



Administration for Children and Families

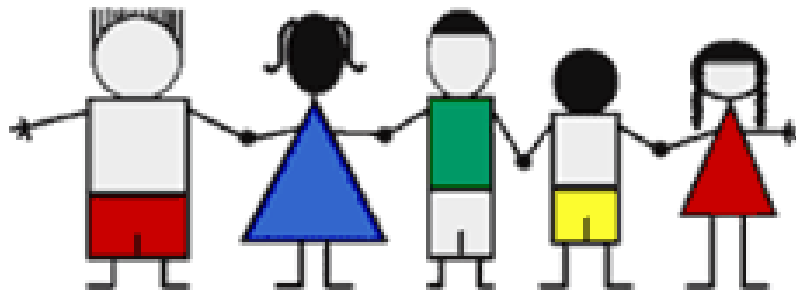
Children's Bureau

Promoting Family Permanence for Youth in Foster Care

The 2008 National Convening on Youth Permanence

May 2, 2008

Washington, DC



Safety • Permanency • Well-being

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau



Children's Bureau

Our History...

- Oldest agency for children within the Federal government
- Primary responsibility for administering Federal child welfare programs

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau



Children's Bureau

- One of two bureaus within the
 - Administration on Children, Youth and Families
 - Administration for Children and Families
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Annual budget of over \$7 billion
- Works with State and local agencies to develop programs



Children's Bureau

Mission

Provide for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children through leadership, support for necessary services, and productive partnerships with States, Tribes and communities

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Programs and Funding

- Matching funds to States, Tribes and communities to operate child welfare systems
- Discretionary grant programs



Programs and Funding

- Adoption Incentive Programs
- Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Projects



Child Welfare Monitoring

- Child and Family Services Reviews
- Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews
- AFCARS Reviews
- SACWIS Reviews

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Child & Family Service Reviews

- Partnership Between the Federal Government and the State
- State Plan Requirements in Titles IV-B and IV-E
- Links Reviews to Joint Planning, Technical Assistance and Program Improvement



Child & Family Service Reviews

- Inform National Policy
- Provide Feedback to States on Program Performance and Outcomes
- Assists States in Becoming Self-Evaluating Over Time



CFSR Practice Principles

- Family-Centered Practice
- Community-Based Practice
- Individualizing Services
- Strengthening Parental Capacity

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Youth Issues & the CFR

- Youth focus groups at state and local sites
- Analysis of youth specific issues

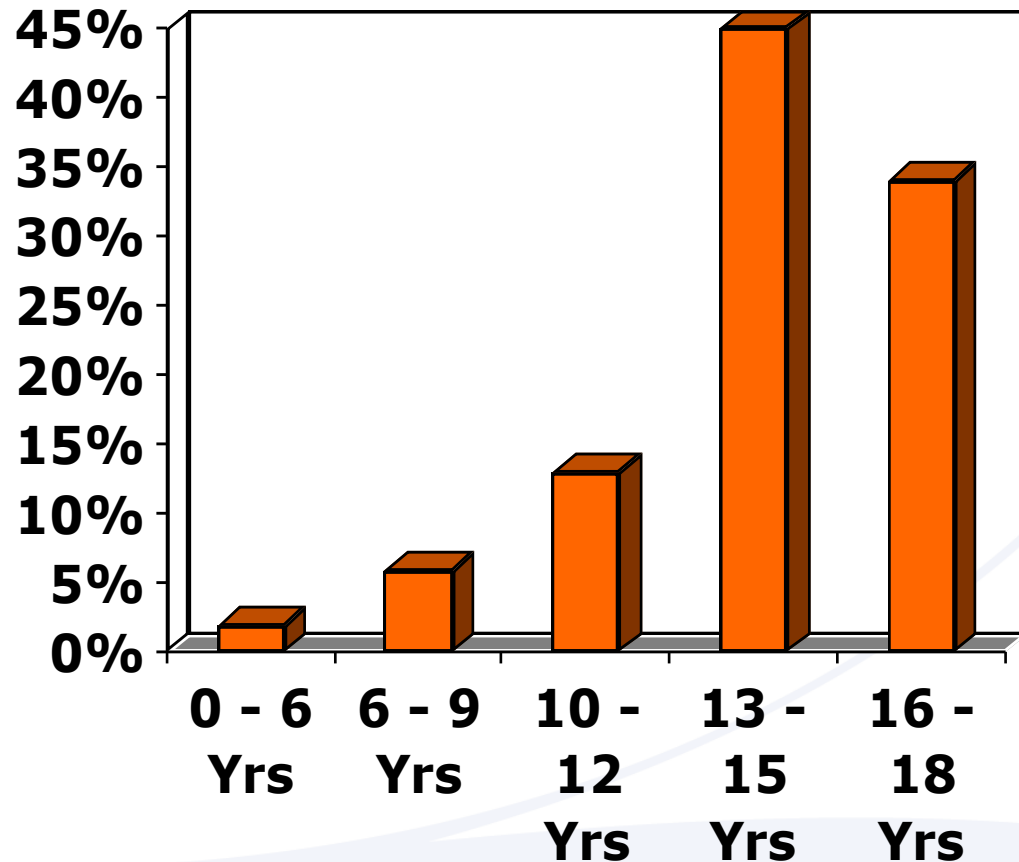
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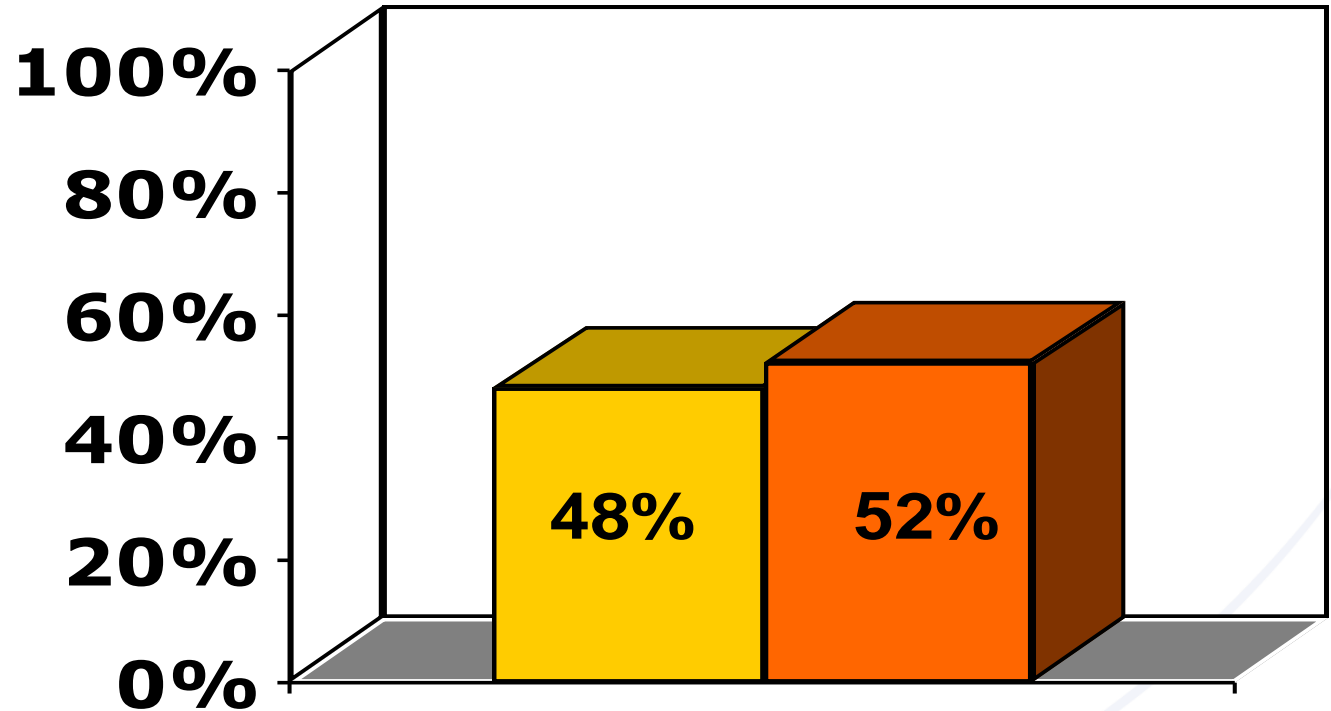
Ages of Children with Goal of "Other Permanent Planned Living Arrangement"

The ages of the Children with a goal of "Other Permanent Planned Living Arrangement"



Long-Term Foster Care

Other permanency goals had not been ruled out for more than half of the children with a goal of Long-Term Foster Care



- Other Permanency Goals Ruled Out Before LTFC
- Other Permanency Goals NOT Ruled Out Before LTFC



Child & Family Service Reviews

2nd Round

- Courts, tribes and youth be included in State self-assessment, stakeholder groups and developing PIPs
- Case sampling changed to include more youth in onsite review cases
- Professional consultant reviewers who are foster care alumnus



CFSR - Youth Interviews

- Foster families who make youth a part of their family
- Foster families who make efforts to keep youth connected to family and friends
- Staying in one home for a long time
- Caseworkers who visit frequently and really listen to them
- Receiving services that will prepare them for adulthood and opportunities to attend and/or complete their education or trade
- Judges, attorneys, and caseworkers who let them be heard in court



CFSR - Youth Interviews

- The most important factor identified by youth was the need for the entire child welfare system (agency, courts, schools, families, and providers) to make youth **true partners** in making decisions about their lives.



Training and Technical Assistance

- National Resource Centers
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
- TTA Centers
- CW Leadership Institute
- Quality Improvement Centers



National Child Welfare Resource Centers

- NRC for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning
- NRC for Youth Development
- AdoptUsKids



National Child Welfare Resource Centers

- NRC for Organizational Improvement
- NRC for Child Welfare Data & Technology
- NRC for Adoption



Child Welfare Information Gateway

- Child Welfare Information Gateway provides access to information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families.
- For use by professionals, families and agencies.
 - <http://www.childwelfare.gov/>



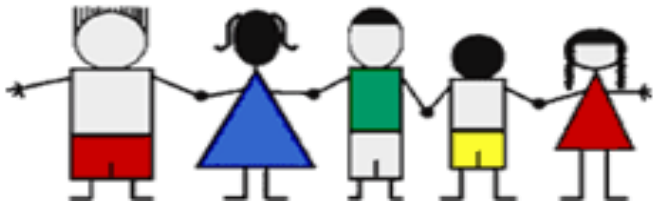


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<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>



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