



SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES ARCHIVE

CHILD WELFARE PERMANENCY INDICES FROM CWS/CMS

Permanency indices are useful as measures of comparing within a county or a state, performance over time, by age, or by ethnicity. The permanency indices are computed by dividing the number of children exiting foster care to permanency in a given calendar year (reunification, adoption, guardianship, or total permanency) by the total number of unique children in care at any time during the year.

Permanency Outcomes for 2002

- In 2002, there were 334 unique children who spent at least a day in child welfare supervised foster care at some time during the year. Of these children, 119 exited care to permanency, resulting in a permanency index of 0.356.
- The most common permanency outcome for children leaving care in 2002 was reunification with an index of 0.207. Adoption followed with an index of 0.111, then Kin-GAP guardianship with an index of 0.021. Guardianship had the lowest permanency outcome with an index of 0.018.

Children achieving permanency, by permanency outcome, were:

	Children in Care	Children Exiting	Index
* Total	334	119	0.356
* Reunified:		69	0.207
* Adopted:		37	0.111
* Guardianship:		6	0.018
* Kin-Gap:		7	0.021

Permanency Indices by Age

- The highest levels of permanency were achieved for children ages 1-5 years (.45). The lowest levels of permanency were achieved for children ages 11-15 years (.25).

Permanency indices, by age at the time of entry into care, were:

* Under age 1:	.422
* Ages 1 to 5:	.45
* Ages 6 to 10:	.311
* Ages 11 to 15:	.25
* Ages 16+:	.280

Notes:

- 1) Since the dynamics that determine the denominator used to compute the permanency indices may vary greatly among counties, comparison among counties is not recommended.
- 2) The permanency indices are computed by dividing the number of children exiting foster care to permanency in a given year by the total number of unique children in care at any time during the year. As such, it is NOT a longitudinal outcome measure.

Permanency outcomes, by age at the time of entry into care, were:

	Reunif. Index	Adopt. Index	Guard. Index	Kin-GAP Index
* Under age 1:	.178	.222	0	.022
* Ages 1 to 5:	.234	.162	.018	.036
* Ages 6 to 10:	.194	.087	.01	.019
* Ages 11 to 15:	.234	0	.016	0
* Ages 16+:	0	0	.182	0
* Total:	.207	.111	.018	.021

Permanency Indices by Ethnicity

- The highest levels of permanency were achieved for Native American (.6), and Black (.5) children. The lowest levels of permanency were achieved for Asian/Other children (.267).

Permanency indices, by ethnicity, were:

* Black:	.5
* White:	.329
* Hispanic:	.396
* Asian/Other:	.267
* Native American:	.6

Permanency outcomes, by ethnicity, were:

	Reunif. Index	Adopt. Index	Guard. Index	Kin-GAP Index
* Black:	.045	.409	.045	0
* White:	.216	.095	.004	.013
* Hispanic:	.245	.038	.038	.075
* Asian/Other:	.133	.133	0	0
* Nat Amer.:	.3	.2	.1	0
* Total:	.207	.111	.018	.021

For further information please visit our website:

<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/dynamics/permanency>

METHODOLOGY for Permanency Index Reports

Permanency indices are useful as measures of comparing within county or statewide performance over time, by age, or by race/ethnicity. Since the dynamics that determine the denominator used to compute the indices may vary greatly among counties, comparison among counties is not recommended. The permanency indices are computed by dividing the number of children exiting foster care to permanency in a given year (reunification, adoption, guardianship, or total permanency) by the total number of unique children in care at any time during the year. As such, it is NOT a longitudinal outcome measure. The total number of children with exits and the corresponding indices are presented, along with age and ethnic breakouts. Additionally, age by ethnic indices are displayed.

Episode termination to Guardianship includes exits to the Kin Gap program as well as exits to other Guardianship. In the future the Guardianship category will be divided into Kin Gap and Other Guardian exit types.

Category	2002	2003	2004
Total Exits	1,234	1,345	1,456
Adoption	456	567	678
Guardianship	345	456	567
Reunification	433	322	211
Total in Care	15,678	16,789	17,890
Permanency Index	0.079	0.081	0.081

For further information please visit our website at www.dhs.gov