

Permanency Performance Profile Usage Guide

I. DATA DESCRIPTIONS

The Permanency Profile Template combines permanency measures from Court administrative data and child welfare administrative and case review data. This document introduces these measures and the associated sources for the data and describes how to populate the Permanency Profile Template with each data source. Finally, this document presents considerations for interpreting and integrating these measures.

A. JWISE Data

CIP Measures

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) is a federally funded project to improve court practices in child abuse, neglect, and dependency cases. To that end, NC- CIP funds are used to implement strategies and activities to ensure greater permanence for children and their families and reduce the length of time children remain in foster care. These activities and strategies include providing technology assistance, such as developing the juvenile court information collection and management system (JWISE) to track performance standards. The five CIP measures relevant to the Permanency Profile Template are discussed below. These benchmarks are from a federal toolkit created from a partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). CIP measures can be requested locally for the county. There are also a few state level staff at AOC who can run statewide CIP reports for program planning purposes.

Time to First Permanency Hearing (CIP 1)

This measure indicates the median time from the filing of the original petition to the first permanency hearing (how long it takes to complete the first permanency hearing). Data points in this measure include: county code, county name, number of occurrences (within timeframe specified) and median days across all occurrences.

Time to all Subsequent Permanency Hearings (CIP 2)

This measure indicates the median length of time in days between each subsequent permanency hearing that occurs until final permanency is achieved. For example, the number of days between the first permanency hearing and the second permanency hearing, the second permanency hearing and third, etc., for each hearing that occurs while the child remains in care. Data points in this measure include: county code, county name, number of occurrences (within timeframe specified) and median days across all occurrences.

Time to Permanent Placement (CIP 3)

This measure indicates the median time from filing of the original petition to legal permanency (how long it takes for children in abuse and neglect cases to achieve legal permanency, following the filing of the original petition). "Legal Permanency" means that there is a permanent and secure legal relationship between the adult caregiver and the child, including reunification, adoption, legal guardianship or

placement with a fit and willing relative. Data points in this measure include: county code, county name, number of occurrences (within timeframe specified) and median days across all occurrences.

Time to Termination of Parental Rights Petition (CIP 4)

In cases where reunification has not been achieved, this measure indicates the median time from filing of the original petition to filing the petition (or motion) to terminate parental rights (how long it takes from the date the original child abuse or neglect petition is filed to the date the termination of parental rights petition is filed). Data points in this measure include: county code, county name, number of occurrences (within timeframe specified) and median days across all occurrences.

Time to Termination of Parental Rights (CIP 5)

In cases where reunification has not been achieved, this measure indicates the median time from filing of the original child abuse and neglect petition to the termination of parental rights (how long it takes from the date the original child abuse and neglect petition (or motion) was filed to the date the termination of parental rights proceeding is completed). Data points in this measure include: county code, county name, number of occurrences (within timeframe specified) and median days across all occurrences.

Hearing Time Standard Reports

In 2001, as recommended by the State Judicial Council, Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake, Jr. adopted a trial court performance standards system developed by the National Center for State Courts. This system is designed to help trial courts identify and set guidelines for their operations, measure their performance, and make improvements to better meet the needs and expectations of the public. Hearing reports can be requested for counties and districts, however state-level data are not available.

Adjudication Hearings

These reports allow users to track whether adjudication hearings occur within the time limits set by statute N.C.G.S. 7B-801 (c). The adjudication hearing must occur within 60 days of the filing of the original petition.

The adjudication hearing report includes a list of:

- adjudication hearings not held, but still within time standard as of the time of the report
- adjudication hearings not held that have exceeded the time standard
- adjudication hearings held within the time standard
- adjudication hearings held, but that exceeded the 60-day time standard limit

In addition, the report includes hearings for which no file date was entered. In these cases, the adjudication data is known, but we cannot know if the time standard has been met due to missing file dates.

Disposition Hearings

These reports track whether disposition hearings occur within the time limits set by statute N.C.G.S. 7B-901 (a). The disposition time standard is within 30 days of conclusion of the adjudication.

First Permanency Planning Hearings

These reports indicate whether the first permanency planning hearings occur within the time limits set by statute N.C.G.S. 7B-906.1 (a). Within 12 months of the date of the initial order removing custody, there shall be a review hearing designated as a permanency planning hearing.

Key Considerations for Hearing Time Standard Reports

Hearing time standard reports contain two types of missing data. First, these reports include data for hearings that have not yet been held, but also have not yet exceeded the time standard. We cannot know the status of these cases at the time the report is run, so this data point is not included in the Permanency Profile Template. The reports also include cases for which hearings have not been held, but the time standard has already been exceeded. These cases are to be recorded separately as part of the calculation of total pending adjudication hearings. Please see the comments in the Permanency Profile Template for guidance as to where to record these data.

However, for cases with a missing file date, we cannot know if the time standard was met. These cases are likewise excluded from the total number of applicable cases.

Regarding the First Permanency Planning Hearings reports, some cases have missing removal dates. Thus, given these missing data points, we cannot know if first permanency planning hearing time standards were/not met. Examining these cases may help counties improve retroactive data entry.

B. CFSR Round 3 Measures

NOTE: Currently, the CFSR data on the Management Assistance website does not include NCFAS data. Therefore, unreliable state-level data, county-level data for NCFAS counties, and district-level data (for districts that include NCFAS counties) are presented on the website. Until NCFAS data is integrated into the Management Assistance CFSR Round 3 calculations, the Division of Social Services will populate the CFSR data in the permanency profile templates.

These five measures are used by the Children’s Bureau and the Federal Office of the Administration for Children & Families (ACF) as an evaluative component of the nationally-conducted Round 3 Child & Family Services Reviews (CFSR). The measures included here report time to permanency within 12 months for children entering or residing in foster care. Additionally, these measures report the percentage of children who reenter foster care within the 12 months following their discharge, and the stability of children in placement. Each measure will be discussed in more detail below.

Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Foster Care

Measure: Of all children who enter foster care in a designated 12-month period, what percentage are discharged to permanency within 12 months of their entry?

Compares...

- Denominator: Number of children who enter care in a 12-month period (12 months prior to time frame noted in Management Assistance)
- Numerator: Number of children in denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care and before turning 18

NOTE: This indicator counts all types of permanency (reunification, living with relative, adoption, or guardianship) as a discharge to permanency.

July 1, 2016												June 30, 2017												July 1, 2017												June 30, 2018											
Denominator: Entry Cohort - Number of Children who enter care in this time frame												Numerator: Exit Cohort – Number of children in the denominator who exit to permanency within 12 months of foster care entry (can be no later than the end of this 24 month period)																																			
M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20	M21	M22	M23	M24																								

For example, assume 10,000 children entered care from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Of those 10,000 children, 6,000 exited care within 12 months of their entry date to a permanent placement. The percentage of children discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering care would be $6,000/10,000 = .60$ or 60%.

For data coming from the report period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018, this represents a cohort of children entering care between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12-23 Months

Measure: Of all children in foster care for 12-23 months as of the first day of a 12-month period, what percent discharged from foster care to permanency within that same 12-month period?

Compares...

- Denominator: Number of children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months
- Numerator: Number of children in the denominator who discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period and before turning 18

D: Number of children in foster care who, on the first day of a 12-month period, had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months. Corresponds with the first day of the time period requested in Management Assistance.

N: Number of children in the denominator who discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period and before turning 18. Corresponds with time period requested in Management Assistance.

M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----

The data coming from the report period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 represents a cohort of children who entered care between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016 AND did not exit foster care by June 30, 2017. They are included in the denominator because they've already been in care 12-23 months on July 1, 2017.

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 24 Months or More

Measure: Of all children who were in care 24+ months at the start of the 12-month period, what percent discharged to permanency within that 12-month period?

The children addressed in this measure entered care at a prior time point than children in the previous two measures, as they are already in care 24 months or more at the start of the 12-month period. Unlike the previous two measures, the entry group does not represent a 12-month entry cohort, but all children who entered 24 months or more before the start of exit period.

Compares...

- Denominator: Number of children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period, who had been in foster care (in that episode) for 24 months or more
- Numerator: Number of children in the denominator who discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period and before turning 18

D: Number of children in foster care who, on the first day of a 12-month period, had been in foster care (in that episode) for 24 months or more. Corresponds with the first day of the time period requested in Management Assistance.

N: Number of children in the denominator who discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period and before turning 18. Corresponds with time period requested in Management Assistance.

M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----

For data coming from the report period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018, this represents a cohort of children who entered care on or before July 1, 2015. They are included in the denominator because they’ve already been in care 24 months or more on July 1, 2017.

Re-entry to Foster Care

Measure: Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period and who discharged within 12 months of their entry to reunification, living with a relative(s), or guardianship, what percent re-enter foster care within 12 months of their discharge?

This measure includes children who entered foster care within a 12-month period, exited foster care within 12 months of their entry, and subsequently re-entered foster care in the 12-months following their initial discharge. This measure excludes any children in foster care for less than 8 days and children who enter or exit foster care at age 18 or older. If a child re-enters foster care multiple times within 12 months of their discharge, only the first reported re-entry into foster care is selected.

Placement Stability

Measure: Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves per day of foster care (per 1,000 days of care)?

This measure is calculated using the total number of days children were in care and the total number of placement moves during the period in care. The population of children is defined as all children entering care during a designated 12-month period. Their placement episode is measured through the 12 months following the begin date (on a rolling 12-month period per each child). The days in care and moves during the placement episodes are cumulative across episodes reported in the same year. Children in foster care for less than 8 days are excluded, and youth who turn 18 during the 12-month period will not have time in care beyond their 18th birthday or moves after their 18th birthday counted.

Key Considerations

These measures are provided by UNC's management assistance website – please see the "Populating the Template" section below for more information.

Time period restrictions are limited to what is offered on the website; thus these data may not include the same time periods as data available for other measures.

Reporting has also been affected by NC FAST. Although this will eventually be resolved, for counties reporting exclusively in NC FAST, these data are not included in the above measures.

C. OSRI Data

The Onsite Review Instrument is used to review both foster care and in-home services cases during the onsite review component of the Child and Family Services Reviews. In completing the instrument, reviewers conduct case file reviews and case-related interviews with children, parents, foster parents, caseworkers, and other professionals involved with the child. The instrument is organized into a Face Sheet and three sections. On the Face Sheet, reviewers document general information about a case, such as the type of case. The three sections focus on the outcome domains that form the basis of the Child and Family Services Reviews: safety, permanency, and child and family well-being.

For each outcome, reviewers collect information on a number of items related to that outcome. Although reviewers use the instrument to review both foster care and in-home services cases, they should complete the permanency section only if the case under review is a foster care case. If reviewing an in-home services case, reviewers should select Not Applicable as the rating for the permanency items. For children in foster care, reviewers should consider the safety items (1 through 3) for all children in the family, but complete the permanency items (4 through 11) and the child and family well-being items (12 through 18) only as they apply to the specific child whose case is under review.

Two concepts are helpful for understanding the OSRI case review process. First, the Period Under Review (PUR) signifies the time period within a case that is subject to OSRI rating. For example, cases from a period under review of January 2016 to June 2016 were open cases with actions occurring during that time. These cases are evaluated at future time known as the Case Review Month or Period.

For more information regarding the OSRI measures and items, please refer to the attachment Quick Reference Items List, which briefly summarizes the 18 items in the Onsite Review Instrument (included in the Permanency Profile Template) and the 18 systemic factor items (not included in the Permanency Profile Template). The PDF document can also be viewed here: (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cfsr_quick_reference_list.pdf)

II. POPULATING THE TEMPLATE

Each quarter (February, May, August, and November) the Permanency Profile Templates are posted on the TA Gateway knowledgebase (<https://nccwta.org/>) for retrieval and completion. Timeframes for each data set are noted in each section heading of the Profile Template.

A. JWISE Data

Data for the five CIP measures and the three hearing time standard reports can be requested locally by users who have access to JWISE. It is best practice to have counties/districts execute a Memorandum of Understanding to share data within districts and among various child welfare stakeholders. Completion of the Permanency Profile Template will require state-level (online templates will be populated with this data by the Division of Social Services), county-level and district-level CIP data. The CIP data section also includes pre-populated calculations of the percentage of occurrences in North Carolina that occur in the county for each measure.

County-level data from three JWISE hearing time standard reports (listed below) will be required to complete the Permanency Profile Template as well.

Key Time Standard Adjudication Hearings Report (JWADJRPT)

Profile Data Point	Calculation
Adjudication Hearings (Total Number of Hearings)	$= \frac{\text{\# of adjudication hearings held within the time standard} + \text{\# of adjudication hearings held, but exceeded the 60-day time standard limit}}{\text{\% of occurrences} = 100\%}$
Adjudication Hearings (Held within 60 days of filing petition)	$= \frac{\text{\# of adjudication hearings held within the time standard}}{\text{\% of occurrences} = \frac{\text{\# of adjudication hearings held within the time standard}}{\text{total \# of adjudication hearings held}}}$
Pending Adjudication Hearings (Total)	$= \text{\# of adjudication hearings not held, but still within time standard as of the time of the report} + \text{\# of adjudication hearings not held that have exceeded the time standard}$ <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(% of occurrences = 100%)</i></p>

Pending Adjudication Hearings (Pending less than 60 days of filing the petition)	$=$ $\frac{\text{\# of adjudication hearings not held, but still within time standard as of the time of the report}}{\text{\% of occurrences}}$ $=$ $\frac{\text{\# of adjudication hearings not held, but still within time standard as of the time of the report}}{\text{total \# of pending adjudication hearings}}$
---	---

Key Time Standard Disposition Hearing Report (JWDISPRPT)

Profile Data Point	Calculation
Disposition Hearings (Total Hearings Held)	$=$ $\frac{\text{\# of disposition hearings held within time standard} + \text{\# of disposition hearings held that exceeded time standard}}{\text{\% of occurrences = 100\%}}$
Disposition Hearings (Held within 30 days of the adjudication hearing)	$=$ $\frac{\text{\# of disposition hearings held within time standard}}{\text{\% of occurrences}}$ $=$ $\frac{\text{\# of disposition hearings held within time standard}}{\text{total \# of disposition hearings held}}$

Key Time Standard First Permanency Planning Hearing Report (JWFPPHRPT)

Profile Data Point	Calculation
First Permanency Planning Hearings – Held within 12 months of the date of removal from the home	$=$ $\frac{\text{\# of first permanency planning hearings held - within time standard}}{\text{\% of occurrences}}$ $=$ $\frac{\text{\# of first permanency planning hearings held - within time standard}}{\text{\# of first permanency planning hearings held - within time standard} + \text{\# first permanency planning hearings held - exceeded time standard}}$

B. CFSR Round 3 Measures

NOTE: Currently, the CFSR data on the Management Assistance website does not include NCFAS data. Therefore, unreliable state-level data, county-level data for NCFAS counties, and district-level data (for districts that include NCFAS counties) are presented on the website. Until NCFAS data is integrated into the Management Assistance CFSR Round 3 calculations, the Division of Social Services will populate the CFSR data in the permanency profile templates.

Each of the five CFSR Round 3 Permanency Measures can be found directly on UNC’s Management Assistance website (<http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>). To populate these fields on the Permanency Profile Template, follow these steps:

1. Select a county from the NC map.
2. Click on “Child Welfare” (first menu option on the left-hand side).
3. Under “CFSR Measures”, select “New Rd 3”.
4. Check the boxes for the three “Permanency in 12 months” measures, and for the “Re-entry to foster care” and “Placement stability” measures.
5. Choose to show a table of summary date for the desired timeframe (can select dates with the dropdown menu).
6. Hit “view” to display the data.

The resulting data will display for each of the measures selected for the date range selected by the National Standard, NC state (overall), by the size of county relative to the county selected, by Judicial District and by the county selected. Completion of the Permanency Profile Template will require state-level (online templates will be populated with this data by the Division of Social Services), county-level and district-level CFSR data. Again, please keep in mind the transition to NC FAST has limited reporting capability for some counties, but this will be resolved.

C. OSRI

Statewide and county-specific case rating data will be populated by NC DSS. Normally data from the previous three completed review quarters will be presented. While some counties have access to the OMS and are able to pull their county’s case level data for the time period covered in the OSRI Quarterly reports, NC DSS will populate the county-level data for now.

NC DSS has just begun publishing the OSRI Quarterly Report, which will help permanency collaboratives put their OSRI performance in context.

Technical Assistance

For technical assistance related to the Permanency Profile Template, please contact:

JWISE Data	CFSR & OSRI Data
<p style="text-align: center;">Kiesha Crawford Manager, Juvenile Court Improvement Program North Carolina Judicial Branch Kiesha.d.crawford@nccourts.org 919-890-1281</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Joy H. Smith Child Welfare Data Analyst North Carolina Division of Social Services Joy.h.smith@dhhs.nc.gov 919-527-6433 or John Ragosta Child Welfare Data Team Manager North Carolina Division of Social Services John.ragosta@dhhs.nc.gov 919-527-6406</p>