

STATISTICS

CHINS Timeliness Measures Administrative Rule 1(F)

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The Child In Need of Services (CHINS) Timeliness Measures were established by Administrative Rule 1(F) to track and measure court performance in CHINS cases. The performance measures are based on the guidelines of the federal Court Improvement Program and are part of the requirements of that program. They also provide an opportunity for courts to check their own performance and timeliness in CHINS cases.

Every court with CHINS jurisdiction is required to report quarterly on five core timeliness measures by submitting information about each CHINS case that closed in that quarter. All data is submitted through the CIP Timeliness Measures application on INCite which also shows the statistics for each court in comparison with the state's overall numbers. The five measures are calculated by converting data directly from the Odyssey or Quest case management systems or indirectly through an Excel spreadsheet submitted by courts using other case management systems. Data may also be entered directly into the application through a text form.

The Timeliness Measures forms are filled out only for those CHINS cases that **opened** on or after October 1, in the year five years prior to the start of the current year, and **closed** (the CHINS wardship was terminated) within the current federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). Reports are due no later than January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of each year.

Cases are only included if there was a finding (an adjudication) that the child is a CHINS either through voluntary agreement or through trial. CHINS petitions that were dismissed or discharged prior to CHINS adjudication are excluded. Informal adjustments that did not lead to a CHINS adjudication are also excluded.

The five timeliness measures are:

1. Time to permanent placement – this measures the time from the date the petition was filed until the date the order terminating CHINS wardship is entered in the CCS, i.e. there is no longer an open CHINS case. This measure includes five permanency types:
 - a. Adoption: The child was adopted.
 - b. Reunification: The child was reunified with either the custodial or the noncustodial parent.
 - c. Relative placement: The child was placed with a relative.
 - d. Guardianship: The child was placed in a legal guardianship.
 - e. Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement: The child was placed in another living arrangement, such as a group home, or independent living.
2. Time to first permanency hearing – this measures the time from the date the CHINS petition was filed until the first permanency hearing. For the purpose of these measurements, permanency hearings must be calendared as such and must meet all the requirements of IC 31-34-21-7. This includes but is not limited to the requirements that the

permanency plan be filed, that parties have notice that the hearing is a permanency hearing and a copy of the permanency plan in advance, and that permanency findings must be made.

3. Time to termination of parental rights petition – this measures the time from the date the CHINS petition was filed until the date the termination of parental rights petition was filed. A termination petition must be filed when a child is removed from the home for a total of fifteen of the last 22 months, but under the Indiana Code such a mandatory petition may be dismissed at filing for good cause shown. Any mandatory petitions filed under IC 31-35-2-4 and 31-35-2-4.5 which are immediately dismissed should not be included in this measure.

4. Time to termination of parental rights – this measures the time from the date the CHINS petition was filed until the date the order terminating parental rights was entered in the CCS. This measure only includes a final TPR order – if an interim order is issued or the matter is taken under advisement, time to termination has not concluded.

5. Time to all subsequent permanency hearings – this measures the time between permanency hearings. A permanency hearing must be held every twelve months following the earlier of the removal of the child from the home or the dispositional decree date.

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