIMELY REUNIFICATIONS AND ADOPTIONS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE						
OUTCOME 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry						
Measure 4.1: Of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care during the year, what percentage were reunified within the following time periods?						
(a) Less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care	47.6%	50.3%	52.9%	51.3%	52.3%	10%
Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the year, what percentage reentered care in the following time periods?						
(a) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode	3%	2.7%	2.9%	3.2%	3.4%	15.50%
OUTCOME 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption						
Measure 5.1: Of all children discharged from foster care during the year to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?						
(a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home	3.2%	4%	3.5%	3.5%	2.8%	-12.30%
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	46.6%	50.3%	49.5%	50%	53.8%	15.40%
STABLE AND APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT SETTINGS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE						
OUTCOME 6: INCREASE PLACEMENT STABILITY						
Measure 6.1: Of all children served in foster care during the year who had been in care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placements during that time period?						
(a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home	85%	84.1%	84%	83.5%	83.1%	-2.20%
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	57.6%	57.8%	57%	56.8%	56%	-2.80%
(c) At least 24 months but less than 36 months	23.3%	22.9%	22.6%	21.7%	23.2%	-0.50%
OUTCOME 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions						
Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or an institution?	8%	6.8%	5%	5.2%	4.9%	-38.30%

■ **Improving (2014-2018)**
■ **Better than federal median**
■ **No significant change (2014-2018)**
■ **Comparable to federal median**
■ **Getting worse (2014 – 2018)**
■ **Below federal median**

The full report can be accessed here: www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/cwo-2018


Child Welfare Outcomes Report 2018, Data Published May 2021. In this Report, all references to "year" indicate a federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30).

APPENDIX B: TEXAS COMPARED TO FEDERAL MEDIAN

	TX 2018	FEDERAL MEDIAN 2018	TX COMPARED TO FEDERAL MEDIAN
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE			
OUTCOME 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect			
Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the year, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?	2.6%	5.5%	BETTER
OUTCOME 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care			
Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the year, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?	0.23%	0.26%	NO DIFFERENCE
FINDING PERMANENT HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE			
OUTCOME 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care			
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	93.5%	90.3%	BETTER
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	79.4%	82.4%	WORSE
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	63.1%	63.1%	NO DIFFERENCE
Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care during the year to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?	24.4%	15.8%	WORSE
TIMELY REUNIFICATIONS AND ADOPTIONS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE			
OUTCOME 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry			
Measure 4.1: Of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care during the year, what percentage were reunified in the following time periods?			
(a) Less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care	52.3%	63.6%	WORSE
Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the year, what percentage reentered care in the following time periods?			
(a) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode	3.4%	7.1%	BETTER
OUTCOME 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption			
Measure 5.1: Of all children discharged from foster care during the year to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?			
(a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home	2.8%	2.7%	NO DIFFERENCE
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	53.8%	28.7%	BETTER
OUTCOME 6: Increase placement stability			
Measure 6.1: Of all children served in foster care during the year who had been in care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?			
(a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home	83.1%	83.5%	NO DIFFERENCE
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	56%	65.8%	BETTER
(c) More than 24 months	23.2%	41.1%	BETTER
OUTCOME 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions			
Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or an institution?	4.9%	3.1%	WORSE

 **Improving (2014-2018)**
Better than federal median

 **No significant change (2014-2018)**
Comparable to federal median


 **Getting worse (2014 - 2018)**
Below federal median


The full report can be accessed here: www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/cwo-2018

Child Welfare Outcomes Report 2018, Data Published May 2021. 1 In this Report, all references to "year" indicate a federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30).

APPENDIX C: STATEWIDE DATA INDICATORS FROM CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS ROUND THREE

	TX DENOMINATOR	TX NUMERATOR	TX OBSERVED PERFORMANCE	TX RSP	NATIONAL PERFORMANCE	TX COMPARED TO NATIONAL
Maltreatment in Foster Care	11,769,788	940	7.99%	10.59%	9.67%	WORSE
Recurrence in a 12 month period	64,031	3,513	5.50%	7%	9.50%	BETTER
Permanency in a 12 months for children entering care	20,292	7,744	38.20%	38.10%	42.70%	WORSE
Permanency in a 12 month period for children in care 12-24 months	8,747	5,386	61.60%	58%	45.90%	BETTER
Permanency in a 12 month period for children in care more than 24 months	5,958	2,031	34.10%	31.50%	31.80%	NO DIFFERENCE
Re entry to foster care in 12 months	7,584	277	3.70%	4.80%	8%	BETTER
Placement stability	2,737,902	11,408	4.17%	4.50%	4.44%	NO DIFFERENCE

 **Improving (2014-2018)
Better than federal median**

 **No significant change (2014-2018)
Comparable to federal median**

 **Getting worse (2014 - 2018)
Below federal median**

The full report can be accessed here: www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/cfsr-round-3-statewide-data-indicators-workbook

Data from FY 18-19, Data Published July 2021

Because of difference in time periods and metric definitions, care should be taken in comparing CFSR Statewide Data to the Data included in the Child Welfare Outcome Reports

Risk Standardized Performance (RSP) is used to assess state performance on the CFSR state wide data indicators compared to national performance. RSP accounts for some of the factors that influence performance on the indicators over which states have little control. RSP should ONLY be used to compare a state performance to national benchmarks. A state's observed performance is used to determine how the state performs on an indicator over time and how performance on one indicator relates to another.

OUTCOME	INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE(S)	DESCRIPTION
Safety 1	Maltreatment in foster care	AFCARS; NCANDS; U.S. Census	Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization per 100,000 days of foster care?
Safety 1	Recurrence of maltreatment	NCANDS; U.S. Census	Of all children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment during a 12-month period, what percent were victims of another substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment within 12 months of their initial report?
Permanency 1	Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care	AFCARS; U.S. Census	Of all children who entered foster care in a 12-month period, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering care?
Permanency 1	Permanency in 12 months for children in months foster care 12-23	AFCARS	Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care continuously between 12 and 23 months, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period?
Permanency 1	Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	AFCARS	Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care continuously for 24 months or more, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period?
Permanency 1	Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	AFCARS; U.S. Census	Of all children who entered foster care in a 12-month period who discharged within 12 months to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship, what percent re-entered care within 12 months of their discharge?
Permanency 1	Placement stability	AFCARS	Of all children who entered foster care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of foster care?

APPENDIX D: PERFORMANCE MEASURES FROM RIDER 15 REPORT SEPT 30, 2021

LBB PERFORMANCE MEASURE NAME	POPULATION*	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 Q1	FY21 Q3
% New CPS Intervention within 12 Months of Family Reunification	Statewide - All	11.7%	11.7%	13.9%	12.7%	11.8%	13.4%	12.9%
% New CPS Intervention within 12 Months of Family Reunification	Statewide Non-CBC*	10.9%	11.9%	13.9%	11.8%	11.8%	14.2%	13.0%
% Children Achieving Legal Resolution within 12 Months	Statewide - All	58.8%	59.1%	57.4%	56.9%	52.7%	46.0%	46.7%
% Children Achieving Legal Resolution within 12 Months	Statewide Non-CBC*	60.9%	59.2%	58.1%	58.1%	52.9%	45.8%	47.6%
% of Children who Achieved Permanency in Less Than 12 months	Statewide - All	35.7%	36.7%	36.8%	35.2%	32.2%	26.9%	29.1%
% of Children who Achieved Permanency in Less Than 12 months	Statewide Non-CBC*	38.3%	37.9%	38.8%	37.6%	33.3%	27.1%	30.5%
% of Children who Achieved Permanency in 12 to 18 months	Statewide - All	26.3%	28.3%	27.7%	28.3%	28.7%	29.5%	28.5%
% of Children who Achieved Permanency in 12 to 18 months	Statewide Non-CBC*	25.4%	27.7%	26.5%	27.6%	28.2%	29.8%	28.2%
% of Children who Achieved Permanency after 18 months	Statewide - All	37.7%	34.7%	35.2%	36.1%	39.1%	43.6%	42.4%
% of Children who Achieved Permanency after 18 months	Statewide Non-CBC*	36.0%	34.1%	34.4%	34.4%	38.5%	43.1%	41.3%
% in FPS Conservatorship until the Age of Majority	Statewide - All	6.8%	6.4%	6.1%	6.0%	6.9%	6.7%	7.2%
% in FPS Conservatorship until the Age of Majority	Statewide Non-CBC*	6.3%	5.9%	5.7%	5.6%	6.5%	5.9%	6.5%
% of children with TPR (ALL) adopted within 12 mos.	Statewide - All	60.6%	61.0%	64.0%	64.3%	61.2%	62.1%	57.1%
% of children with TPR (ALL) adopted within 12 mos.	Statewide Non-CBC*	58.1%	58.4%	59.7%	62.4%	61.1%	61.7%	56.5%
Average Time to Permanency in Months	Statewide - All	18.3	17.8	17.4	17.7	18.2	18.9	18.8
Average Time to Permanency in Months	Statewide Non-CBC*	17.9	17.6	17.3	17.4	18.0	18.8	18.6
Average Time to Reunification in Months	Statewide - All	12.8	13.1	12.7	12.8	13.3	13.8	13.8
Average Time to Reunification in Months	Statewide Non-CBC*	12.4	13.1	12.4	12.6	13.1	14.0	13.7
# of Placement Moves per 1,000 Days in Sub Care (updated)	Statewide - All	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.7
# of Placement Moves per 1,000 Days in Sub Care (updated)	Statewide Non-CBC*	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7
INV Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide - All	32.0%	23.7%	25.7%	30.2%	26.9%	37.5%	21.8%
INV Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide Non-CBC*	31.6%	22.9%	26.0%	29.2%	26.5%	35.8%	37.1%
CPS FBSS Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide - All	25.3%	16.0%	19.9%	23.3%	18.6%	20.9%	20.3%
CPS FBSS Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide Non-CBC*	23.8%	14.2%	21.5%	23.6%	17.0%	19.6%	18.8%
CPS CVS Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide - All	22.6%	16.5%	17.4%	17.1%	24.6%	21.7%	21.7%
CPS CVS Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide Non-CBC*	22.6%	16.3%	17.2%	16.4%	24.8%	21.1%	20.8%
CPS Other Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide - All	7.8%	5.1%	5.7%	7.7%	9.9%	2.5%	3.3%
CPS Other Turnover Rate (non-SSCC)**	Statewide Non-CBC*	8.2%	4.3%	5.1%	6.8%	7.3%	1.5%	3.3%

*Statewide Non-CBC reflects the entire state excluding SSCC catchments with active contracts (1, 2, 3B and 8A)
 **Turnover rates are annualized for this report based on SAO methodology.
 NOTE: Catchment 3B consists of Tarrant, Erath, Somervell, Hood, Palo Pinto, Johnson and Parker Counties.
 Catchment 1 is Region 1, Catchment 2 is Region 2 and Catchment 8A is Bexar County.

APPENDIX D: PERFORMANCE MEASURES FROM RIDER 15 REPORT SEPT 30, 2021

LBB PERFORMANCE MEASURE NAME	POPULATION*	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 Q1	FY21 Q3
% children who do not experience abuse/neglect, or exploitation while in Foster Care	Statewide	99.74%	99.70%	99.81%	99.70%	99.43%	99.70%	98.41%
% children who do not experience abuse/neglect, or exploitation while in Foster Care	Statewide - Non-CBC*	99.73%	99.75%	99.82%	99.78%	99.49%	99.75%	98.48%
SSCC Foster Care placements per child	Statewide	1.44	1.43	1.43	1.40	1.41	1.14	1.32
SSCC Foster Care placements per child	Statewide - Non-CBC*	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.40	1.42	1.13	1.30
% of paid Foster Care days in Family Foster Homes	Statewide	73.5%	77.0%	78.2%	79.0%	79.8%	80.4%	80.4%
% of paid Foster Care days in Family Foster Homes	Statewide - Non-CBC*	75.4%	79.2%	80.1%	81.2%	82.0%	82.7%	82.5%
% children placed within 50 miles of removal location (on last day of performance period)	Statewide	64.5%	64.0%	63.7%	63.2%	62.4%	61.2%	60.7%
% children placed within 50 miles of removal location (on last day of performance period)	Statewide - Non-CBC*	63.7%	63.6%	63.3%	62.6%	60.7%	59.5%	59.3%
% cases where all siblings are placed together (on last day of performance period)	Statewide	61.8%	61.8%	63.0%	65.2%	65.2%	64.7%	64.4%
% cases where all siblings are placed together (on last day of performance period)	Statewide - Non-CBC*	61.1%	61.6%	62.2%	65.1%	65.7%	65.3%	64.9%
% youth turning 18 who have completed PAL Life Skills Training	Statewide	81.0%	86.7%	87.0%	92.5%	95.1%	94.8%	95.2%
% youth turning 18 who have completed PAL Life Skills Training	Statewide - Non-CBC*	80.9%	85.0%	87.9%	92.2%	95.3%	94.1%	95.6%

*SSCC-Eligible Placements only. Does not reflect all children in State Custody.

**Non-CBC reflects the entire state excluding the entire active SSCC catchments (1, 2, 3B, 8A)

***Measure 5 - % placed within 50 miles of removal location is produced by Chapin Hall.

NOTE: Catchment 3B consists of Tarrant, Erath, Somervell, Hood, Palo Pinto, Johnson and Parker Counties. Catchment 1 is Region 1, Catchment 2 is Region 2, and Catchment 8A is Bexar County.

LBB PERFORMANCE MEASURE NAME	POPULATION*	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 Q1	FY21 Q3
% of Placement Days in Least Restrictive Placement (CVS)	Statewide	83.2%	85.1%	86.0%	86.2%	86.4%	86.5%	86.2%
% of Placement Days in Least Restrictive Placement (CVS)	Statewide - Non-CBC*	83.4%	85.3%	86.2%	86.4%	86.6%	86.6%	86.4%
% youth turning 18 who have completed PAL Life Skills Training (CVS)	Statewide	66.5%	75.5%	80.5%	82.1%	88.2%	90.7%	90.3%
% youth turning 18 who have completed PAL Life Skills Training (CVS)	Statewide - Non-CBC*	66.5%	74.5%	80.5%	82.0%	88.9%	90.4%	89.5%
% Children and Youth in Kinship Placements on 60th Day After Removal (CVS)	Statewide	40.0%	42.9%	41.5%	43.6%	46.1%		48.1%
% Children and Youth in Kinship Placements on 60th Day After Removal (CVS)	Statewide - Non-CBC*	41.2%	44.2%	42.6%	44.5%	47.4%		49.9%

NOTE: These measures include children in DFPS conservatorship in substitute care placements

*Statewide Non-CBC reflects the entire state excluding SSCC Stage II Catchments 2 and 3B

**Catchment 3B consists of Tarrant, Erath, Somervell, Hood, Palo Pinto, Johnson and Parker Counties.