

Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
2017 Bright Spots Data Package
Technical Appendix

Designed to support the Division of Child Welfare and Community Services Child Welfare Practice Model, the 2017 *Bright Spots Data Package* provides local districts with accessible, easy to use information on Child Protective Services Reports, Preventive Services, Safety, Foster Care, Permanency, and Adoption at both the state and county level. Counties are encouraged to use this package as a learning tool in their on-going efforts to monitor and improve local practice.

Purpose

The technical appendix is a supplement to the 2017 Bright Spots Data package, and provides written “how to” guidance for using and interpreting the data figures and tables contained in that data package.

Bright Spots Data Package Format

The Bright Spots Data Package has design features intended to aid the user in understanding and interpreting the information presented. These features include:

1. Question/answer pages: Each metric is accompanied by a question/answer page that translates the associated figure and table into words and offers things to consider when interpreting the data.
2. Two types of data figures:
 - **Table Setting:** These graphs are marked with a “table setting icon” and are meant to provide context around a specific outcome when there is not a clear benchmark that counties should be aiming towards. Figures are printed in gray and counties are sorted on the x-axis alphabetically.



- **Bright Spots:** These graphs are marked with a “yellow star” icon and are used when there is a desired direction of performance that counties should aspire toward. This type of figure is printed in purple, with counties sorted from low to high. The location of the yellow star, at either the low or high extreme, identifies the outcome direction that counties should be aiming to achieve.



3. Within these two types of data figures, three types of samples may be utilized:

- **Admission Samples:** Figures based on an admission sample are marked with an “admit one” icon and include only children/families who are new to services during the specified time period. For example, a foster care figure marked with an admission ticket will include only children new admitted into care, and not children who have been in care for longer than a year.



- **Point in Time/Snapshot:** Figures based on a point in time sample are marked by a “camera” icon and provide a snapshot of children/families who were receiving services on a specific date (typically December 31 of the year in question). In contrast to an admission sample, a point in time sample enables us to see where all children in foster care were placed on a specific date. This can be useful to see whether, for example, children were initially placed in congregate care and then, at a later date, moved into a foster boarding home or alternate setting.



- **Exit Sample:** Figures based on an exit sample are marked by a “exit sign” icon and include only those children/families that have left services. In this package, exit samples are used to explore questions around children that were discharged from foster care. For example, if we look at children that were discharged from foster care to adoption over the course of 2017, we are then able to ask how long they were in care before being discharged.



4. Types of outcome metrics:

- **Rate:** Many of the questions posed in this packet are answered with a rate, rather than a county's observed number or percentage. This was done to make it easier to compare performance across counties that differ in size. For example, in Monroe county, 1,655 children were authorized to receive preventive services in 2017 (see Question 2). In Schoharie county that number was much smaller at only 230 children. However, these two counties vary in the size of their child population, with Monroe having 164,875 children under age 18 and Schoharie county having 6,504. When calculated as a rate, we see that the number of children authorized with preventive services is actually higher for Schoharie county at 65.79 children per 1,000 than Monroe County at 10.4 children per 1,000.
- **Median:** The median can be thought of as the middle value in a sorted list of numbers. For example, say we had the set of numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 10. The median would be 3 because that is the number that falls in the middle of this ordered set. The advantage of using a median as the "average" is that it evens out some of the more extreme numbers. This is used in Figure 12a: Median Months from Freed Date Until Adoption and allows for a measurement that is less skewed by children that may have only been freed for a very brief or very long time before they were adopted thereby giving us a clearer picture of a typical length of time between a child being freed and adopted. Compare the Median to the Mean in Table 12a. The mean time to adoption from freed date for New York State is 15.02 months while the median is 11.02 months.

List of Included Practice and Performance Metrics by Content Area

Child Protective Services

Figure 1a: Rate of Children Named as an Alleged Victim in One or More CPS reports: Number of children named as an alleged victim of abuse/maltreatment in at least one CPS report received by the NYS Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment during the calendar year, whether determined or assessed.

- **Children in District:** number of children under age 18 estimated to be living in a particular geographical area
- **Number of children:** A unique count of all children named as an alleged victim in one or more CPS reports received, including FAR. If a child is named in multiple reports, he/she is only counted once.
- **Rate Calculation:** # of unique children named in at least one report per 1000 children in a district (Statewide, New York City, Rest of State, and County).
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:**
 - **CPS Reports:** Disproportionate Minority Representation (DMR) Analysis Files
 - **Population Estimates:** 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.
- **Notes:** Rates for St. Regis cannot be calculated as Woods and Poole does not provide a population estimate for this area.
 - This will differ from the counts in MAPS because this calculation is based on a count of children and not reports

Figure 1b: Rate of Children Named as a Confirmed Victim in One or More Indicated CPS Reports: Number of unique children named as a confirmed victim of abuse/maltreatment in at least one indicated CPS report received by the NYS Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment during the calendar year.

- **Children in District:** number of children under age 18 estimated to be living in a particular geographical area (taken from 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.)
- **Number of Children:** A unique count of all children named as a confirmed victim in one or more indicated CPS reports. If a child is named in multiple indicated reports, he/she is only counted once.
- **Rate Calculation:** # of unique children named in an indicated CPS report per 1000 children in a district (Statewide, New York City, Rest of State, and County).
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:**
 - **CPS Reports:** Disproportionate Minority Representation (DMR) Analysis Files
 - **Population Estimates:** 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.
- **Notes:** Rates for St. Regis cannot be calculated as Woods and Poole does not provide a population estimate for this area.
 - This will differ from the counts in MAPS because this calculation is based on a count of children and not reports

Preventive Services

Figure 2: Rate of Children with Preventive Services Authorized: A measure of how likely children were to have new preventive services authorized.

- **Children in District:** number of children under age 18 estimated to be living in a particular geographical area
- **Preventive Service Authorized:** A count of children with preventive services that were newly authorized during the calendar year. This count includes both mandated and non-mandated preventive services as defined using the program choice model indicated in CONNECTIONS. Protective, foster care, and non-LDSS custody are excluded.
- **Rate Calculation:** # of preventive services authorized per 1000 children in a district (Statewide, New York City, Rest of State, and County).
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:**
 - **Preventive Service Authorized:** CONNECTIONS
 - **Population Estimates:** 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.
- **Notes:** Rates for St. Regis cannot be calculated as Woods and Poole does not provide a population estimate for this area.

Figures 3a, 3b: Children with Substantiated CPS Allegation Reported After Preventive Service Authorization: Includes all children with mandated or non-mandated preventive services authorized in designated year.

- **Follow-Up Period:** the 12- or 24-month follow-up periods are calculated from the date the preventive services were authorized. If a child has multiple preventive services authorized in a given year, the authorization date of the first preventive service record is used to calculate the follow-up periods.
- **Substantiated CPS Allegation:** reflects the #/% of children included within the preventive sample with a substantiated allegation of maltreatment occurring within the follow-up period. CPS determination is based on intake, not closure, date. Therefore, it only includes substantiated allegations received after the authorization of preventive services.
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:**
 - **Preventive Service Authorized:** CONNECTIONS
 - **Substantiated Allegations:** CONNECTIONS
 - **Population Estimates:** 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.

Figures 4a, 4b: Children Admitted to Foster Care After Preventive Service Authorization: Includes all children whose mandated or non-mandated preventive services authorized in designated year.

- **Follow-Up Period:** the 12- or 24-month follow-up periods are calculated from the date the preventive services were authorized. If a child has multiple preventive services authorized in a given year, the authorization date of the first preventive service record is used to calculate the follow-up periods.
- **Foster Care Placement:** reflects the #/% of children included within the preventive sample with a new foster care admission within the follow-up period. If a child was in foster care at time of the preventive case being authorized, such placement will not be counted as a new admission.
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:**
 - **Preventive Service Authorized:** CONNECTIONS

- **Foster Care Admissions:** CONNECTIONS
- **Population Estimates:** 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.

Safety (CFSR Metrics)

Figure 5: Maltreatment Recurrence (% of Children with One or More Substantiated Allegations within 12 Months of the Initial Report)

- **Children with Initial Substantiated Report:** Number of children with substantiated reports of maltreatment (regardless of perpetrator type) during the 12-month period.
- **Children with New Substantiated Report:** Number of children with one or more additional substantiated reports of maltreatment (regardless of perpetrator type) within 12-months of initial report.
- **Period:** Focal Report in FFY 2016 and Subsequent Report with 12 Months of Focal Report Date
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:** CFSR Round 3, Wave 5. Derived from AFCARS submission file and NCANDS submission file and based on ACF syntax.

Figure 6: Rate of Indicated Maltreatment Reports per 100,000 Days of Care

- **Total Foster Care Days for Children in Foster Care:** A count of days of care provided by district as of the end of the 12-month period.
- **Indicated Reports Taking Place During Foster Care Spell:** A count of indicated reports involving children in foster care regardless of perpetrator. This includes reports made to the State Central Register and the Justice Center. A child can appear in this count multiple times if multiple indicated reports occurred.
- **Rate Calculation:** The rate is calculated as the number of indicated reports involving a child in foster care out of the total number of foster care days provided multiplied by 100,000 care days.
- **Period:** FFY 2017
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
- **Source of Data:** CFSR Round 3, Wave 5. Derived from AFCARS submission file and NCANDS submission file and based on ACF syntax.

Foster Care

Figure 7a: Rate of Children Admitted to Foster Care

- **Foster Care Admission:** Number of children admitted to foster care during the calendar year.
- **Rate Calculation:** Rate of Children Admitted to Foster was calculated based on number of reports per 1000 children in a district (Statewide, New York City, Rest of State, and County).
- **Period:** CY 2017
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:**
 - **Population Estimates:** 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.
 - **Foster Care Admissions:** 2017 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles
- **Notes:** St. Regis was excluded as Woods and Poole does not provide a population estimate.

Figure 7b: Rate of Children in Foster Care on 12/31/17

- **Foster Care on 12/31/17:** Number of children in foster care on 12/31/17.
- **Rate Calculation:** Rate of Children in Foster Care on 12/31/17 was calculated based on number children in care per 1000 children in a district (Statewide, New York City, Rest of State, and County).
- **Period:** 12/31/17
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Point in Time
- **Source of Data:**
 - **Population Estimates:** 2012 Complete New York and New Jersey Demographic Database Files, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc.
 - **Foster Care on 12/31/17:** 2017 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles
- **Notes:** St. Regis was excluded as Woods and Poole does not provide a population estimate.

Figure 8a: % of Children Admitted to Foster Care by Setting Type

- **Foster Care Type:**
 - **Home-Based Care Setting:** Foster Boarding Home, Foster Adoptive Home, Approved Relative Home
 - **Congregate Care Setting:** Institution, Group Residence, Group Home, Agency Boarding Home
 - **Other Setting:** Supervised Independent Living Program, All Other Settings
- **Period:** CY 2017
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Admission Sample
- **Source of Data:** 2017 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles

Figure 8b: % of Children Living in Foster Care by Setting Type on 12/31/17

- **Foster Care Type:**
 - **Home-Based Care Setting:** Foster Boarding Home, Foster Adoptive Home, Approved Relative Home
 - **Congregate Care Setting:** Institution, Group Residence, Group Home, Agency Boarding Home
 - **Other Setting:** Supervised Independent Living Program, All Other Settings
- **Period:** 12/31/17
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Point in Time
- **Source of Data:** Based on 2017 Monitoring and Analysis

Figure 9: Direct Care Placements

- **Direct Placement:** # of children removed from their home and placed with a relative or other guardian by the Family Court as a part of an abuse or neglect case (Article 1017 of the Family Court Act)
- **Period:** CY 2017
- **Figure Type:**
 - Table Setting
 - Admission
- **Source of Data:** 2017 Trends in Relative Care
- **Note:** These children are **not** in foster care

Figure 10a: % of Children Admitted to Foster Care Initially Placed with a Relative

- **Relative Foster Care Placements:** This includes Approved Relative Homes and Foster Boarding Homes where the foster parent is a relative
- **Period:** CY 2017
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
 - Admission
- **Source of Data:** 2017 Trends in Relative Care

Figure 10b: % Children in an Approved Relative Foster Home on 12/31/17

- **Approved Relative Home:** # of children living in an Approved Relative Foster Home on 12/31/17
- **Period:** 12/31/17
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
 - Point in Time
- **Source of Data:** 2017 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles
- **Note:** This measure does not include children living in a Foster Boarding Home where the caregiver is a relative because of limitations on data collection. Until recently, data input methods in CONNECTIONS did not account for Foster Boarding Homes where the foster parent was a relative. This therefore is a knowing underestimate of children living with relatives while in foster care. As data collection methods have improved and changes to CONNECTIONS have been made, a more accurate measure that does include children living in a Foster Boarding Home where the caregiver is a relative will be possible in the future.

Permanency (CFSR Metrics)**Figures 11a, 11b, 11c: Children Obtaining Permanency (CFSR P1-P3)**

- **Discharged to Permanency:** Permanency includes discharges from foster care to reunification with the child's parents or primary caregivers, living with a relative, guardianship, or adoption.
- **Period:**
 - **Figure 11a - P1:** Children entering foster care between 4/1/15 and 3/31/16; Permanency within one year of entry, up to 3/31/17
 - **Figure 11b - P2:** Children in foster care 12-23 months as of 4/1/17; Permanency within one year (by 4/1/18)
 - **Figure 11c - P3:** Children in foster care 24 months or longer as of 4/1/17; Permanency within one year (by 4/1/18)
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
 - Admission Sample
 - Point in Time
 - Exit Sample
- **Source of Data:** CFSR Round 3, Wave 5. Derived from AFCARS submission file and based on ACF syntax.

Figure 11d: Re-entry: % of P1 Children Discharged to Permanency Within 12 Months Who Re-Enter Care Within 12 Months (CFSR P4)

- **# Children Entering Foster Care in FFY 2016 and Discharged to Permanency within 12 Months:** This is a count of children that entered foster care between 4/1/15 and 3/31/16 who achieved permanency within one year of entry, up to 3/31/17. Children discharged to adoption are not included.
- **Children Re-Entering Care Within 12 Months of Discharge:** A count of children discharged to permanency within a year of foster care admission, who subsequently who re-enter foster care within 12 months.
- **Source of Data:** CFSR Round 3, Wave 5. Derived from AFCARS submission file and based on ACF syntax
- **Note:** Children discharged to adoption are excluded because they cannot be tracked for re-entry

Adoption

Figure 12a: Median Months from Freed Date to Adoption for Children Discharged

- **Freed Date:** The date on which a child was legally freed by parents or caregiver
- **Adoption Date:** The date on which a child was discharged from foster care to adoption
- **Period:** CY 2017
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
 - Exit Sample
- **Source of Data:** 2017 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles

Figure 12b: % of Freed Children Remaining in Foster Care for One or More Years After Freed Date

- **Freed Children:** The number of children in care on a specified date that have been legally freed for adoption and remain in foster care.
- **Time Since Freed:** Length of time child has remained in foster care after being freed.
- **Children Waiting for One Or More Year Since Freed:** A count of children in care and freed that have been freed for one or more years and have not been adopted.
- **Period:** In care on 12/31/17
- **Figure Type:**
 - Bright Spot
 - Point in Time
- **Source of Data:** 2017 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles