



Performance Measure	Area	Data Definition	Purpose
1 Children in Out-of-Home Care	Permanency	The number and percentage of children in out-of-home care in the jurisdiction.	To help courts understand the overall number and trends of children in foster care.
2 Type of Exit from Care	Permanency	Number and percentage of children exiting care to reunification, living with other relative, adoption, guardianship, emancipation, runaway, death of child.	To help courts understand the type of permanency achieved when children exit foster care.
3 Placement Settings	Permanency	Number and percentage of children in out-of-home placement who are placed with foster parents, kinship care, congregate/group home, pre-adoptive placement, and on runaway status.	To help courts understand the breakdown of placement setting for children in out-of-home care under their jurisdiction.
4a Placement Stability	Permanency	Number and percentage of children in care less than two years who had two or more placements.	Research has demonstrated that placement changes can negatively affect a child’s educational, health, and emotional development. Children who have been in care for less than two years and have experienced multiple placement changes may have difficulty achieving permanency in their family of origin or another family setting.
4b Placement Stability and Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	Permanency	Number and percentage of children in care less than two years who had 2+ placements who were placed in out-of-home care for reasons including parental substance use.	This sub-measure of (4)(a) shows placement stability for children in care due to parental substance use as a factor for removal.



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<b>5</b> Child Safety after Release from Court Jurisdiction	Child Safety	Percentage of children who do not re-enter foster care within 12 months of moving to a permanent home.	This child safety indicator will help courts identify the extent to which children return to the attention of the child welfare system after exiting to a permanent home. A high percentage of re-entries indicates that there is work to do to successfully evaluate safety threats to child safety when deciding the child’s placement before closing the case.
<b>6</b> Length of Time in Out-of-Home Care	Timeliness	Median number of days/months from removal to discharge from care.	This measure shows how long it takes for children to achieve legal permanency and helps courts evaluate their success in eliminating needless delays in achieving legal permanency.
<b>7</b> Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	Parent and Child Well-being	The percentage of parents in child protection cases under court jurisdiction who have case plans requiring SUD treatment.	Child welfare agencies report removal factor(s) for entry into care to the federal government and included among those reasons is parental substance abuse. However, it is generally recognized that the prevalence of substance use disorder as a factor is undercounted in the federal data, as many workers simply code this as parental neglect. Measuring the percentage of parents in child protection cases who have case plans requiring SUD treatment would give courts an accurate picture of the prevalence of diagnosed SUD in child protection cases.
<b>8</b> SUD Services	Parent and Child Well-being	The percentage of parents in child protection cases under court jurisdiction who have case plans requiring SUD treatment who received treatment.	There is often considerable delay for parents to receive an assessment and SUD services when indicated. This measure would allow courts to accurately monitor the delivery of treatment services for parents.



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9 <b>Infants Born Exposed to or Positive for Substances</b>	Parent and Child Well-being	Percentage of births by moms in child protection cases where the child is born exposed to or positive for substances.	This measure would help assess the impact of court and child welfare intervention. It would also support moms involved in the child welfare system who have SUD.
10 <b>Prevalence of Problem-Solving Dependency Courts</b>	Parent and Child Well-being	<p>Percentage of child protection cases where at least one parent has participated in a family drug court or a zero-to-three / infant-toddler court.</p> <p>* Ideally, the following additional measures and program information would be informative:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Percentage of child protection cases where the parent(s) successfully completed the problem-solving court requirements (e.g., graduated).</li> <li>2. Is participation in that problem-solving court voluntary or court ordered?</li> <li>3. Is the problem-solving court an integrated or parallel model?</li> </ol>	Family drug courts and infant-toddler courts, when implemented with fidelity and according to best practices, have proven to produce positive outcomes for children and families. However, they are not widely available to the majority of families involved in child welfare. This measure would allow state court leaders to track their prevalence, and if captured on an individual case level, would provide a statewide picture of their impact on child and family outcomes.
11* <b>Length of Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Process</b>	Timeliness	Median number of days from TPR petition to entry of TPR order.	The measure informs the court how long it takes the court to reach a decision on TPR from the time that the TPR petition was filed. This is a source of considerable delay in many jurisdictions.

\* Aspirational

**Endnote**

<sup>1</sup> These measures were created through a collaborative effort between the American Bar Association (ABA), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), with the 2004 publication, Building a Better Court: Measuring and Improving Court Performance and Judicial Workload in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. These measures were subsequently field-tested and documented in the OJJDP-supported 2009 Toolkit for Court Performance Measurement in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/courttoolkit.html>

