

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a major operating division within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). **Their Children’s Bureau focuses on child welfare, foster care, adoption assistance, and child abuse prevention.** The divisions they oversee include:

a.) Division of Performance Measurement and Improvement, which collects, analyzes, and reports state data and child welfare outcomes. There are two teams:

- Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Team
- Data Analytics and Reporting Team.

They measure state success based on three measures:

1. Safety	• Maltreatment tracking: Monitors episodes of abuse or neglect occurring while a child is already placed in foster care. • Re-entry rates: Counts children who safely exit care but re-enter the foster system within 12 months.
2. Permanency	• Time to permanency: Tracks the duration (such as within 12 months) it takes for a child to achieve a permanent home from entry or while in care for 12 to 23 months or 24+ months. • Discharge categories: Records specific exit outcomes, quantified by counts moving to reunification, relative placement, guardianship, or adoption. • Placement stability: Measures the total number of distinct living arrangement changes and placement moves a child experiences during an episode in care.
3. Well-Being	• Age and developmental context: Categorizes a child's age ranges and tracks continuous living conditions to gauge stability. • Case goals and plans: Captures specific permanency and case goals documented at entry, during the reporting period on September 30, and at exit.

b.) The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect provides leadership and direction regarding child maltreatment and the prevention of abuse and neglect under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

- Here in Ohio, we have successfully established a [Youth Ombudsman Office](#) – and [their findings](#) reflect what Ohio foster care youth and alumni have been concerned about for years, such as **youth being screened out when they self-report abuse and neglect to Ohio’s 88 county abuse hotlines.**
- With the [national Home for Every Child initiative](#) rolling out, what national safeguards will be put in place to [prioritize youth safety](#)? We want to ensure they are neither trapped in unsafe bio homes or entrusted to unsafe foster placements.