

MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE:

[CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)]

“High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.”

- Jack and Garry Kinder

In a society where performance measures are regularly required, reviewed and used for continuous quality improvement and ongoing investment decisions in every field, a national set of measures to track our performance and progress in child protection was created – the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR).

Like many new initiatives, there was a strong consensus about what to measure – child safety, stability and timely permanency – but much controversy over the details. Very high benchmarks were set, and no states have met them through two sets of reviews. Thus, each state develops a statewide Program Improvement Plan to address their areas of weakness.

The CFSR was enacted by Congress into federal law in 1997. Ohio’s first review was in 2002 by the US Department of Health and Human Services – a Program Improvement Plan was developed and met. Ohio’s CFSR Round Two concluded in late 2008, with a report issued in May of 2009. Ohio remained in the company of all the other 49 states, and once again, the CFSR benchmarks were not fully achieved.

Ohio’s CFSR Round Two Program Improvement Plan was finalized and approved in October 2010, and emphasizes a number of goals, including those below:

- **Safety** – Ohio is expanding Differential / Alternative Response, as it has been shown to be a more family friendly approach to low and moderate risk cases, minimizing unnecessary agency involvement and more effectively engaging families to safely raise their own children. Evaluation shows safety is not

compromised. Ohio will also continue to train and promote use of our CAPMIS tool to assess safety and risk throughout the life of a case.

- **Permanency** – One goal is to better engage non-custodial fathers because we know they have traditionally been an untapped resource for children in need. Activities will also address continued training on timeliness and effective procedures for participants in the judicial system. Finally, Ohio is focusing on permanency for adolescents lingering in foster care for long periods of time, including family search and engagement strategies.
- **Child and Family Well-being** – Knowing that child welfare agencies cannot improve child outcomes on their own, Ohio will work to better coordinate goals and activities with other systems such as education, health and behavioral healthcare providers, and youth employment.

Of course, each county public children services agency develops a local Quality Improvement Plan to customize their improvement efforts. Regular review of local and state outcomes keeps all focused on recognizing our strengths (to build upon and celebrate them) and investing to improve areas of weakness.

In the following pages, PCSAO has attempted to provide a simplistic look at trend data using Round One Standards as the baseline, since some measurements have evolved over time. We present Ohio’s Round One and Round Two performance and an update on current performance, according to SACWIS data.

SAFETY STANDARDS

Percentage of children who did not experience recurring maltreatment within six months

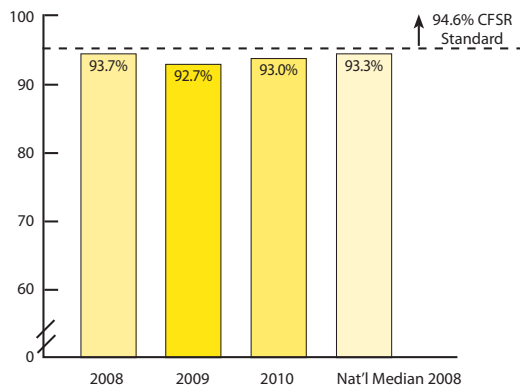
CFSR Round Two Standard: 94.6% or more

Time Periods Measured: Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2008, 2009 & 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

The chart below shows the percentage of children who had previously been victims of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect who did not experience a recurrence of maltreatment within six months. Ohio hovers close to the benchmark and seeks further improvement.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
Ohio and National



Percentage of children who did not experience maltreatment in foster care

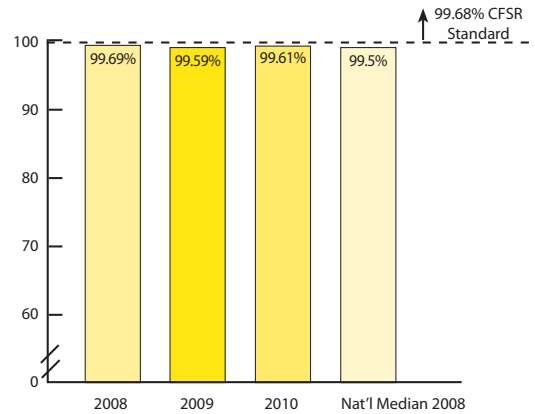
CFSR Round Two Standard: 99.68% or more

Time Periods Measured: Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2008, 2009 & 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

The chart below shows the percentage of children who were in foster care during the reporting period and did not experience a new incident of maltreatment. A child is considered a victim of maltreatment if the perpetrator was a foster care parent or residential facility staff. Ohio slightly exceeds the benchmark.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
Ohio and National



PERMANENCY STANDARDS

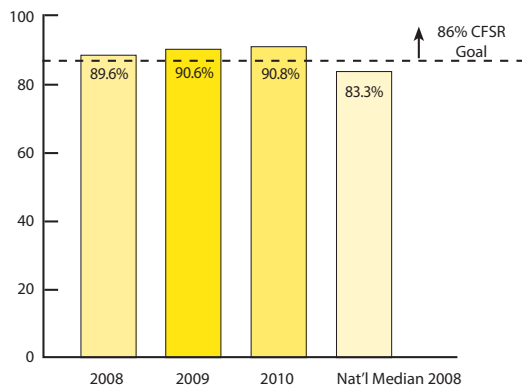
Placement stability for foster children

CFSR Round Two Goal: 86% or more
 Time Periods Measured: Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2008, 2009 & 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

The chart below shows the percentage of children in foster care placement for less than 12 months who experienced two placement settings or less, demonstrating foster care stability. Ohio currently exceeds the benchmark for this goal.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
Ohio and National



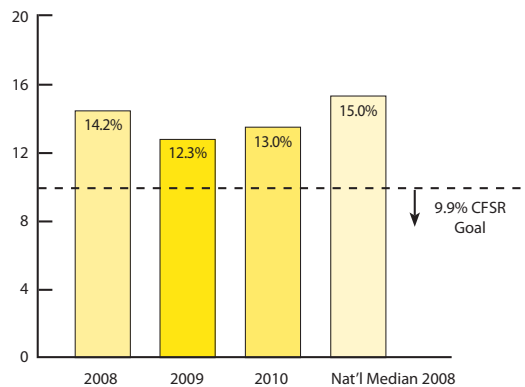
Re-entries to foster care after reunification

CFSR Round Two Goal: 9.9% or less
 Time Periods Measured: Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2008, 2009 & 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

The chart below reports the percentage of children who left foster care to reunify with family during the year prior, and within 12 months of exiting care re-entered into foster care during the year shown. Like other states, Ohio continues to struggle with this measure.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
Ohio and National



PERMANENCY STANDARDS

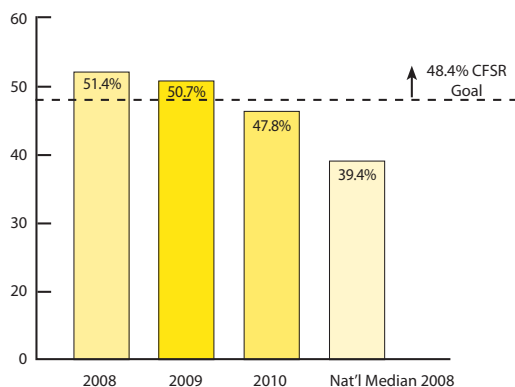
Timeliness of reunification for foster children

CFSR Round Two Goal: 48.4% or more
 Time Periods Measured: Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2008, 2009 & 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

For all children who exited care in the years shown, this chart reports the percentage of reunifications that occurred within 12 months of initial entry into custody. As Ohio has reduced the number of children entering care, our success in shorter length of stays has declined.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
Ohio and National



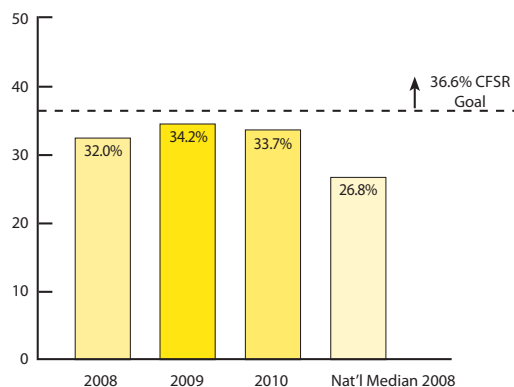
Timeliness of adoptions for foster children

CFSR Round Two Goal: 36.6% or more
 Time Periods Measured: Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2008, 2009 & 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

This chart reports the percentage of finalized adoptions that occurred within 24 months of children entering foster care. While the Ohio Supreme Court and local Juvenile Courts partnered with state and local child welfare leadership to significantly improve Ohio's timeliness, like other states we continue to struggle to meet the goal. Ohio continues to need improvement on this measure.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
Ohio and National



PERMANENCY STANDARD

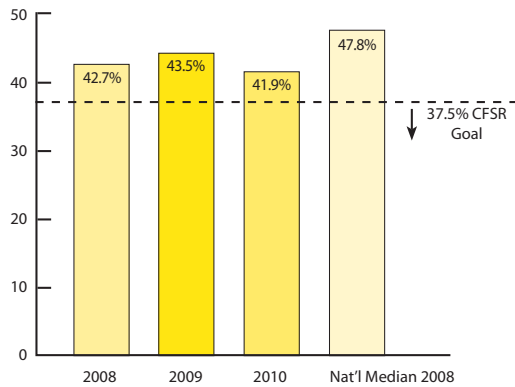
Children growing up in foster care

CFSR Round Two Goal: 37.5% or less
 Time Periods Measured: Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2008, 2009 & 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

This chart reveals the percentage of youth who emancipated out of foster care, after being in foster care for three years or longer. Ohio especially struggles with permanency for adolescents. Too many youth (over 1,000 each year) age out of foster care at age 18 or older without a permanent family. Ohio does have activities in our current Program Improvement Plan to improve performance.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
Ohio and National



The 2011-2012 PCSAO Factbook, 10th Edition

CHILDREN DISCHARGED FROM FOSTER CARE

Reasons for foster children leaving placement

CFSR Standard: N/A
 Time Periods Measured: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

WHAT DOES THE DATA REVEAL?

The chart reveals the reasons why children leave placement as a percentage of all children leaving custody during that time period. "Preferred" outcomes include reunification, legal custody/guardianship and adoption. During this time period, 10,816 children left care.

DEFINITIONS

- Reunification – Children are reunified with their parents, caregivers or other relatives.
- Legal Custody/Guardianship – Judicial custody or guardianship is awarded to a relative or other caregiver.
- Adoption – Adoptions are finalized.
- Aging Out – Children emancipate out of custody at age 18 or older.
- Other – Includes appealed dispositions, children entering custody of the Ohio Department of Youth Services, runaways / AWOLs, or other.

