

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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Maryland Child Welfare Performance Indicators

5th Annual Child Welfare Accountability Report

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December 2011



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Maryland Department of Human Resources
Social Services Administration



Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by faculty and staff at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work's Ruth H. Young Center for Families & Children (RYC) in partnership with staff at the Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration (DHR/SSA).

Terry V. Shaw and Haksoon Ahn co-manage the interagency agreement that supports the development of this report. Terry V. Shaw developed the performance indicators found in this report with the assistance of David Ayer and Laurie Dodd from DHR/SSA. Carnitra White, David Ayer and Linda Carter at DHR/SSA guided the activities of the outcomes measurement and performance indicators process.

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Executive Summary

The Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2006 (Maryland Family Law, Section 1301 through 1311 inclusive) specified the development and implementation of a process to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of child welfare services in Maryland that addresses the safety, permanency and well-being of children in the care and custody of the state. A set of performance indicators were established that encompassed and expanded upon existing federal measures in four areas of child welfare practice:

1. Child abuse and neglect,
2. Protecting children in out-of-home care from abuse and neglect,
3. Permanency and stability of children in out-of-home care, and
4. The effectiveness of efforts to address the health, mental health, education, and well-being of children in out-of-home care.

This report, the fifth Child Welfare Accountability, Performance Indicators report, describes and documents the performance indicators mandated in the Child Welfare Accountability Act for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Comparisons are included in relation to outcomes from prior years. A separate companion report entitled *Quality Assurance Processes in Maryland Child Welfare* describes and evaluates Quality Assurance processes in calendar year 2011.

Summary of Findings

The 5th annual Child Welfare Accountability Act, Performance Indicators report continues the examination of child welfare outcomes originally reported, as baseline, in 2007. Over the last several years Maryland has improved the functionality of Maryland's Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (MD CHESSIE) and continues to make great strides in the use of data to guide policy and practice decisions. Within the last two years:

- Maryland DHR began making payments solely through MD CHESSIE;
- Maryland has moved away from hand counts to measures solely coming from MD CHESSIE;
- Maryland has developed a process to provide quality control feedback and data elements that affect federally required measures (such as caseworker visitation);
- Maryland DHR closed out the Program Improvement Plan from the initial Child and Family Services Review (CFSR);
- Maryland DHR updated the process of reporting required data to the federal government for children in out-of-home care through the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS);
- Maryland DHR updated the process of reporting data to the federal government for children who are investigated through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS);
- Maryland DHR updated MD CHESSIE to incorporate a Structured Decision Making (SDM) process at screening;
- Maryland DHR received the results of the evaluation of Family Centered Practice and is considering continuing and expanding the evaluation; and
- Maryland DHR began a process of consolidating outcome measures across multiple platforms.

At each step the professionals at DHR/SSA have thoughtfully examined the role data plays in the decision making process and acted in a manner designed to maximize the use of existing data while attempting to lessen the burden, as much as possible, on front line workers.

The Child Welfare Accountability Act (CWAA) as written and reported in the initial baseline report in 2007 did not specify state or federal benchmarks for success. The current report, continuing with the trend started in the second CWAA report, expands on the initial CWAA measures to include the federal measures that most closely relate to the measures specified in the CWAA. Highlights from the current report are listed below and a summary table is included in Appendix A. Comparison of findings to the baseline report should be interpreted with caution given differences in data sources between the baseline report (the legacy data systems) and the MD CHESSIE based reports. Additionally, although the quality of data in MD CHESSIE continues to improve, there are still some items that are difficult to interpret because of missing data. The reader is encouraged to carefully refer to all footnotes and narrative descriptions for information about indicators that should be interpreted with caution.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Maryland continues to succeed in protecting children from repeat maltreatment. Maryland continues to surpass the federal standard for the lack of recurrence of maltreatment. Of the children who experienced a substantiated or indicated finding, 95.5% did not receive another report within 12 months, surpassing the federal standard of 94.6%.

Almost 100% (99.9%) of screened out referrals were appropriately reviewed and approved by a supervisor. Maryland continues to comply with the requirement for supervisory review of all screened-out referrals.

Child Protective Services investigations were not consistently initiated and completed in accordance with the timeframes set forward in state policy. The mandates provided in Maryland Family Law §5-706 require that child protective services investigations be initiated within 24 hours for reports of abuse and within 5 days for reports of neglect. In addition, Maryland Family Law §5-706 states that investigations should be completed within 10 days of the receipt of the investigation and if an investigation is not completed within 30 days, it must be completed within 60 days of the receipt of the investigation. In SFY 2011, 88.6% of investigations were initiated within 5 days. Overall, 5.4% were closed in 10 days; 26.2% were completed within 30 days; and 71.2% were completed within 60 days.

Protection of Children in Out-of-Home Care

Maryland does not meet the federal standard for protecting children from abuse in care. Using an updated methodology, Maryland falls below the federal standard for the percent of youth who were not victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members, 99.55% were not victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members, which is below the federal standard or 99.68%.

The percent of children who experienced maltreatment after exiting out-of-home care remains low. Of children exiting out-of-home care only 3.7% were victims of indicated or unsubstantiated maltreatment between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 similar to the 2010 numbers (3.8%) an improvement from the 2009 numbers (4.4%).

Permanency and Stability for Children in Out-of-Home Care

Maryland continues to fall below the national median on time to reunification. Of children exiting to reunification in Maryland, 51.9% did so within 12 months (a slight decrease from last year); this is below the national median for this measure of 69.9%.

Maryland scored better than the national median score for placement stability. 85.1% of children in out-of-home placement experienced no more than 2 placements. This is a slight decrease from the 2010 numbers (85.4%) and better than the national median of 83.3%, but below the 75th percentile of score (86.0%) nationally.

Maryland continues to fall below the national median on time to adoption – but has made significant improvements. Only 18.8% of children exiting to adoption did so within 24 months of entry into out-of-home care; this is a substantial increase from 13.8% last year. However, the result is still below the national median for this measure of 26.8%.

Maryland scored better than the national median for children reentering care after reunification. 11.8% of children exiting out-of-home care reentered within 12 months, a slight decrease from last year (11.1%). This is better than the national median of 15.0%, but did not meet the 75th percentile score of 9.0%.

Maryland continues to improve on permanent exits for children in care for 24 months or longer. 25.8% of children in out-of-home care for at least 24 months were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday. This is an improvement from 2010 (24.9%) and surpasses the national median for this measure (25%).

Health, Mental Health, Education, and Well-Being for Children in Out-of-Home Care

The MD CHESSIE system has the capacity to report on many child well-being measures not in the electronic legacy data system nor required for payment or federal reporting systems. There continues to be a lack of data entry completeness in the well-being data elements and MD CHESSIE cannot produce reliable estimates for these well-being indicators at this time.

The table below is an overview of the federal measures reported in the Child Welfare Accountability Report and how they compare to the federal standards or guidelines. These measures are presented in more detail in the text.

Summary of Federal Outcome Measures covered in the CWAA

| Safety Standards | Federal Standard | 2010 Results | 2011 Results |
|--|------------------|--------------|--|
| S1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting year, what percent did not experience another incident of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect within 6 months? | 94.6% | 95.8% | 95.5%  |
| S2: Of all children in foster care during the reporting period, what percent were not victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members? | 99.68% | 99.6% | 99.5% |
| Permanency Composite 1 | Federal Median | 2009 Results | 2010 Results |
| C1.1.1: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification <i>during the period under review</i> who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? | 69.9% | 52.8% | 51.9% |
| C1.1.2: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification <i>during the period under review</i> who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay in months from the date of most recent entry into foster care? | 6.5 mos | 10 mos | 11 mos |
| C1.1.3: Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period just prior to <i>the period under review</i> , and who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home? | 39.4% | 24.7% | 27.4%  |
| C1.1.4: Of all children exiting foster care to reunification in <i>the period under review</i> , what percent re-entered foster care in less than 12 months? | 15.0% | 11.1% | 11.8%  |
| Permanency Composite 2 | | | |
| C2.1.1: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during <i>the period under review</i> , what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home? | 26.8% | 13.8% | 18.8%  |
| C2.1.2: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during <i>the period under review</i> , what was the median length of stay in months from the date of most recent entry into foster care? | 32.4 mos | 41 mos | 36 mos  |
| C2.2.1: Of all children who were in foster care on the first day of <i>the period under review</i> , and who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, what percent became legally free for adoption in less than 6 months? | 8.8% | 5.5% | 6.0%  |
| Permanency Composite 3 | | | |
| C3.1.1: Of all children who were in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of <i>the period under review</i> , what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday and by the end of the fiscal year? | 25.0% | 24.9% | 25.8%  |
| C3.1.2: Of all children who were discharged from foster care in <i>the period under review</i> who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday? | 96.8% | 98.4% | 95.7% |
| Permanency Composite 4 | | | |
| C4.1.1: Of all children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home, what percent have had no more than two placement settings? | 83.3% | 85.4% | 85.1%  |
|  A green dot means that this is higher than the federal standard/mean for the measure.  A yellow dot means that this measure is improving, but still below the federal standard/mean for the measure. | | | |

Summary of Recommendations for Measurement of Maryland's Child Welfare System Performance

Recommendations for continuing to strengthen Maryland's evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of child welfare services follow. DHR/SSA is currently engaged in varying stages of incorporating many of the recommendations from prior reports. Many of these efforts, however, are internal to DHR/SSA and are not readily apparent to stakeholders outside of DHR/SSA. That being said, there continues to be a need to push forward with a number of recommendations that will help improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of child welfare services and facilitate information getting to decision-makers in a more efficient manner.

- **Examine the full trajectory of children through the child welfare system.** Most of the child welfare process and outcome measures focus on children in out-of-home care. Children's experience with child welfare can begin well before a removal however. At every level of contact there are opportunities to measure the effectiveness of current practice and through an examination of the whole system we can begin to understand how the youth and families of Maryland experience child welfare. UM/SSW and DHR/SSA should work together, as provided for in §5-1309, to develop meaningful indicators accounting for the full breadth of child welfare services (screening, investigations, in-home and out-of-home services, Family Preservation Services, and auxiliary services) and provide a more complete picture of outcomes for children in the child welfare system rather than focusing exclusively on out-of-home care.
- **Accurate jurisdiction level reports of outcome and accountability measures should be made publicly available.** To continue to expand the utility of the data being collected, analyzed, and presented these measures should be replicated at the jurisdiction level. Jurisdiction level analyses will pin-point more directly jurisdictions that are excelling in certain areas and those in need of further focus. This can lead to more efficient sharing of innovative practices through early identification of successes. DHR/SSA currently provides jurisdiction level breakouts for a number of measures to the local leadership. *A committee of data users from jurisdictions throughout the state should be convened to review and assist in the development of meaningful jurisdiction level reports that should move into ongoing production.*
- **Move toward tracking entry cohorts over time instead of solely having point in time or exit based measures.** Related to measuring the trajectory of children through the child welfare system more entry cohort measures should be incorporated into the decision-making process. Prospective measures are preferable when measuring child welfare outcomes. Following one population of children and youth through their child welfare experiences is the single best, least biased, method of measuring service receipt and outcomes. Examining children's trajectory through the various levels of child welfare services is the best way to understand the effects of services on children and families.
- **Explore differential outcomes for subgroups of children and families to highlight potential differences by developmental milestones, gender, age groups, and race/ethnicity in future reports.** Child welfare research has demonstrated differential outcomes for unique subgroups within the child welfare population. This exploration across subpopulations will allow the state and local jurisdictions to examine issues related to racial disproportionality and disparity, birth rates in child welfare, and system penetration rates in and across the Maryland child welfare system.

- **Continue to develop MD CHESSIE.** MD CHESSIE will allow all federal measures and indicators to be examined using population-level data that is not subject to sampling bias. SSA is making tremendous strides in developing the MD CHESSIE system. It is imperative that the energy and focus that has been driving the development and improvement of the MD CHESSIE continue. As MD CHESSIE improves, the state will increase its capacity to routinely and effectively report on the outputs and outcomes of Maryland child welfare services.
- **Develop data-sharing agreements with other child and family serving agencies in Maryland.** The family, youth and children served by state agencies are highly likely to receive services from multiple agencies, both public and private, making it difficult to fully understand the scope of need or the costs associated with addressing these needs from information maintained in a single agency. Currently, substantial efforts are being made to analyze agency data related to evidence based and promising practices, these efforts occur individually within each agency and with no ability to link data across agencies. The ability to access the full array of data and information from two or more agencies is needed to ensure that Maryland provides the most effective and efficient services and programs. Data linkage supports policymaking by offering a more comprehensive view of services offered and received by children, youth, and families; leads to improved data systems through promoting data standardization across agencies; and offers improved capabilities to analyze the data.

Methods for Calculating Maryland's Child Welfare Performance Indicators

The Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2006, defined by HB-799 and SB-792, and codified in Maryland Family Law, Section 1301 through 1311 inclusive, specifies a set of performance indicators that relate to four categories of child welfare practice:

1. Child abuse and neglect,
2. Protecting children in out-of-home care from abuse and neglect,
3. Permanency and stability of children in out-of-home care, and
4. Addressing the health, mental health, education, and well-being of children in out-of-home care.

The purpose of this report is to update the Maryland State Legislature on the performance of Maryland's child welfare system as defined in the Act. This section of the report details the data used to compile the measures and introduces important caveats and cautions related to interpreting findings presented in the sections that follow.

Maryland's Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (MD CHESSIE)

As discussed in prior reports, the initial report published in 2007, consisted of population-level data from Maryland's legacy data system (FACTS - Foster Care and Child Tracking System) and sample-level data collected from in-depth reviews of randomly selected cases across the state. The population-level data examined calendar year 2005 as it was the last full year prior to conversion from the legacy FACTS data system to MD CHESSIE. The 2007 report established a baseline from which to measure progress. The baseline numbers continue to be reported here as a means of comparison over time.

From the second Child Welfare Accountability Act report completed in December, 2008 up to the current report MD CHESSIE was used as the sole source to produce population-level measures as required in the Child Welfare Accountability Act. MD CHESSIE was implemented in phases starting with Harford County in February 2006 and ending with Baltimore City in January 2007. As the system of record for the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration (DHR/SSA), MD CHESSIE contains administrative information on all in-home, out-of-home, investigative and referral services performed by DHR/SSA. Since full implementation in 2007, MD CHESSIE has undergone a number of builds and system improvements to address deficiencies and enhance the capacity of MD CHESSIE to effectively and accurately meet the case management needs of the dedicated front-line staff that rely on it.

The measures reported in this document were designed as updates of the baseline information produced in 2007 from the legacy and external sources. As appropriate, measures reported have been extended to more closely mirror the federal measures included in the Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSR) that are calculated from the data that Maryland is required to

report to the Department of Health and Human Services through the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and, in some cases, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). This report highlights the progression of ability within the state of Maryland to report accurate and dependable child welfare outcomes in a timely manner at ever greater levels of specificity. However, there remain some complicating factors in the use of the MD CHESSIE system to measure child welfare outcomes that must be taken into consideration when examining these results and using this information to make informed policy and practice decisions.

Administrative data systems such as MD CHESSIE were not initially designed to answer questions related to child welfare outcomes. MD CHESSIE and most other State Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS) systems were designed primarily as case management tools with reporting capabilities added to look at process and performance measures. While these systems maintain a record of past events and changes in a case over time, it is not always easy to organize the information in a meaningful manner to use for outcome measurement. Additionally, Maryland's move to MD CHESSIE was not as seamless a transition as was anticipated. The conversion of cases from the legacy data system into MD CHESSIE led to some loss of data and difficulties related to the consistent flow of a case across the transition period. Also, the shifting of data entry responsibility to the child welfare workers coupled with the initial slow speed of the MD CHESSIE system caused problems that the state still wrestles with related to timely and accurate data in MD CHESSIE. All of these issues need to be considered when utilizing administrative data to examine outcomes.

MD CHESSIE was designed and initially implemented for a different practice model.

MD CHESSIE was designed as a case management system to fit into the practice model in existence in 2005. As MD CHESSIE was rolled out across the state, Maryland was not only learning a new data system, but also transitioning to a new Family Centered Practice model as part of the Place Matters initiative. These changing policies and practices at the state level initially led to confusion regarding which data items were mandatory for state reporting needs and which items were not. Consequently, front line staff have in the past, and in some regards continue to, struggle with making optimal use of the MD CHESSIE case management system. Policy documents and system fixes have been implemented to address the most pressing MD CHESSIE issues. Maryland focused a lot of time and effort in ensuring that payments are made related to the placement data entered into MD CHESSIE which has led to increased ability to accurately identify the placement history for youth in care. The state continues to assess, monitor, and improve the MD CHESSIE system to match state policy/practice and to meet the increasing needs of the workforce for quality, up to date information.

Transferring cases into a new data system presented conversion issues. During the implementation of MD CHESSIE, client and case information was converted from the legacy data system (FACTS) by jurisdiction while new information was concurrently entered into MD CHESSIE. Since implementation, conversion issues, practice barriers, and technological stumbling blocks (slow system performance in particular) have presented challenges. The technological and systemic issues in MD CHESSIE initially troubled line staff. DHR/SSA moved quickly as issues have been identified in MD CHESSIE to address and overcome barriers to successful implementation. However, there continued to be some concerns even after initiating payments through MD CHESSIE, that require continued raw data submissions by jurisdictions to validate the information in MD CHESSIE. The recent move away from using these hand counts to verify data reflect the confidence that DHR/SSA and the local departments have in the

accuracy and utility of the information in MD CHESSIE.

Line staff are responsible for directly entering case-level data into MD CHESSIE. The transition from the legacy data system (FACTS) to MD CHESSIE required a complete change in the culture and process of child welfare practice in Maryland. FACTS required minimal data entry by frontline staff, consisting mostly of paper forms that were filled out and then entered into FACTS by support staff. MD CHESSIE is a complete case management system requiring front line staff to accept responsibility for directly documenting their service process in electronic form. Additionally, this documentation requirement moves beyond merely keeping electronic records of paper documents, but actually entering data into the various screens in MD CHESSIE. The data entry requirement is made more difficult as issues within MD CHESSIE are identified and corrected. Often times the corrections require changes in how and when data needs to be entered and the availability of prior case information for workers. Given the continued updating of the MD CHESSIE system and the additional requirements placed on workers, delayed and, at times incorrect, data entry can be expected. DHR/SSA continues to provide training and support services for workers.

With these considerations in mind, it is possible that some observed changes in the performance indicators provided in this report are due, at least in part, to changes in data reporting and measurement and not due to changes in actual child welfare performance. These considerations are becoming less of an issue as time moves forward and the MD CHESSIE system becomes more stable, but even after 5 years there remain some concern. Every effort has been made to alert readers to instances where there have been systemic or procedural changes in the calculation of the measures to aid in interpretation and understanding. Additionally, notifications are included when there are caveats or additional considerations that need to be accounted for when attempting to interpret some of the required Child Welfare Accountability measures.

Modifications of Indicators

Throughout the calculation of the performance indicators requested through the Child Welfare Accountability Act, staff at RYC were very cognizant of the need to base these measures on the most accurate and complete data available. Due to some additional data constraints, some indicators were reported with slight modifications or special considerations, these modifications and considerations were made through consultation with DHR/SSA staff and have been carried forward to facilitate comparability across reports.

There remain some measures that rely on tables that contain large amounts of missing data, namely the health and education related measures. The measures relying on fields with large amounts of missing data have been clearly identified in the text and an adjusted method of reporting was used, where the percent of valid information and missing information is reported, then the measures are calculated on the sub-sample of the population with non-missing data.

§5-1303. Child Abuse and Neglect

The first set of indicators concern child abuse and neglect. The Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2006 addresses the following items:

1. Recurrence of abuse or neglect
2. Supervisory review of screened out cases,
3. Maltreatment of children remaining in the home after a Child Protective Service (CPS) investigation,
4. Timeliness of CPS investigations, and
5. Service provision and safety outcomes for indicated and unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect.

In this report “victims of maltreatment” are defined by an indicated or unsubstantiated report of abuse or neglect.

§5-1303.1. Recurrence of abuse or neglect

| Maryland Measure | Baseline Report ¹ (N=13,502) | 2008 Report (N=4,635) | 2009 Report (N=5,600) | 2010 Report (N=4,598) | 2011 Report (N=5,110) |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1303.1a: Of the children who were victims of indicated or unsubstantiated child abuse or neglect whose investigations closed during the period January 1, xxxx to June 30, xxxx what is the recurrence within 12 months of child abuse or neglect among victims of indicated abuse and neglect? | 9.0% | 9.0% | 8.4% | 8.2% | 8.6% |

The sample used for this updated indicator consisted of victims of maltreatment under age 17 whose investigations closed during the six month period of January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010. Due to a change in methods the results for prior years have also been updated. Of these 5,110 children, 8.6% (n=441) were recorded as victims of maltreatment within 12 months of the original investigation closure date. This percentage has increased from prior years and is more in line with the baseline and 2008 reports.

In addition to the recurrence within 12 months of child abuse or neglect indicator required in the CWAA, the federally required Child and Family Service Review measure for recurrence of abuse or neglect within 6 months was calculated. In response to a review Maryland’s NCANDS file submission, the methodology used to calculate this measure has been updated. The updated method captures a larger number of children in the denominator (the initial 6 months). In prior reports the number of children was nearly half the number reported in these measures. The difference between the prior reported measures and the current method has to do with

¹ The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on closed investigations in 2004 (n=13,502).

when an investigation is completed and when it is finalized. A case is completed when the Investigator determines a disposition and their Supervisor approves the result. A case is finalized 90 days after the investigation is finished to allow families to appeal the decision. Earlier versions of the report required an investigation to be finalized, after discussions with DHR/SSA personnel and AFCARS personnel, it was determined that the date the investigation was completed is more appropriate. Using the completed date instead of the finalization date effectively doubles the base population. Of the 6,186 children² who were victims of an indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect report during the first 6 months of the reporting year (July 30, 2010 through December 31, 2010), 4.5% (n=277) were recorded as victims on a subsequent indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect investigation within 6 months of the initial report. This means that 95.5% of children did not experience recurrence of indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect within 6 months.

| Federal Measure | Baseline Report ¹ (N=13,502) | 2008 Report ³ (N=5,853) | 2009 Report (N=6,034) | 2010 Report (N=5,958) | 2011 Report (N=6,186) |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1303.1b: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting year (July 1, xxxx through December 31, xxxx), what percent experienced another incident of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect within a 6-month period? | 5.1% ⁴ | 3.9% | 4.1% | 3.6% | 4.5% |
| Indicator §5-1303.1c: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting year (July 1, xxxx through December 31, xxxx), what percent did not experience another incident of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect within a 6 month period? | Not reported | 95.4% | 96.8% | 95.8% | 95.5% |

The current result remains an improvement from the baseline year, but shows some volatility over time, as the result declines and then increases in what appears to be a clear pattern since the baseline report. Maryland continues to exceed the federal standard for the lack of recurrence of abuse or neglect of 94.6% as designated by the Administration for Children and Families for all states.

2 The federal measure requires that both the referral and disposition dates occur within the time period.

3 The 2008 number has been updated to coincide with the federally agreed upon process of calculating recurrence of maltreatment.

4 To report Indicator §5-1303.1b in the 2007 report, calendar year 2004 was used instead of the first six months of the period as defined in the federal measure. The methodology was changed to more closely mirror the federal measure for this report.

§5-1303.3. Maltreatment of Children Remaining in the Home after CPS Investigation

| Maryland Measure | Baseline Report⁵ (N=13,435) | 2008 Report (N=4,168) | 2009 Report (N=2,746) | 2010 Report (N=3,529) | 2011 Report (N=4,907) |
|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1303.3: Of the children who were victims of indicated or unsubstantiated child abuse or neglect whose investigations completed between January 1, xxxx and June 30, xxxx and were not placed in out-of-home care, what is the incidence of child abuse or neglect for a child who, in the prior 12 months, was not removed from the home following an investigation that found indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect?" | 9.0% | 7.8% | 6.6% | 5.1% | 5.9% |

The sample used for this indicator consisted of maltreatment victims whose investigations completed during the first six months of 2010 and who were not placed in out-of-home care within 30 days of the investigation closure. Of these 4,907 children, 5.9% (n=289) were recorded as victims on a subsequent indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect investigation which opened within 12 months of the original investigation closure date. This percentage shows an increase from the previous report but remains below the baseline, 2008 and 2009 reports.

§5-1303.2. Supervisory Review of Screened Out Cases

| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report (N=23,166) | 2009 Report (N=23,214) | 2010 Report (N=24,391) | 2011 Report (N=26,627) |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1303.2: "The percentage of screened out reports between July 1, xxxx and June 30, xxxx that are documented as reviewed by a supervisor." | Could not report | 99.8% | 100% | 99.9% | 99.9% |

Maryland was unable to report on this measure in the initial CWAA report using the legacy data system. Under current practice, supervisors are required to review each case before it can be screened out, so theoretically, current policy and practice suggests that 100% of screened out cases should be reviewed by a supervisor. In the 2008 report 99.8% of the screened out cases were documented as reviewed by a supervisor, in 2010 this was 99.9%, and this year again 99.9% of the screened out reports (n=26,627) were documented as being reviewed by a supervisor. There are 18 instances where the supervisor approval code is listed as pending even though there was no further action. There is no comparable federal indicator for this measure.

⁵ The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on closed investigations in 2004 that did not lead to a child being removed from their home (n=13,435).

§5-1303.4. Timeliness of CPS Investigations

The mandates provided in §5-706 require that child protective services investigations are initiated within 24 hours for reports of abuse and within 5 days for reports of neglect. In addition, it is stated that:

“To the extent possible, an investigation...shall be completed within 10 days after receipt of the first notice of the suspected abuse or neglect by the local department or law enforcement agencies (g)(1). An investigation...which is not completed within 30 days shall be completed within 60 days of receipt of the first notice of the suspected abuse or neglect (g)(2).”

| Indicator §5-1303.4a: Of the investigations initiated between July 1 and September 30, the percentage of child protective services investigations that are initiated and completed in accordance with §5-706. | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report (N=7,307) | 2009 Report (N=7,911) | 2010 Report (N=7,138) | 2011 Report (N=7,946) |
| Investigations initiated within 5 days | Not Reported ⁶ | 88.2% | 89.2% | 88.1% | 88.6% |

The sample for indicator §5-1303.4a is all investigations that were opened between July 1 and September 30, 2011 (n=7,946)⁷. Of these investigations, 88.6% (n=7,040) began within 5 days of the referral receipt and 94.2% (n=7,484) of the investigations began within 10 days of referral receipt.

As in previous reports two different methods of calculating the percent of investigations being completed were used. One, listed as indicator §5-1303.4b, follows the initial methodology used for the baseline report and uses the total number of open and closed investigations where it is possible to have closed the investigation by the period reviewed as the denominator. For example if an investigation opened on September 28th and is still open on September 30th it is not really fair to count that against the measure as there have only been 2 days for completion. Likewise, if the investigation started on August 1, it will be included in the counts of completion within 10 days and within 30 days, but not the other days. The other, indicator §5-1303.4c, is a simpler measure in many ways as it only uses completed investigations as the denominator.

Percent based on possible completion §5-1303.4b: 7,540 investigations were opened for at least 10 days. Of these 5.4% (n=404) completed within 10 days of initiation of the investigation. This is a decrease from past years. There were 6,873 investigations open at least 30 days. Of these 26.2% (n=1,803) closed within 30 days of initiation of the investigation, an increase from the 2010 report. Finally, there were 5,720 investigations open

⁶ The legacy system did not record an investigation start date.

⁷ A complicating factor in this indicator is that investigations resulting in a disposition of ||ruled out= are expunged from the system after 120 days from the original investigation start date. Because the extract used for this analysis was created in October, 2009 and to be consistent with the prior report October 2, 2009 was used as the end period and, only time to completion for investigations that opened between 6/4/2009 and 10/2/2009 can be measured.

at least 60 days. Of these, 71.2% (n=4,070) closed within 60 days of initiation of the investigation, this continues the consistent improvement over time.

| Indicator §5-1303.4b: Of the investigations initiated between within July 1 and September 30, "the percentage of child protective services investigations that are initiated and completed in accordance with §5-706." Percent based on possible completion within timeframe. | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report | 2009 Report | 2010 Report | 2011 Report |
| completed within 10 days | (N=8,080) 5.6% | (N=7,148) 5.8% | (N=7,763) 5.9% | (N=6,808) 6.2% | (N=7,540) 5.4% |
| completed within 30 days | 26.9% | (N=6,519) 23.5% | (N=7,110) 25.0% | (N=6,173) 24.5% | (N=6,873) 26.2% |
| completed within 60 days | 70.5% | (N=5,600) 49.1% | (N=6,056) 52.7% | (N=5,115) 61.4% | (N=5,720) 71.2% |

Note: The percentages displayed in the table are not meant to be totaled.

The percentage of investigations completed within 10 days is lower than in any of the other reported periods (5.4% compared to 6.2% in 2010). However, the percentage of investigations completed within 30 or 60 days are both higher than in all previous years. The one caveat is what was reported using the 2005 legacy data for investigations completed within 30 days (26.2% now compared to 26.9% in 2005 for completed within 30 days). As was mentioned in prior reports this might have more to do with the timing of the analyses than any decrease in timeliness between baseline and current measures. The baseline reports were retrospective and included all closed investigations including late data entry. These reports are run much closer to the time being considered and might suffer from late date entry. In order to see what the results would be if we limited the analysis to only closed investigations a similar analysis was run using only completed investigations (§5-1303.4c).

Percent based on closed investigations §5-1303.4c: Of the 7,946 investigations, 4,713 were closed prior to 9/30/2011⁸. Using the 4,713 completed investigations as the denominator: 8.6% (n=404) were completed within 10 days; 38.3% (n=1,803) were completed within 30 days; and 86.4% (n=4,071) were completed within 60 days. Additionally, 97.7% (n=4,605) were closed within 90 days. The interpretations of these percents need to be made with caution as the denominator excludes any investigation that was open for extended periods of time (i.e. not closed) and is therefore an inflated number

⁸ This is a smaller percentage of closed cases than was reported in the earlier CWAA report. This difference is due to the ability in the prior report to use 2006 data sources to fill in any investigation that projected beyond the end of the period (December 31, 2005). Because the extract used for this analysis was created on October 2, 2008 there is no additional information available for investigations after the extract date time period.

Indicator §5-1303.4c: Of the investigations initiated between within July 1 and September 30, "the percentage of child protective services investigations that are initiated and completed in accordance with §5-706." Percent based on number of closed investigations.

| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report | 2009 Report | 2010 Report | 2011 Report |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| completed within 10 days | Did not report | (N=3,428) 12.1% | (N=3,892) 11.7% | (N=4,243) 9.9% | (N=4,713) 8.6% |
| completed within 30 days | Did not report | (N=3,428) 44.7% | (N=3,892) 45.8% | (N=4,243) 35.6% | (N=4,713) 38.3% |
| completed within 60 days | Did not report | (N=3,428) 80.4% | (N=3,892) 82.0% | (N=4,243) 74.1% | (N=4,713) 86.4% |

Note: The percentages displayed in the table are not meant to be totaled.

§5-1303.5. Service Provision and Safety Outcomes for Indicated and Unsubstantiated Cases of Abuse and Neglect

Indicator §5-1303.5: For all indicated and unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect between January 1, and March 31, the percentage of children who: a) receive family preservation services; and b) are able to remain safely in their own homes for 18 months after receiving family preservation services.

| | Baseline Report ⁹ (N=12,440) | 2008 Report (N=1,187) | 2009 Report (N=3,171) | 2010 Report (N=3,267) | 2011 Report (N=2,559) |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) For all indicated and unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect between January 1, and March 31, the percentage of children who receive Family Preservation Services (FPS) | 7.4% | 23.1% | 21.3% | 25.3% | 21.6% |

⁹The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children who were victims of indicated or unsubstantiated child abuse or neglect in an investigation closed between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004 and were not placed in out of home care within 30 days of the investigation closure (n=12,440).

| Indicator §5-1303.5: For all indicated and unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect between January 1, and March 31, the percentage of children who: a) receive family preservation services; and b) are able to remain safely in their own homes for 18 months after receiving family preservation services. | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Baseline Report (N=924) | 2008 Report (N=274) | 2009 Report (N=674) | 2010 Report (N=827) | 2011 Report (N=552) |
| b) For all indicated and unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect between January 1, and March 31, the percentage of children who receive FPS & remain safely in their homes for 18 months | 75.2% | 82.8% | 84.9% | 92.9% | 84.6% |
| | Baseline Report (N=11,516) | 2008 Report (N=913) | 2009 Report (N=2,497) | 2010 Report (N=2,440) | 2011 Report (N=2,007) |
| c) For all indicated and unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect between January 1, and March 31, the percentage of children who do not receive FPS & remain safely in their homes for 18 months | 83.5% | 91.1% | 89.6% | 96.8% | 91.0% |

The sample used for this indicator included victims of maltreatment under age 16.5 whose investigations closed during the first three months of 2010 and who were not placed in out-of-home care within 30 days of the investigation closure. Of these 2,559 children¹⁰, 21.6% (n=552) received Family Preservation Services within 30 days of the investigation start date¹¹. Additionally, 84.6% (n=467) of the 552 children identified as receiving FPS were not victims of maltreatment nor were they placed in out-of-home care within 18 months of the original investigation closure date.

In order to provide some context for this indicator, the same information is presented for the 2,007 children who were victims of maltreatment, but did not receive Family Preservation Services within 30 days of the investigation begin date. Among these children, 91.0% (n=1,086) were not victims of maltreatment nor were they placed in out-of-home care in the 18 months after the original investigation closed.

It is not surprising that the percent of children receiving FPS and who remain safely in their homes is lower than those who did not receive FPS services. By definition, Family Preservation Services are provided for families at highest risk of out-of-home placement. Based on this fact alone, children in families who receive Family Preservation Services would be at higher risk for subsequent maltreatment and out-of-home placement than children whose families do not receive such services.

¹⁰ Due to the transition of Baltimore City from the legacy data system to MD CHESSIE in January of 2007 the number of investigations during this period is lower than would be expected.

According to the State Stat reports in January through March of 2008 there were approximately 3,000 investigations (this is a duplicated count of investigations including all age groups).

¹¹ Family Preservation services were identified by using the agency program area identifier for in home services.

As in the prior report it is difficult to compare this measure with the results from the baseline and 2009 report for a number of reasons. First, due to the limited time frame that MD CHESSIE has been operational; the base period for the indicator could only include one quarter (January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007) compared to a full years worth of information from the legacy data system. Second, the base time period for the 2008 report includes the month during which Baltimore City was transitioning from the legacy system to MD CHESSIE, therefore the largest jurisdiction is not fully represented in the base time period for that report.

§5-1304. Protecting Children in Out-of-Home Care from Abuse and Neglect

The second set of indicators concern protecting children in out-of-home care from abuse and neglect. The Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2006 includes the following items:

1. Abuse or neglect of children in state custody, and
2. Abuse or neglect after release from out-of-home care.

For the purpose of this report, children are identified as victims of maltreatment if they have an indicated or unsubstantiated report of abuse or neglect.

§5-1304.1. Abuse or Neglect of Children in State Custody

It should be noted that measuring the occurrence of abuse or neglect of children in out-of-home care with administrative data is challenging. Reports of abuse or neglect that occur during an out-of-home placement could have been perpetrated by someone other than the out-of-home care provider (for example the family during a trial home visit, or another youth in the out-of-home placement), or may have occurred prior to the start of the out-of-home placement. Research reveals that reporting of additional abuse and neglect incidents that occurred sometime other than during an out-of-home care episode is not uncommon, ranging from 16% to 25% of identified cases (Garnier & Poertner, 2000; Tittle, Garnier & Poertner, 2001). In order to have an accurate understanding of abuse and neglect in out-of-home care, it is critical to know the relationship of the maltreater to the child and the timing of the alleged maltreatment. MD CHESSIE has the capacity to identify the relationship between the child and the maltreater and has a field that is designed to document when the maltreatment occurred. Caution should be used however, because this measure relies on accurate information being entered into the relationship table identifying the perpetrator, the victim, and their relationship.

The methodology to measure the Abuse or Neglect of Children in State Custody has been updated from prior reports due in response to federal feedback on Maryland's NCANDS file submission. Whereas the updated Recurrence of Maltreatment measures capture a larger number of children in its denominator, the Abuse or Neglect of Children in State Custody updated measures now capture a larger number of children in the numerator (investigations for abuse/neglect). In prior reports the number of instances of abuse or neglect was nearly half the number reported in these updated measures. The difference between the prior reported measures and the current method has to do with when an investigation is completed and when it is finalized. A case is completed when the Investigator determines a disposition and their Supervisor approves the result. A case is finalized 90 days after the investigation is finished to allow families to appeal the decision. Earlier versions of the report required an investigation to be finalized during the period under review, after discussions with DHR/SSA personnel and AFCARS/NCANDS personnel, it was determined that the date the investigation was completed is more appropriate. The results for all of the periods after the baseline are updated in this report to reflect the change.

| Indicator S5-1304 (1): Of the children in out-of-home care during the period July 1, through June 30, xxxx, what is the incidence of maltreatment of children in the custody of a local department, or a placement agency, for out-of-home placements? | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | Baseline Report¹² (N=12,594) | 2008 Report (N=13,199) | 2009 Report (N=12,439) | 2010 Report (N=11,547) | 2011 Report (N=10,860) |
| Federal Definition of Abuse in Care: Children with a finding of indicated or unsubstantiated child abuse or neglect while in out-of-home care. | 0.63% | 0.51% | 0.45% | 0.44% | 0.45% |
| Any abuse occurring in care regardless of relationship type: Children with a finding of indicated or unsubstantiated child abuse or neglect while in out-of-home care. | 2.7% | 4.8% | 4.9% | 5.4% | 5.8% |

There were 10,860 children in out-of-home placements at some point between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. During these out-of-home placements, 628 instances of maltreatment were found; 49 of these indicated or unsubstantiated reports identified the out-of-home care providers as the maltreater¹³.

The federal measure for abuse in care asks: "Of all children in foster care during the reporting period, what percent were not victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members?" In Maryland 99.55% of children were not victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members. This figure is below the national standard of 99.68%.

The overall results of this indicator are higher than the baseline or 2008 (5.8% compared to 2.7% in the baseline report and 5.4% in the 2010 report). However, the results for the federal definition examining children who were identified as being abused or neglected by an out-of-home caregiver continue to be lower than the baseline (0.45% now compared to 0.63% in the baseline report). As was suggested in prior reports, this particular measure is likely to increase as the relationships between an alleged maltreater and an alleged victim are more completely documented and entered into the MD CHESSIE data system.

12 The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children in removal episodes active in calendar year 2005 (n=12,594).

13 The relationship codes between the victim and the perpetrator used to identify abuse in care are: ('10135' Residential Facility Staff, '1636' Daughter (Foster), '1640' Father (Foster), '1660' Mother (Foster), '1678' Son (Foster), '4045' Therapeutic Foster Father, '4046' Therapeutic Foster Mother, '4047' Therapeutic Foster Son, '4048' Therapeutic Foster Daughter, and '6471' Foster Parent).

§5-1304.2. Abuse or Neglect after Release from Out-of-Home Care

| | Baseline Report ¹⁴ (N=5,955) | 2008 Report (N=1,386) | 2009 Report (N=1,287) | 2010 Report (N=1,162) | 2011 Report (N=1,804) |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1304 (2): Of the children who exited out-of-home care between January 1, xxxx and June 30, xxxx what is the incidence of indicated or unsubstantiated findings of child abuse or neglect within 12 months following the release of the child committed to the department? | 5.1% | 6.2% | 4.4% | 3.8% | 3.7% |

The sample for this indicator includes all children under the age of 17 who exited out-of-home care or aftercare in the first six months of 2009. Among these 1,804 children, 3.7% (n=67) were the victim of maltreatment within 12 months of exit from out-of-home care. The percent of children leaving care who have an instance of indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect within 12 months has decreased from the baseline measure of 5.1% and continues to decrease from the reported value in 2010 of 3.8%.

¹⁴ The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children exiting removal episodes in calendar year 2004 (n=5,955).

§5-1305. Permanency and Stability of Children in Out-of-Home Care

The third set of indicators concern permanency and stability for children in out-of-home care. The Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2006 includes the following items:

1. Time to exit from out-of-home care,
2. Multiple placements during over a one-year period,
3. Placement with siblings,
4. Exits from out-of-home care,
5. Placement type,
6. Number of available foster homes and treatment foster homes,
7. Regulation of foster and kinship homes, and
8. Re-entry into out-of-home care.

The indicators in this section have been re-organized to increase readability and interpretation by grouping similar indicators together. Characteristics of the placement are presented first, including placement type, placement with siblings, and number of placements. Characteristics of exit, including type of permanency, time to exit, and re-entry are presented second. Finally, the number of resource family homes and their regulation are presented.

§5-1305.5. Out-of-Home Placement Type

| Indicator §5-1305.5: "The percent of children living in out-of-home placement..." by placement type on July 1, xxxx | Baseline Report¹⁵ (N=10,281) | 2008 Report (N=9,363) | 2009 Report (N=8,925) | 2010 Report (N=8,140) | 2011 Report (N=7,401) |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Trial Home Visit | 3.7% | 4.1% | 2.1% | 3.7% | 3.5% |
| Kinship Care | 33.3% | 21.2% | 15.4% | 17.7% | 17.9% |
| Restricted Foster Homes | 5.6% | 8.7% | 11.0% | 9.4% | 7.3% |
| Regular Foster Homes | 16.9% | 17.0% | 20.0% | 17.3% | 18.2% |
| Adoptive Homes | 1.7% | 2.7% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.5% |
| Treatment Foster Homes | 14.7% | 21.0% | 26.2% | 25.3% | 26.5% |
| Group Homes | 13.9% | 17.0% | 14.5% | 12.1% | 10.9% |
| Other Placements | 10.2% | 8.3% | 10.0% | 13.7% | 15.2% |

¹⁵ The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children in out-of-home care on January 1, 2005 (n=10,281).

There were 7,401 children in care on July 1, 2011 according to MD CHESSIE. This is 739 fewer children than were in care on July 1, 2010 (n=8,140) and continues the trend from the baseline report of decreasing numbers of children in out of home care. This number includes all children in an active removal episode on July 1, 2011 who had an indication of either an open out-of-home living arrangement or an open out-of-home placement on July 1, 2011¹⁶.

- Trial home visits¹⁷ are identified as children living in a trial home visit setting or living with parents, or a parent, while still in the care and custody of the state (n=258).
- Kinship care includes children in relative foster homes (formal kinship care) and children identified as living with relatives¹⁸ (n=1,324).
- Restricted (relative) foster homes include children placed in restricted relative foster home placements only (n=539).
- Regular foster homes include regular Department of Social Services (DSS) foster homes and private agency foster homes (n=1,349).
- The adoptive homes category includes the codes for pre-finalized adoptive home and adoptive home¹⁹ (n=38).
- Children in treatment foster homes are identified from the code for treatment foster homes²⁰ (n=1,963).
- Group homes include both shelter group care and group care (n=807).
- The other placement categories include: Residential Treatment Centers; State Institutional Care; Incarcerated; Legal Risk Placement; Independent Living; Runaway; Semi-Independent Living; Private Treatment Facility; Whereabouts Unknown, and Other.

To identify a child's placement type a combination of the placement table²¹ and the living

16 MD CHESSIE has two ways of documenting the location of a child in a removal episode. Placements are the formal placements of a child in out-of-home care and include foster homes, group homes, pre-adoptive homes, etc. Living arrangements are more broadly defined and can include children living at home on a trial basis, children being in the hospital, children in temporary detention, etc.

17 Trial home visits are identified as living arrangement type of trial home visit or living with a parent and include the following codes: '1046'='Trial Visit Home ', '1511'='Mother and Fathers Home ', '1520'='Fathers Home ', '1521'='Father and Stepmother/Paramour ', '1535'='Mothers Home ', '1536'='Mother and Stepfather/Paramour '.

18 Kinship homes include the Placement Identifier for formal kinship home as well as the living arrangement type of LDSS relative foster home and relative foster home.

19 Adoptive homes include placement types of Pre-finalized adoptive home and adoptive home and living arrangement types of '1507'='Adoption (Trial) ', '1508'='Adoptive Exchange Home ', '1510'='Agency Approved Adoptive Home ', '1526'='Independent Adoptive Home ', '1530'='Inter state-country Adoptive Home ', '8103'='ICPC Adoptive Home (incoming) '.

20 Treatment foster homes are identified as placement types of 'Treatment Foster Care,' and 'Treatment Foster Care (Private)' or living arrangement type 'Therapeutic Foster Care.'

21 The Placement table is the repository of all of the formal out-of-home placements; this table is used as the source of payments.

arrangement table²² were used from MD CHESSIE. Information for the administrative counts in this report rely on a systematic methodology based on federal requirements. For instance, in this report children on Runaway status are counted in the 'Other Placements' category. The placements for these children are maintained for a number of weeks in case the child returns.

§5-1305.2. Multiple Placements in a One-Year Period

| Maryland Measure | Baseline Report²³ | 2008 Report (N=3,052) | 2009 Report (N=2,863) | 2010 Report (N=3,248) | 2011 Report (N=3,393) |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1305.2a: The percentage of children with more than two out-of-home placements during a report year | Could not report | 17.7% | 15.4% | 14.0% | 15.0% |

| Federal Measure | Baseline Report²⁴ | 2008 Report (N=2,750) | 2009 Report (N=2,579) | 2010 Report (N=2,906) | 2011 Report (N=3,017) |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1305.2: Of all children who have been in foster care for more than 8 days, but less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, what percent have had no more than two placement settings. | Could not report | 82.5% | 84.5% | 85.4% | 85.0% |

The sample for the first part of this indicator (Indicator §5-1305.2a) includes children under age 18 who were in care for less than 12 months from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Of these 3,393 children, 15.0% (n=510) experienced more than 2 placements in the removal episode²⁵, therefore, 85.0% (n=2,883) of children experienced two or fewer placements. The second part of this indicator (Indicator §5-1305.2) was adjusted to be in line with the federal measure to include children under age 18 who were in care for more than eight days, but less than 12 months from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Of the 3,017 children, 85.0% (n=2,565) experienced two or fewer placements which is above the national median score of 83.3% nationally, but below the 75th percentile score of 86.0% nationally²⁶. In general,

22 The Living Arrangement table lists other locations that a child could be while in out-of-home care such as Trial Home Visits, Runaway, etc.

23 Could not be reported in the 2007 report due to issues in the legacy data system.

24 Could not be reported in the 2007 report due to issues in the legacy data system.

25 There are several difficulties in calculating this measure from the existing MD CHESSIE system. First, there is a complicated relationship in MD CHESSIE between the placement identifier and the living arrangement type and a consistent decision-making process had to be implemented regarding when a living arrangement supersedes a placement type and then whether the placement type and living arrangement should be considered the same placement or a placement move. Additionally, MD CHESSIE does not internally count the number of placements a child has experienced during a removal episode, therefore, requiring this calculation to be done external to the system.

26 Since this is a measure, and not a federal outcome, there is not a federal standard given for this measure, however scoring above the 75th is preferable as it will positively influence the federal composite measure.

Maryland continues to improve the placement stability for children in out-of-home placement and is approaching the federal 75th percentile score.

§5-1305.3. Placement with Siblings

| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report (N=4,774) | 2009 Report (N=4,489) | 2010 Report (N=3,871) | 2011 Report (N=3,420) |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1305.3a: Of the children in out-of-home care on July 1, what is “the percentage of children in custody of a local department or placement agency who have siblings ²⁷ living in different placements?” | Could not report | 37.0% | 36.7% | 38.1% | 40.5% |
| Indicator §5-1305.3b: Of the children in out-of-home care on July 1, what is “the percentage of children in custody of a local department or placement agency who have some or all siblings placed together?” | Could not report | 63.0% | 63.3% | 61.9% | 59.5% |

Of the 7,401 children in out-of-home care on July 1, 2010, 53.8% (n=3,981) were identified as either not having a sibling or not having a sibling residing in out-of-home care at the same time and 46.2% (n=3,420) were identified as having a sibling residing in out-of-home care at the same time. For the purposes of this indicator, siblings were defined as any relationship between children identified as being full-siblings, half-siblings, or step-siblings; as well as any children sharing the same mother. Of these sibling groups, 34.0% (n=1,164) were placed with all of their siblings and 25.5% (n=872) were placed with some of their siblings. This means that 59.5% of children with siblings (n=2,036) were placed with some or all of their siblings and 40.5% (n=1,384) of children with siblings were not placed with siblings²⁸. This year, once again, there was a decrease in the overall percentage of children who were placed with all or some of their siblings from 61.9% to 59.5%. This decrease in overall percentage coincides with a decrease in total number of children in care and total number of children identified as having siblings in care.

27 For the purposes of this indicator siblings were defined as any relationship between children identified as being either full-siblings, half-siblings, or step-siblings; and any children sharing the same mother.

28 There are several difficulties in calculating this measure from any administrative data system, including MD CHESSIE. The identification and definition of what defines a sibling group is complicated. Sibling groups can be defined as children having a relationship identified with each other as siblings; children sharing the same mother; children sharing the same father; children being removed from the same home (known as fictive kin); or any combination of these groupings. A study using California administrative data found that the definition of siblings affects the outcomes of any measurement of siblings being placed together (Lery, Shaw, & Magruder, 2005).

§5-1305.4. Exits from Out-Of-Home Care

| Indicator §5-1305.4a: "The percentage of children who exit state custody..." by exit type and fiscal year of exit | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Type of Exit | Baseline Report ²⁹ (N=3,774) | 2008 Report (N=3,357) | 2009 Report (N=3,075) | 2010 Report (N=3,536) | 2011 Report (N=3,671) |
| Reunification | 42.4% | 35.1% | 31.9% | 42.2% | 43.9% |
| Adoption Finalized | 17.5% | 17.4% | 24.0% | 20.8% | 15.2% |
| Relative Guardian | 14.4% | 17.6% | 12.0% | 16.8% | 20.5% |
| Independent Living | . | 14.2% | 15.1% | 13.6% | 16.2% |
| Other Exit | . | 4.7% | 3.3% | 0.5% | 0.0% |
| Missing Exit Reason | . | 1.8% | 4.0% | 1.5% | 0.0% |
| All Others | 25.7 % ³⁰ | 9.2% | 9.7% | 4.6% | 4.2% |

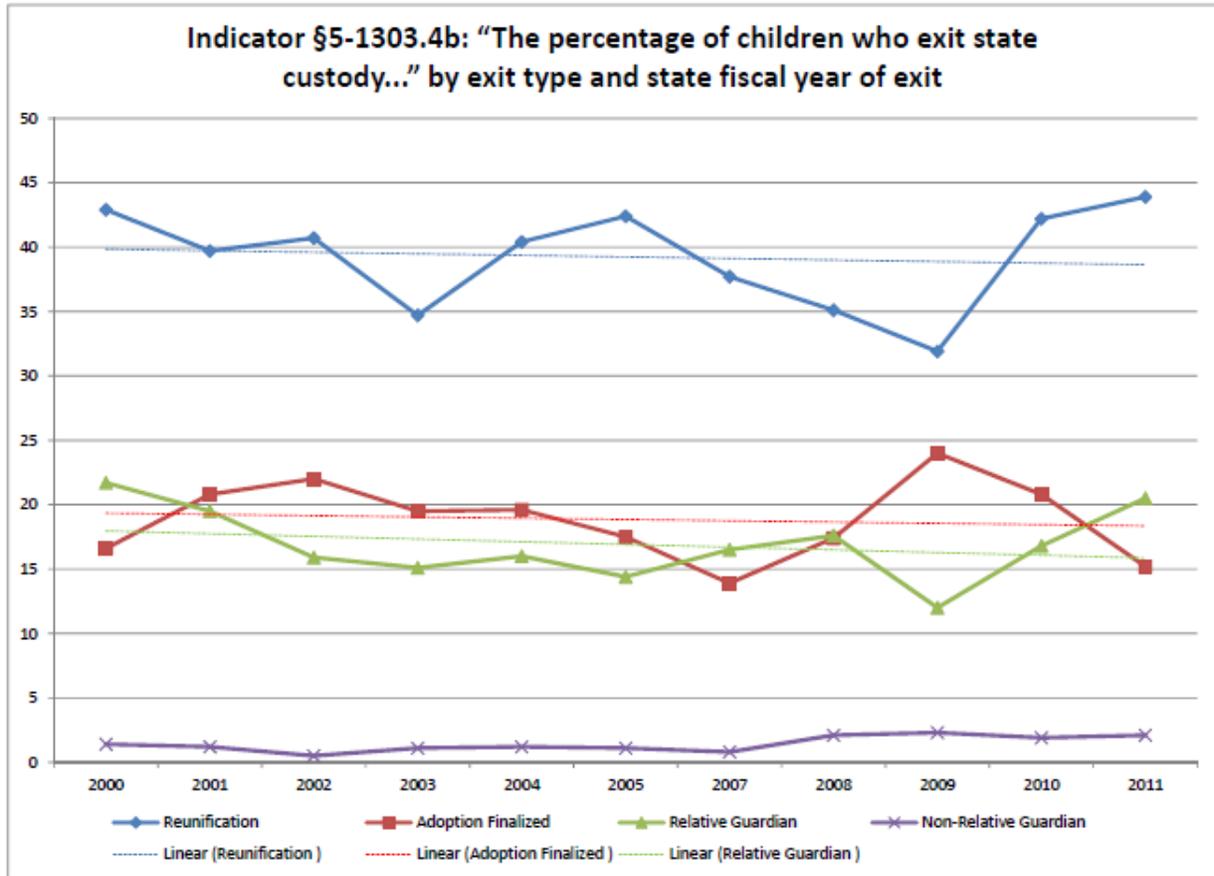
From July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, 3,671 children exited the Maryland Child Welfare system. Most exits were to reunification (n=1,610) as in previous years. Exits to a finalized adoption has decreased from the previous two years (20.8%, n=559), and exit reason of 'Relative Guardianship' once again increased compared to the previous fiscal year. No children exited to a reason of 'Other' nor did were there any missing exit reasons.

| Indicator §5-1303.4b: "The percentage of children who exit state custody..." by exit type and state fiscal year of exit | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Type of Exit | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| Reunification | 42.9 | 39.7 | 40.7 | 34.7 | 40.4 | 42.4 | 37.7 | 35.1 | 31.9 | 42.2 | 43.9 |
| Adoption Finalized | 16.6 | 20.8 | 22.0 | 19.5 | 19.6 | 17.5 | 13.9 | 17.4 | 24.0 | 20.8 | 15.2 |
| Relative Guardian | 21.7 | 19.5 | 15.9 | 15.1 | 16.0 | 14.4 | 16.5 | 17.6 | 12.0 | 16.8 | 20.5 |
| Non-Relative Guardian | 1.4 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| All Other* | 17.4 | 18.8 | 20.9 | 29.6 | 22.8 | 24.6 | 31.1 | 27.8 | 29.8 | 18.3 | 18.3 |

* All Other includes missing data.

29 The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children exiting out-of-home care in calendar year 2005 (n=3,774).

30 The 25.7% includes 1.1% of exits to non-relative guardians.



The table and figure above illustrates the trends for children exiting care over the last 10 plus years. The percentage of exits to reunification appears to be decreasing slightly overall as is the percentage of children exiting to relative guardian and adoption– this can be seen more clearly using the trend line. It also appears that exits to non-relative guardians have increased slightly also over time.

§5-1305.1. Time to Exit from Out-Of-Home Care

§5-1305.1 refers to the national standards for time periods to achieve permanency through reunification and adoption. Standards have not yet been defined for the national indicators, so comparisons are made to the national median to evaluate Maryland's performance (NRCCWDT, 2007).

Exits to Reunification

| | Baseline Report ³¹ (N=3,774) | 2008 Report (N=1,003) | 2009 Report (N=847) | 2010 Report (N=1,246) | 2011 Report (N=1,383) |
|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Federal measure C1.1.1: Of all children discharged from out-of-home care to reunification from July 1, xxxx through June 30, yyyy who had been in out-of-home care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home? | 54.9% | 50.9% | 55.6% | 52.8% | 51.9% |

From July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 there were 1,610 children exiting to reunification. Of these exits, 217 were within seven days of entry, leaving a total of 1,383 exits where the child had been in foster care for eight days or longer. Of the 1,383 children in out-of-home care eight days or longer, 51.9% (n=718) reunified within 12 months. The median national score on this measure is 69.9% with percentages ranging from 44.3 to 92.5%. Maryland's result of 51.9% remains below the national median and has decreased slightly from the 2010 report.

The table below examines the median length of stay of the 1,383 children in out-of-home care eight days or longer from the date of most recent entry into foster care until the date of reunification. The national median for this measure is 6.5 months. Maryland's median length of stay in care was 11 months in Fiscal Year 2010, which is longer than the national median and similar to what it was in Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010.

| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report (N=1,003) | 2009 Report (N=847) | 2010 Report (N=1,246) | 2011 Report (N=1,383) |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Federal measure C1.1.2: Of all children exiting foster care to reunification from July 1, xxxx through June 30, yyyy who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay in months from the date of most recent entry into foster care until the date of reunification? | Did not report | 13 months | 10 months | 10 months | 11 months |

31 The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children exiting out-of-home care in calendar year 2005 (n=3,774), 1,351 children fit the requirements for this measure.

| | Baseline Report ³² (N=1,204) | 2008 Report (N=987) | 2009 Report (N=981) | 2010 Report (N=1,037) | 2011 Report (N=1,029) |
|---|--|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Federal measure C1.3: Of all children who entered foster care for the first time between January 1, xxxx and June 30, xxxx, and who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home? | 28.0% | 24.4% | 23.8% | 24.7% | 27.4% |

From January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, 1,029 children under age 17 entered out-of-home care in Maryland for the first time. Of these children, 27.4% exited to reunification (n=282)³³. This figure is below the value 28.0% reported in the initial CWAA report but greater than the value reported in the prior MD CHESSIE only reports. The national median on this indicator is 39.4% with percentages ranging from 17.7 to 68.9%. Maryland's result of 27.4% remains below the national median, but shows improvement.

Exits to Adoption

| | Baseline Report ³⁴ | 2008 Report (N=584) | 2009 Report (N=737) | 2010 Report (N=737) | 2011 Report (N=559) |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Federal measure C2.1.1: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to adoption during the period July 1, xxxx through June 30, yyyy, what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the most recent placement date? | 19.9% | 16.8% | 13.2% | 13.8% | 18.9% |

Of the 559 children exiting to adoption, 18.9% (n=105) exited care within 24 months of their removal episode start date³⁵. The results this year show somewhat of a turnaround from prior

32 The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children enter out-of-home care in the last six months of calendar year 2004 (n=1,204).

33 Reunification can include return to parents or other relatives, and is defined using exit reasons of return to parent, court ordered return to parents, and custody and guardianship to relative (NCRCCWDT, 2007).

34 The time period for the baseline measure was based on children exiting out-of-home care in calendar year 2005 to an adoptive placement (n=519).

35 In Maryland, when a child is placed into an adoptive placement an administrative process known as 'breaking the link' is undertaken. This process requires a worker to end the prior removal episode and open a new removal episode with a new client identifier for the child. This makes the process of identifying the full time from entry to exits for children being adopted difficult.

years where there was the appearance of a downward trend in the timely exits to adoption in Maryland. Since the baseline report the results for this measure have steadily decreased until this year. The decrease during the prior years was not surprising as Maryland had an increased number of adoptions during those years and as the number of adoptions increase there is a much higher likelihood that these adoptions consist of children who have been in the foster care system for an extended period of time. Moving these children into adoption caused Maryland to perform worse on this measure. As more children who have been in care longer move toward permanent exits the denominator for this measure (all children exiting to adoption) becomes larger, but the numerator (the number of children exiting to adoption within 24 months) will more than likely remain the same. This leads to the strange situation where good practice (finding a permanent home for children in foster care) will produce non-positive results in the federal outcome measures. The national range for this federal measure is 6.4% to 74.9% with a median of 26.8%. Maryland remains below the national median for this measure, but is showing progress in the right direction.

The table below examines the median length of stay of the 559 children in out-of-home care from the date of most recent removal until the date of discharge to adoption. The median length of stay in care for these children was 36 months which is shorter than all previously reported years. The federal guidelines indicate a national median of 32.4 months. Maryland's result is longer than the national median on this indicator.

| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report (N=584) | 2009 Report (N=737) | 2010 Report (N=737) | 2011 Report (N=559) |
|--|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Federal measure C2.1.2: Of all children exiting foster care to adoption during the period July 1, xxxx through June 30, yyyy, what was the median length of stay in months from the date of removal from the home to the date of discharge? | Could not report | 40 months | 42 months | 41 months | 36 months |

| | Baseline Report ³⁶ | 2008 Report (N=5,381) | 2009 Report (N=4,880) | 2010 Report (N=4,104) | 2011 Report (N=3,005) |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Federal measure C2.2.2: Of all children in foster care on the first day of fiscal year 20xx who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, what percent became legally free for adoption in less than 6 months from the beginning of the fiscal year ³⁷ ? | Could not Report | 3.4% | 5.3% | 5.5% | 6.0% |

36 The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children exiting out-of-home care in calendar year 2005 (n=3,774), 1,351 children fit the requirements for this measure.

37 The time period for the measure reported is from June 01, 2008 to November 30, 2008.

As discussed above for measure C2.1.1, the movement of long stay children to permanent homes most likely increased the median time for children to exit to adoption for the prior report years. Now that the percent of children leaving care in 24 months or less is increasing, it makes sense that the overall median length of time to adoption will decrease.

This measure examines all children between the ages 1-17 in care on the first day of the time period who had been in care for 17 continuous months or longer, and who were not legally free for adoption prior to that day. Of the 3,005 children who met the criteria for inclusion, 6.0% (n=180) became legally free for adoption in less than 6 months from the beginning of the period (July 1, 2010). The median national score on this measure is 8.8%. Maryland's result of 6.0% is below the median value for this measure, but continues to show improvement.

Exits to a permanent home before age 18

| | Baseline Report ³⁸ (N=1,351) | 2008 Report (N=624) | 2009 Report (N=761) | 2010 Report (N=719) | 2011 Report (N=559) |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Federal measure C3.2: Of all children who were discharged from out-of-home care from July 1, xxxx through June 30, yyyy who were legally free ⁴⁰ for adoption at the time of discharge, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday? | | Exits to Permanency 93.8% | Exits to Permanency 97.1% | Exits to Permanency 98.4% | Exits to Permanency 95.7% |
| | Exits to Permanency including Other Exit type 90.4% | Exits to Permanency including Other Exit type 99.2% | Exits to Permanency including Other Exit type 99.2% | Exits to Permanency including Other Exit type 98.4% | Exits to Permanency including Other Exit type 95.7% |

Federal measure C3.2 assesses the movement towards permanency for children who have been identified as legally free for adoption. Children were considered legally free if there was an indication that parental rights had been terminated for both parents or if the child was currently in an adoptive placement. Permanent homes were defined two ways: (1) as finalized adoption, reunification and guardianship; and (2) as finalized adoption, reunification, guardianship and the category of 'Other' exit.

There were 559 children identified as legally free for adoption at exit between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. Of these children, 95.7% (n=535), exited to permanency prior to their 18th birthday. The federal guidelines indicate a national median of 96.8%, with percentages ranging from 84.9 to 100% of children achieving permanency prior to their 18th birthday. Maryland remains above the national median on this indicator.

³⁸ The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on calendar year 2005 (n=3,774), 656 children fit the requirements for this measure as being listed as legally free.

| | Baseline Report ³⁹ (N=5,356) | 2008 Report (N=4,748) | 2009 Report (N=4,382) | 2010 Report (N=3,737) | 2011 Report (N=3,001) |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Federal measure C3.1: Of all children who were in foster care for 24 months or longer on July 1, xxxx, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday by the end of the one year period (June 30, yyyy)? | 8.4% | 17.8% | 20.3% | 24.9% | 25.8% |

There were 3,001 children in care on July 1, 2010 who were under the age of 18 and had been in out-of-home care for 24 months or longer. Of these children, 25.8% (n=775) were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by the end of the fiscal year. Permanent homes are defined as exit to reunification, guardianship, and finalized adoption.

Maryland continues to show improvement in this measure between the baseline report using 2005 information (8.4%), the 2008 report (17.8%), the 2009 report (20.3%), the 2010 report (24.9%) and this report (25.8%). The results are close but remain below the federal guidelines for this indicator. Federal guidelines for this measure list a national median of 25% (which Maryland now surpasses) with a range of values from 8.1 to 35.3%.

§5-1305.8 Re-Entry into Out-of-home Care

| Maryland Measure | Baseline Report ⁴⁰ (N=5,955) | 2008 Report (N=1,388) | 2009 Report (N=1,544) | 2010 Report (N=1,493) | 2011 Report (N=1,454) |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Indicator §5-1305.8: "The number [percent] of children who are recommitted to the Department within 12 months of release for exit reason of reunification from commitment to the Department" (All exits to Reunification between July 1, xxxx to June 30, yyyy) | 11.4% | 10.8% | 10.7% | 11.1% | 11.8% |

The sample for this indicator included all children under age 17 who exited care between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Of the 1,454 children, 11.8% (n=172) re-entered out-of-home care within 12 months⁴¹. As the federal CFSR measure focuses exclusively on exits from out-of-home care to reunification this is the focus of the continued examination of re-entry into out of home care. Children exiting to reunification or other relative are combined for the purposes of

39 The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children in care on January 1, 2005 who were under the age 18 (n=5,356).

40 The time period for the measure reported in the 2007 CWAA report was based on children exiting care in calendar year 2004 (n=5,955).

41 The reentry occurred between 2 and 366 days after the initial exit.

this measure. This year there was a continuation of the increases seen in the prior two reports. The federal range of values for this measure is from 1.6 to 29.8 percent with a median value of 15.0% and a 75th percentile value of 9.0%. Maryland's result of 11.8% is better than the median value of 15.0%, but below the 75th percentile for this measure.

§5-1305.6. Number of Available Foster and Treatment Foster Homes

| Indicator §5-1305.6: "Number of Available Foster and Treatment Foster Homes" | Baseline Report | 2008 Report | 2009 Report | 2010 Report | 2011 Report |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Public foster and pre-adoptive homes that are active at the end of October | Could not report | 3,078 | 3,099 | 2,824 | 2,647 |
| Private Therapeutic Foster Care Homes that have a contract with DHR and are active at the end of October. | Could not report | 2,159 | 2,081 | 2,257 | 2,264 |

The number of public foster homes was assessed using the November State Stat reports that list the active foster homes at the end of the month of October. The number of public foster and adoptive homes has decreased somewhat from the last report, from 2,824 to 2,647. The number of Private Therapeutic Foster Care Homes increased slightly from the last report from 2,257 to 2,264.

§5-1305.7. Regulation of Foster and Treatment Foster Homes

| Indicator §5-1305.7: "The percentage foster homes and kinship care homes in which the following have been conducted according to regulation:" | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Baseline Report⁴² | 2008 Report (N=3,939) | 2009 Report (N=3,334) | 2010 Report (N=3,356) | 2011 Report (N=3,014) |
| a. required criminal background checks | 91.7% | Cannot report | Cannot report | Cannot report | Cannot report |
| b. initial fire safety inspection | 85.7% | 77.0% | 82.7% | 88.0% | 87.6% |
| c. initial health and sanitation inspection | 85.7% | 76.5% | 82.1% | 86.9% | 86.8% |
| d. annual reconsideration for compliance with standards for safety and quality | 95.8% | 31.2% | 36.7% | 43.3% | 47.8% |
| NOTE: The Local Supervisor Review (LSR) sample data provides supervisory ratings of a small number of cases reviewed for quality assurance purposes. The MD CHESSIE % column provides the percent of cases for which the fields required to complete this analysis are populated. | | | | | |

42 The initial Child Welfare Performance Indicators Workgroup determined that for the first CWAA report there were no statewide data systems able to report on these indicators. The Local Supervisory Review was used to estimate the percent of homes with necessary checks and approvals.

Information about foster home regulation continues to be only partially populated in the MD CHESSIE fields related to provider approvals. MD CHESSIE has the capacity to collect this information however, no data could be found in the electronic record related to required criminal background checks, and 52.6% of the providers did not have information related to the status of the annual reconsiderations. Though the status of the reconsiderations was not documented in MD CHESSIE, the dates when the next reconsideration should be considered was present. Of the 3,014 foster and kinship homes 97.6% (n=2,943) had information available related to when the next reconsideration⁴³ should take place.

Based on the MD CHESSIE data that is available, of the 3,014 foster and kinship homes, 87.6% (n=2,639) have evidence of a fire and safety inspection⁴⁴ a slight decrease from 88.0% in the 2010 report, 86.8% (n=2,616) have evidence of a health and sanitation inspection⁴⁵ similar to the results of the last report. This year showed stagnation after several years of improvement.

43 Indication of the date for the next reconsideration is the presence of a date in the next reconsideration date field.

44 Indication of inspection is the presence of a date in the fire inspection field.

45 Indication of inspection is the presence of a date in the health and sanitation field.

§5-1306. Addressing the well-being of children in out-of-home care

The fourth set of indicators concern state efforts to address the health, mental health, education and well-being of children committed to the Department. The Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2006 includes the following items:

1. Comprehensive assessments,
2. Health examinations, and
3. School enrollment.

These items are process measures designed to assess whether children are being linked to available resources (school and health care) in a timely manner. SSA and local department staff have been focused on making sure that data elements affecting payments and federal reporting in MD CHESSIE are complete and accurate. Whereas elements related to removal, placement, living arrangement and exits have been improving, some areas of the electronic record have yet to be fully populated. Therefore, considerable missing data is present in the following measures.

The MD CHESSIE results are presented as a means of gauging data completeness and cannot be used to adequately assess system performance on these measures.

§5-1306.1. Comprehensive Assessments

| Indicator §5-1306.1b: "The percentage of children entering out-of-home placement between January 1, yyyy and June 30, yyyy who received a comprehensive assessment in compliance with federal regulations for the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment program within 60 days of entering placement" | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report Total Entries (N=1,558) | 2009 Report Total Entries (N=1,331) | 2010 Report Total Entries (N=1,478) | 2011 Report Total Entries (N=1,543) |
| Missing Data | Could not report | 829 | 646 | 604 | 640 |
| Cases with Complete Data | Could not report | 729 | 685 | 874 | 903 |
| MD CHESSIE - EPSDT⁴⁶ | Could not report | 7.5% | 9.3% | 14.0% | 20.5% |
| MD CHESSIE – Comprehensive Health Screening⁴⁷ | Could not report | 18.5% | 46.5% | 63.4% | 70.3% |
| MD CHESSIE – Health Screening⁴⁸ | Could not report | 84.1% | 84.4% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

46 EPSDT is identified as an examination type in MD CHESSIE of '7833' EPSD/ Healthy Child.

47 A comprehensive health screening is identified as an examination type in MD CHESSIE of '3256' Comprehensive Health Examination.

48 Health screening is identified as any health examination other than Sexual Abuse screening.

The sample for this indicator includes all children entering care between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011. Of these 1,543 children, 58.5% (n=903) had a link to the table containing health information. This is an improvement from both previous reports and shows steady progress in collecting and entering school related information into MD CHESSIE. The estimates provided here are based on data with over 40% of cases missing relevant information. Therefore, these measures must be interpreted with extreme caution and are only presented here as a means of gauging overall improvement in the collection and reporting of this information.

One item that is worth noting is that according to MD CHESSIE, 100.0% (n=903) of all children entering care who had information related to health screenings had a health screening within 60 days. This continues the findings from last year that health screenings are consistently being done and shows the commitment of the state in providing initial health screenings for all youth entering out of home care.

§5-1306.2. Health Examinations

| Indicator §5-1306.2a: "The percentage of eligible children entering foster care or kinship care who have been examined by a medical provider within [5] days of entry" | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report Total Entries (N=1,558) | 2009 Report Total Entries (N=1,331) | 2010 Report Total Entries (N=1,478) | 2011 Report Total Entries (N=1,543) |
| Missing Data | Could not report | 829 | 646 | 604 | 640 |
| Cases with Complete Data | Could not report | 729 | 685 | 874 | 903 |
| MD CHESSIE – Health Screening⁴⁹ | Could not report | 57.3% | 45.8% | 47.9% | 47.6% |

The sample for this indicator is all children entering care between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011. Of these 1,543 children, 58.5% (n=903) had a link to the table containing health information. This is a continued percentile improvement from the 2008 and 2009 reports. The estimates provided here are based on data with approximately 40% of cases missing relevant information. Measures must be interpreted with extreme caution and these measures and their comparisons are difficult to interpret in a meaningful manner given the amount of missing information.

Of all children entering care where there is health information available, 47.6% (n=430) received some form of health screening within 5 days of entry. This is a slight percentage decrease from the 2009 results, but still lags behind the 2008 numbers. This health screening could have been any health examination and was not specific to a physician visit. Increasing the amount of time from five days to 10 days increases the percentage of cases with a completed health screening to 74.1% (n=669). This is an increase over the previously reported results.

⁴⁹ Health screening is identified as any health examination.

| Indicator §5-1306.2b: Of all children entering care between January 1, xxxx and June 30, xxxx “the percentage of eligible children entering foster care or kinship care who have been... | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report Total Entries (N=1,558) | 2009 Report Total Entries (N=1,331) | 2010 Report Total Entries (N=1,478) | 2011 Report Total Entries (N=1,543) |
| Missing Data | Could not report | 829 | 646 | 604 | 640 |
| Cases with Complete Data | Could not report | 729 | 685 | 874 | 903 |
| ...examined by a medical provider within 10 days of entry into out-of-home placement” | Could not report | 70.8% | 67.0% | 73.3% | 74.1% |
| ... have a designated health care provider within 10 days of entry into out-of-home placement” | Could not report | 61.6% | 53.9% | 66.2% | 63.2% |

Of all children entering care where there is health information available, 63.2% (n=571) were seen by a provider⁵⁰ within 10 days of entry. This is a lower percentage than reported last year, but a greater percentage than in earlier reports. From the above three tables it appears that the state is doing a better job in completing health screenings (100% completed), it is just taking more than five days (47.6%) or 10 days (63.2%) for these screenings to be scheduled and completed.

§5-1306.3. School Enrollment

The sample for this indicator includes 4,720 school aged children (between the ages of 5 and 18) in out-of-home care on January 1, 2010. Of these children 89.8% (n=4,238) had records in the MD CHESSIE education tables. Of all school-aged children with information electronically available in MD CHESSIE who were in care on January 1, 2011, 99.7% (n=4,226) had school information in the record, and 48.1% (n=2,034) had information related to the 2010-2011 school year in their electronic records.

⁵⁰ A designated provider is defined for these purposes as any physician that is listed by name in the record.

| Indicator §5-1306.3: "The percentage of school-aged children in out-of-home placements on January 1, xxxx enrolled in school" | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Baseline Report | 2008 Report Total Entries (N=6,750) | 2009 Report Total Entries (N=6,080) | 2010 Report Total Entries (N=5,612) | 2011 Report Total Entries (N=4,720) |
| Missing Data | Could not report | 1,309 | 849 | 417 | 482 |
| Cases with Complete Data | Could not report | 5,441 ⁵¹ | 5,231 ⁵² | 5,195 | 4,238 |
| MD CHESSIE – Any school information (percent of non-missing data)⁵³ | Could not Report | 98.2% | 99.7% | 99.7% | 99.7% |
| MD CHESSIE – Current school information (percent of non-missing data)⁵⁴ | Could not Report | 44.6% | 41.9% | 43.0% | 48.1% |

As shown in the table above there was both an increase in children who had electronic records available in MD CHESSIE and an increase in those who had current school information in MD CHESSIE compared to the 2010 report. The low percentage of information in the current school information suggests that there continues to be either some delayed data entry for well-being type measures or some issues around the appropriate use of dates surrounding enrollment.

51 Non-missing is a subset of the total children in care. There were 6,750 school aged children in care on January 1, 2008 and 5,441 of these children had records on the education file.

52 Non-missing is a subset of the total children in care. There were 6,080 school aged children in care on January 1, 2009 and 5,231 (86.4%) of these children had records on the education file.

53 Any school information means that there is information related to the child being in school at some time.

54 Current school information suggests that the child is listed as being enrolled in school during the school year.

Measuring Child Welfare Performance in Maryland

Over the course of compiling the data and measures for the Child Welfare Accountability reports UM/SSW faculty and staff noted several areas where the measurement and reporting of child welfare indicators can, and should, be improved. The state of Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration has myriad reporting requirements to varying stakeholder groups. The reporting of timely and accurate child welfare process and outcome measures are important pieces of the Continuous Quality Improvement cycle, the Managing for Results process, and the ability for child welfare services to be transparent for stakeholders.

Over the last several years the state has become more comfortable with the types of outcome reporting that is possible through the MD CHESSIE administrative data system and that will provide meaningful results to guide their current data-informed decision making process. The movement toward consistent, agreed upon, metrics across all of the different reporting requirements was a welcome move that should reduce the reporting burden on DHR/SSA staff and their contractors and allow for more in-depth analyses of the reports currently in production.

Recommendations for Improvements of Performance Indicators

Measurement is inconsistent across indicators. The wording in the Child Welfare Accountability Act continues to be inconsistent among measures. Some measures call for results presented as numbers, while others call for percentages, and still others reflect an incidence. When possible all of the pieces of information are supplied in the text, with the requested metric highlighted in the tables. Additionally, relevant time periods, such as the number of months without a recurrence of abuse or neglect, change with each indicator making consistent interpretation difficult. The directionality of the measures is not consistent causing challenges in interpretation - a higher figure is considered a positive outcome on some indicators, but a negative outcome on others. UM/SSW staff therefore modified the existing measures to make the reporting of the indicators in the Act comparable to each other and more consistent with federal measures.

Recommendation: Continue to allow flexibility in reporting. UM/SSW will continue reporting the CWAA measures while incorporating parallel federal measures and presenting both for comparison. The directionality of measures will be reported as requested and in ways that are consistent with federal measures. By using the federal measures to track system progress (in conjunction with additional measures discussed above) Maryland may monitor progress towards achieving improvement goals, make mid-course corrections on system performance as necessary, and have a fuller understanding of the federal CFSR measures and program improvement plan. Measuring outcomes in the same way as Federal administrators will hold Maryland accountable and provide a more efficient way to prepare for re-evaluation by the USDHHS, Children's Bureau. Additionally, these measures offer a consistent base for measuring child welfare outcomes that should be used to inform all data based decision making processes. In the future measures related to the timeliness of Recurrence, Abuse in Care, Exits and Re-entries over time should be measured from multiple consistent time points (6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months). This will allow for a more complete assessment of each measure over time, but will require the movement towards an entry based analysis of child welfare measures instead of a point in time or exit based one.

Point-in-time indicators compare different populations of children at report, placement, and exit. While it can be informative to measure the number and types of reports, placements and exits, it is difficult to track improvements over time as the population captured in a point in time analysis is very different from year to year.

Cross-sectional and exit based measures are not well suited for outcome measures. Both cross-sectional and exit cohort measures are problematic for outcome measures designed to examine changes over time because children do not have an equal probability of being in the sample (Courtney, Needell & Wulczyn, 2003; Courtney, Needell & Wulczyn, 2004).

Retrospective measures are inherently biased because children have different probabilities of being selected for these types of measures and they fail to provide the depth of uniform information needed for program improvement. As an example, consider federal composite one, measure one (included as part of §5-1305 Permanency and stability of children in out of home care): *“Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification, who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home?”* There is a danger that improving system performance by moving children who have been in care for extended periods of time toward reunification would cause this measure to show declining performance. This type of negative result would occur because, when more children who have been in care for extended periods move to reunification the denominator becomes larger, while the numerator (reunification in less than 12 months) stays flat leading to decreased performance on the measure. A prospective analysis would not suffer from this bias because the base population would be constant--children entering care during a specific period of time.

Recommendation: Track entry cohorts over time. Prospective measures are preferable to measure child welfare outcomes. Following one population of children and youth through their child welfare experiences is the single best, least biased, method of measuring service receipt and outcomes (Wulczyn, 2007; Zeller & Gamble, 2007). Examining children’s trajectory through the various levels of child welfare services is the best way to understand the effects of services on children and families. Entry cohort analyses are being successfully utilized in Maryland to examine welfare service utilization through a partnership between DHR/SSA and UM/SSW and should be expanded in the future. It is in Maryland’s best interest to utilize the power available through the MD CHESSIE system to examine the trajectory of children through the child welfare system in a prospective manner. A prospective analysis will allow Maryland to follow children from report through investigation, to in-home or out-of-home child and family services, to the outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. As the MD CHESSIE system becomes more populated with case and service characteristics, it will become a very powerful tool to measure overall system performance.

Performance indicators do not reflect all the critical decision points along a child’s trajectory in child and family services. Existing performance indicators focus on child maltreatment reports (substantiated and indicated abuse and/or neglect) and then skip to placement outcomes without first examining placement decisions. Maryland has fully transitioned from the legacy data system to MD CHESSIE as has the capacity to examine the full trajectory of youth through the child welfare system.

Recommendation: Develop a means of looking at the trajectory through the child welfare system. UM/SSW and DHR/SSA should work together, as provided for in §5-1309, to develop meaningful indicators accounting for the full breadth of child welfare

services and provide a more complete picture of outcomes for children in the child welfare system.

Performance indicators are only reported at the state level. All of the performance indicators are compiled at the state level only. Maryland is a diverse state with a large city (Baltimore City), rural areas and everything in between; a statewide measure does not show the breadth of results in the state.

Recommendation: Provide jurisdiction level reports of outcome and accountability measures. Although Maryland is a relatively small state there is diversity at the jurisdiction level. To expand the utility of the data being collected, analyzed, and presented at the state level, such as the measures discussed in the report, these measures should be replicated at the jurisdiction level. Jurisdiction level analyses will pin-point more directly jurisdictions that are excelling in certain areas and those in need of further focus. This can lead to more efficient sharing of innovative practices through early identification of successes.

Performance indicators are only reported for the general population. All of the performance indicators are compiled in the aggregate with no attention to subpopulations. Maryland is a diverse state with variations by race/ethnicity, age and gender. Without examining subpopulations there will be no way to know of trends that are occurring within the child welfare system, such as differential entry rates by age group or race/ethnicity; possible differences in length of stay across genders; etc.

Recommendation: Explore differential outcomes for subpopulations. Child welfare research has demonstrated differential outcomes for unique subgroups within the child welfare population. To determine whether outcomes are equal for all children and families, performance indicators should be stratified by such child demographics as age at entry, race/ethnicity, and local department (Wulczyn, 2007). Additionally, these measures should be made available to jurisdictions focusing on the population of children they currently serve. This exploration across subpopulations will also allow the state and local jurisdictions to examine issues pertaining to racial disproportionality and disparity in and across the Maryland child welfare system. Maryland currently has the capacity through MD CHESSIE to examine these issues more closely, tools exist to help guide DHR/SSA in developing these measures and interpreting the results (Magruder & Shaw, 2008; Shaw, Putnam-Hornstein, Magruder, & Needell, 2008).

MD CHESSIE has not been fully utilized across the state as the system of record. There still exist some places in MD CHESSIE where data is not being fully entered.

Recommendation: Continue to develop MD CHESSIE and to train frontline staff on data entry. MD CHESSIE will allow all federal measures and indicators to be examined using population-level data that is not subject to sampling bias. SSA is making tremendous strides in developing the MD CHESSIE system and continues to update trainings, update user guides, and offer refresher trainings. It is imperative that the energy and focus that has been driving the development and improvement of the MD CHESSIE continue, along with ongoing training and support efforts that are underway. As MD CHESSIE improves, the state will increase its capacity to routinely and effectively report on the outputs and outcomes of Maryland child welfare services.

DHR/SSA, and in fact any single agency, is hindered from understanding the full scope of needs within the children and families they serve. Although it is highly likely

that youth and families served by DHR/SSA are also being served by other agencies, there is little understanding of the overlap and possible efficiencies.

Develop data-sharing agreements with other child and family serving agencies in Maryland. The family, youth and children served by state agencies are highly likely to receive services from multiple agencies, both public and private, making it difficult to fully understand the scope of need or the costs associated with addressing these needs from information maintained in a single agency. Currently, substantial efforts are being made to analyze agency data related to evidence based and promising practices, these efforts occur individually within each agency and with no ability to link data across agencies. The ability to access the full array of data and information from two or more agencies is needed to ensure that Maryland provides the most effective and efficient services and programs. Data linkage supports policymaking by offering a more comprehensive view of services offered and received by children, youth, and families; leads to improved data systems through promoting data standardization across agencies; and offers improved capabilities to analyze the data.

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Appendix A: Summary of Maryland Performance Indicators

| Child Welfare Accountability Act Performance Indicators | | Baseline Results | 2009 Results | 2010 Results | 2011 Results |
|---|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| §5-1303. Child abuse and neglect | | | | | |
| 1. | a. The recurrence within 12 months of child abuse or neglect among victims of indicated abuse or neglect | 9.0% | 6.6% | 5.1% | 5.9% |
| | b. The recurrence within 6 months of child abuse or neglect among victims of indicated abuse or neglect | 5.1% | 4.1% | 3.6% | 4.5% |
| | c. The lack of recurrence within 6 months of child abuse or neglect among victims of indicated abuse or neglect | Could not report | 96.8% | 95.8% | 95.5% |
| 2. | The percentage of screened out reports of child abuse or neglect that are documented as reviewed by a supervisor | Could not report | 100.0% | 99.9% | 99.9% |
| 3. | The incidence of child abuse or neglect for a child who, in the prior 12 months, was not removed from the home following an investigation that found indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect | 9.0% | 8.4% | 8.2% | 8.6% |
| 4. | The percentage of child protective services investigations that are initiated and completed in accordance with §5-706: | | | | |
| | a. Investigations initiated within 5 days | Could not report | 89.2% | 88.1% | 88.6% |
| | b. Completed within 10 days | 5.6% | 5.9% | 6.2% | 5.4% |
| | Completed within 30 days | 26.9% | 25.0% | 24.5% | 26.2% |
| | Completed within 60 days | 70.5% | 52.7% | 61.4% | 71.2% |
| 5. | For all indicated and substantiated cases of abuse and neglect, the percentage of children who: | | | | |
| | a. receive family preservation services; and | 7.4% | 21.3% | 25.3% | 21.6% |
| | b. are able to remain safely in their own homes for 18 months after receiving family preservation services | 75.2% | 84.9% | 92.9% | 84.6% |
| | c. Do not receive FPS & remain safely in their homes for 18 months | 83.5% | 89.6% | 96.8% | 91.0% |
| 6. | Any other indicators adopted by the Secretary under §5-1302 | | | | |

| Child Welfare Accountability Act Performance Indicators | | Baseline Results | 2009 Results | 2010 Results | 2011 Results |
|---|--|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| §5-1304. | Protecting children in out-of-home care from abuse and neglect | | | | |
| 1. | The incidence of indicated or unsubstantiated findings of child abuse or neglect of children in the custody of a local department, or a placement agency, for placements: | | | | |
| a. | Using federal definition of caregivers for abuse in care, % of children in out-of-home placements | 0.63% ¹ | 0.45% | 0.44% | 0.45% |
| b. | % of children in out-of-home placements | 2.7% | 4.9% | 5.4% | 5.8% |
| 2. | The incidence of indicated or unsubstantiated findings of child abuse or neglect within 12 months following the release of the child committed to the department | 5.1% | 4.4% | 3.8% | 3.7% |
| 3. | Any other indicators adopted by the Secretary under §5-1302 | | | | |
| §5-1305. | Permanency and stability of children in out-of-home care | | | | |
| 1. | The percentage of children who exit foster care within time periods consistent with federal national standards with a breakdown by each standard: | | | | |
| <i>CI.1</i> | Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification <i>during the period under review</i> who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? | 54.9% | 55.6% | 52.8% | 51.9% |
| <i>CI.3</i> | Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period just prior to <i>the period under review</i> , and who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home? | 28.0% | 23.8% | 24.7% | 27.4% |
| <i>C2.1</i> | Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during <i>the period under review</i> , what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home? | | 13.2% | 13.8% | 18.9% |
| | Pre-adoptive placement | 19.9% | | | |
| <i>C2.3</i> | Of all children who were in foster care on the first day of <i>the period under review</i> , and who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, what percent were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the last day of <i>the period under review</i> ? | Could not report | 5.3% | 5.5% | 6.0% |

| Child Welfare Accountability Act Performance Indicators | | Baseline Results | 2009 Results | 2010 Results | 2011 Results |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| C3.1 | Of all children who were in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of <i>the period under review</i> , what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday and by the end of the fiscal year? | 8.4% | 20.3% | 24.9% | 25.9% |
| C3.2 | Of all children who were discharged from foster care in <i>the period under review</i> who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday? | 90.4% | 97.1% | 98.4% | 95.7% |
| | Of all children who were discharged from foster care in <i>the period under review</i> who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday? (<i>including Other exit as Permanent</i>) | | 99.2% | 98.4% | 95.7% |
| 2. a. | The percentage of children with more than two out-of-home placements during a report year | Could not report | 15.4% | 14.0% | 15.0% |
| b. | C4.1 Of all children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home, what percent have had no more than two placement settings? | Could not report | 84.6% | 85.4% | 85.0% |
| 3. a. | The percentage of children in the custody of a local department or placement agency who have siblings living in different placements | Could not report | 36.7% | 38.1% | 40.5% |
| b. | The percentage of children in the custody of a local department or placement agency who are placed with some or all of their siblings | Could not report | 63.3% | 61.9% | 59.5% |
| 4. a. | The percentage of children who exit foster care by exit type: | | | | |
| | reunified with a parent or guardian | 42.4% | 31.9% | 42.2% | 43.9% |
| | adopted | 17.5% | 24.0% | 20.8% | 15.2% |
| | Relative Guardian | 14.4% | 12.0% | 16.8% | 20.5% |
| | Independent Living | . | 15.1% | 13.6% | 16.2% |
| | All Other | 24.6% ⁵⁵ | 17.0% ⁵⁶ | 6.6% ⁵⁷ | 4.2% ⁵⁸ |

55 This is the sum of exits to all other types of exit including missing.

56 This is the sum of exits to all other types of exit including missing.

57 This is the sum of exits to all other types of exit including missing.

58 This is the sum of exits to all other types of exit including missing.

| Child Welfare Accountability Act Performance Indicators | | Baseline Results | 2009 Results | 2010 Results | 2011 Results |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 5. | The percent of children in an out-of-home placement living on July 1, xxxx in: | | | | |
| | Trial Home Visits | 3.7% | 2.1% | 3.7% | 3.5% |
| | kinship care homes | 33.3% | 15.4% | 17.7% | 17.9% |
| | restricted foster homes | 5.6% | 11.0% | 9.4% | 7.3% |
| | regular foster homes | 16.9% | 20.0% | 17.3% | 18.2% |
| | treatment foster homes | 14.7% | 26.2% | 25.3% | 26.3% |
| | group homes | 13.9% | 14.5% | 12.1% | 10.9% |
| | adoptive homes | 1.7% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.5% |
| | other placements | 10.2% | 10.5% | 13.7% | 15.4% |
| 6. | The number of foster homes available for children in the custody of a local department, or a placement agency | Could not report | 3,099 | 2,824 | 2,647 |
| | The number of treatment foster homes available for children in the custody of a local department, or a placement agency | Could not report | 2,275 | 2,257 | 2,264 |
| 7. | The percentage of foster homes and kinship care homes in which the following have been conducted according to regulation: | LSR | MD CHESSIE | | |
| | a. required criminal background checks | 91.7% | Could not report | Could not report | Could not report |
| | b. fire and safety inspections | 85.7% | 82.7% | 88.0% | 87.6% |
| | c. Health and safety checks | 85.7% | 82.1% | 86.9% | 86.8% |
| | d. reconsiderations, as applicable | 95.8% | 36.7% | 43.3% | 47.8% |
| | e. any other safety regulations adopted by regulation. | | | | |
| 8. | <i>CI.4</i> Of all children exiting foster care to reunification in <i>the period under review</i> , what percent re-entered foster care in less than 12 months? | 11.4% | 10.7% | 11.1% | 11.8% |
| 9. | Any other indicators adopted by the Secretary under §5-1302 | | | | |

| Child Welfare Accountability Act Performance Indicators | | Baseline Results | 2009 Results ⁵⁹ | 2010 Results ⁶⁰ | 2011 Results ⁶¹ |
|---|--|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| §5-1306. | Effectiveness of efforts to address the health, mental health, education and well-being of a child committed to the Department | | | | |
| 1. | The percentage of children in out-of-home placements who received a comprehensive assessment in compliance with federal regulations for the Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program within 60 days of entering out-of-home placement | | | | |
| a. | MD CHESSIE: Identified Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment service within 60 days of entering out-of-home placement | Could not report | 9.3% | 14.0% | 20.5% |
| b. | MD CHESSIE: Identified Comprehensive Health Screening service within 60 days of entering out-of-home placement | Could not report | 46.5% | 63.4% | 70.3% |
| c. | MD CHESSIE: Identified Health Screening service within 60 days of entering out-of-home placement | Could not report | 84.4% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| 2. a. | The percentage of eligible children entering foster care or kinship care who: | | | | |
| i. | have been examined by a medical provider within 10 days of entry into out-of-home placement | Could not report | 67.0% | 73.3% | 74.1% |
| ii. | have a designated health care provider within 10 days of entry into out-of-home placement | Could not report | 53.9% | 66.2% | 63.2% |
| b. | The percentage of eligible children entering foster care or kinship care who have been examined by a medical provider within [5] days of entry | Could not report | 45.8% | 47.9% | 47.6% |
| 3. a. | The percentage of school-aged children in out-of-home placements enrolled in school (percent of non-missing data) | Could not report | 99.7% | 99.7% | 99.7% |
| b. | The percentage of school-aged children in out-of-home placements enrolled in school within 5 days of entry into out-of-home placement (percent of non-missing data) | Could not report | 41.9% | 43.0% | 48.1% |
| 4. | Any other indicators adopted by the Secretary under §5-1302 | | | | |

59 Information was only available on a limited number of records (around half) interpretation of these results should be made with extreme caution. Please see narrative for further discussion.

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