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How Long Do States Let Children in Foster Care Wait for Permanent Families?

Timely Permanency Report Cards

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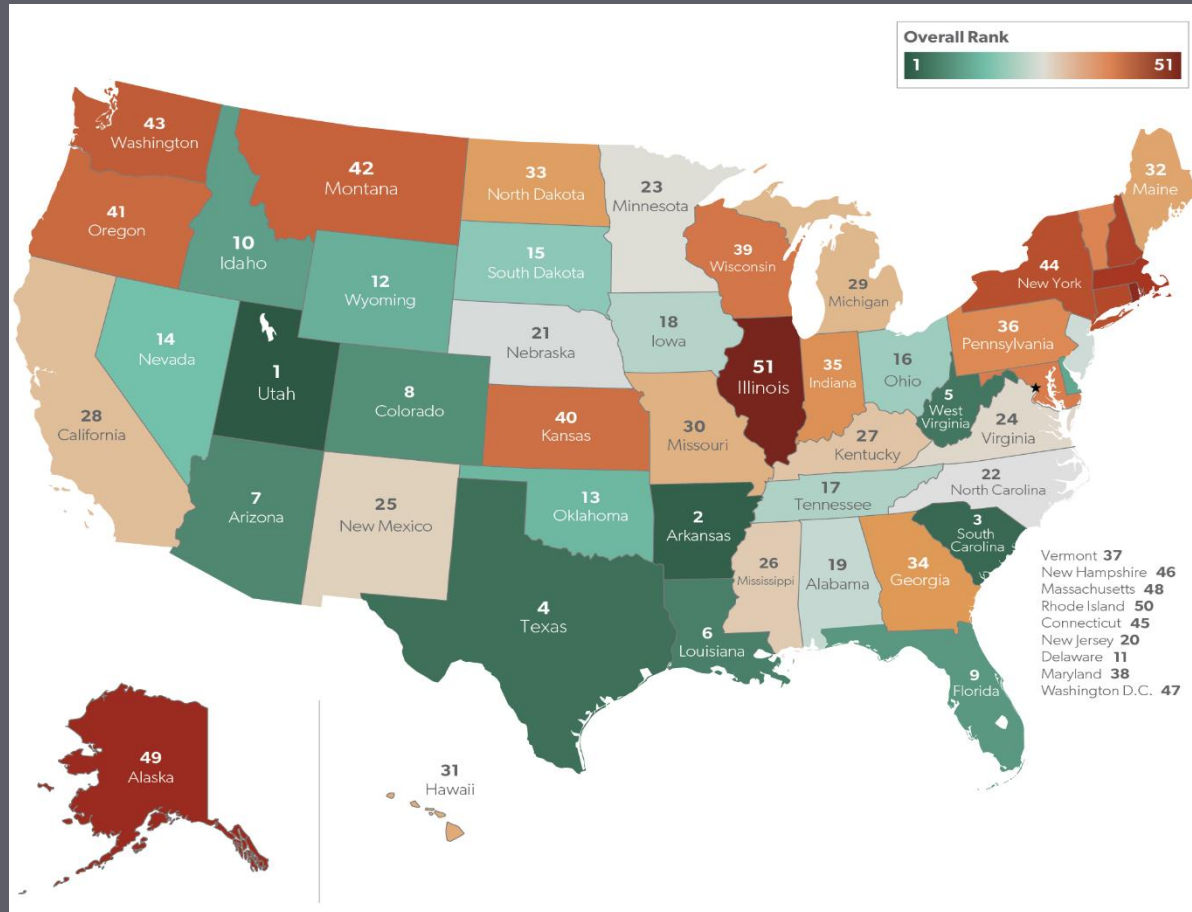


Rankings Based on Four Outcomes

- *Outcome 1: Timely exits to permanency*
 - Percentage of children exiting to permanent arrangement within 18 months and within three years of their entry to foster care
- *Outcome 2: Timely permanency for children who have not have not been reunified*
 - Percentage of children who have not been reunified who were (1) adopted or (2) neither adopted nor placed in guardianship with relatives within 18 months and within three years of their entry to foster care
- *Outcome 3: Application of ASFA Principles*
 - (A) Late reunifications and (B) long-term with without a termination of parental rights
- *Outcome 4: Failed Reunifications*
 - State-specific probability that a child who exited to reunification within 18 months reenters foster care in the subsequent 12 months



Overall State Rankings



Source: Sarah Font, Author of Permanency Report Cards



Racial Disparities

- Driven by children who are not reunified on time (nationally)
 - Black-white gap in Outcome 1, 18-months measure: 2 percentage points
 - Black-white gap in Outcome 1, 3 year measure: 6 percentage points (84.7 percent for white children, 78.6 percent for black children)
- Pattern also appears within states
 - 18-month mark: Black-white gap in Outcome 1 was negative (higher rates of permanency for black children than white children)
 - By the 3 year mark: 28 states had a permanency gap favoring white children that exceeded 5 percentage points
- Exceptionally low rate of adoption for black children compared to white children



Arkansas

- Overall ranking: 2nd
- Outcome 1 (Overall timely permanency):
 - Within 18 months: 65.02% (5th)
 - Within 3 years: 91.59% (4th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 89.69%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 92.63%
- Outcome 2A (Timely adoption if not reunified):
 - Within 18 months: 8.71% (10th)
 - Within 3 years: 37.95% (20th)
- Outcome 2B (No timely permanency if not reunified):
 - Within 18 months: 50.96% (4th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 52.24%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 49.51%
 - Within 3 years: 14.24% (2nd)
- Outcome 3A (Late reunification):
 - After 18 months: 10.53% (5th)
- Outcome 3B (Long term care and not legally free):
 - After 18 months: 16.55% (3rd)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 19.70%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 15.28%
 - After 3 years: 3.27% (5th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 5.09%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 2.54%
- Outcome 4 (Instability of reunification):
 - Within 12 months: 6.34% (11th)



Kentucky

- Overall ranking: 27th
- Outcome 1 (Overall timely permanency):
 - Within 18 months: 60.99% (7th)
 - Within 3 years: 81.29% (29th)
- Outcome 2A (Timely adoption if not reunified):
 - Within 18 months: 1.19% (49th)
 - Within 3 years: 19.66% (47th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 19.41%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 19.24%
- Outcome 2B (No timely permanency if not reunified):
 - Within 18 months: 53.62% (5th)
 - Within 3 years: 28.50% (17th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 29.54%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 28.18%
- Outcome 3A (Late reunification):
 - After 18 months: 14.21% (11th)
- Outcome 3B (Long term care and not legally free):
 - After 18 months: 31.17% (20th)
 - After 3 years: 17.04% (21st)
- Outcome 4 (Instability of reunification):
 - Within 12 months: 12.53% (45th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 11.60%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 13.53%



Florida

- Overall ranking: 9th
- Outcome 1 (Overall timely permanency):
 - Within 18 months: 57.72% (14th)
 - Within 3 years: 87.55% (12th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 86.68%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 87.62%
- Outcome 2A (Timely adoption if not reunified):
 - Within 18 months: 10.12% (7th)
 - Within 3 years: 40.52% (14th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 36.86%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 44.19%
- Outcome 2B (No timely permanency if not reunified):
 - Within 18 months: 67.11% (11th)
 - Within 3 years: 24.00% (12th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 26.11%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 22.20%
- Outcome 3A (Late reunification):
 - After 18 months: 14.05% (10th)
- Outcome 3B (Long term care and not legally free):
 - After 18 months: 25.80% (11th)
 - After 3 years: 3.64% (7th)
 - Non-Hispanic Black Children: 4.44%
 - Non-Hispanic White Children: 3.00%
- Outcome 4 (Instability of reunification):
 - Within 12 months: 9.20% (33rd)





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