

**Instructions: Below is a list of analytic questions one could ask about the performance or characteristics of a child welfare system. For each one, indicate whether the population being analyzed is an entry cohort, an exit cohort, or a point-in-time population.**

\* 2. Of all infants who were admitted to foster care during FY 2011, how many were adopted within 2 years of entry?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 3. What percent of children on the active foster care caseload have experienced 2 or more placements?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 4. Of all the teens that were discharged from care last year, what percent reached majority/aged out?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 5. Was there any difference in length of stay between children who reunified in 2010 and children who reunified in 2011?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 6. Of all the CPS investigations that opened last year, how many did we close within 60 days?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 7. Of all children who enter foster care during a 12-month period and who exit within 12 months to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship, what percent re-enter foster care within 12 months of their discharge?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 8. What proportion of the current case carrying staff at our agency have worked at the agency for less than 1 year?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 9. What was the average case length for the CPS cases that closed last month (i.e., how long on average was the case open)?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 10. Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months, what percent discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

\* 11. Of all the foster homes that closed last year, how many closed because the foster parent's license was revoked?

- Entry cohort
- Exit cohort
- Point-in-time sample

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

(1 – 3) For each question, identify the type of denominator used in the calculation.

(1) Of all the children discharged from foster care to reunification in FY 2015, what percent were reunified within 12 months of entry?

- (a) Exit cohort
- (b) Entry cohort
- (c) Point-in-time sample

(2) Of all children entering foster care for the first time during the first 6 months of FY 2014, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification within 12 months of entry?

- (a) Exit cohort
- (b) Entry cohort
- (c) Point-in-time sample

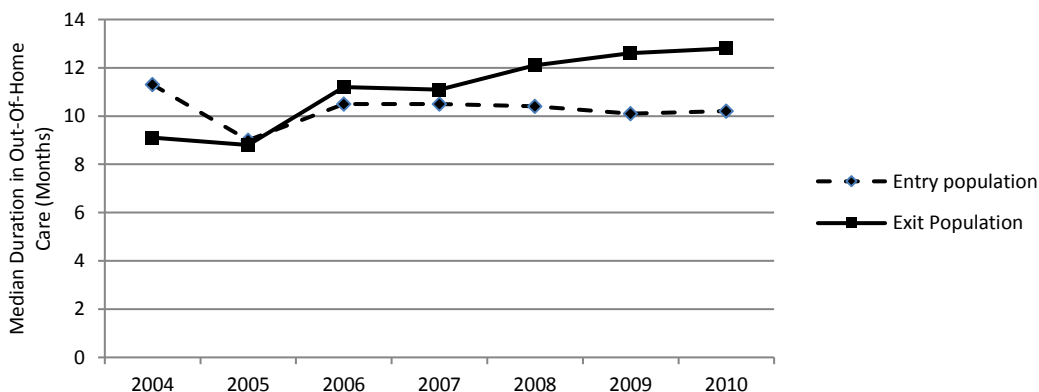
(3) Of all children in foster care on January 1, 2016, what percent had experienced two or fewer placement settings?

- (a) Exit cohort
- (b) Entry cohort
- (c) Point-in-time sample

(4 & 5) The following tables are created from a database that is current as of 6/30/2011. The line graph helps to visualize the trend in the series of numbers shown in each table.

Entry Year	Median Duration (Months)
2004	11.3
2005	9.0
2006	10.5
2007	10.5
2008	10.4
2009	10.1
2010	10.2

Exit Year	Median Duration (Months)
2004	9.1
2005	8.8
2006	11.2
2007	11.1
2008	12.1
2009	12.6
2010	12.8



With the data available to you in these two tables, answer the following questions:

- (4) Which table(s) should you use to determine whether length of stay in out-of-home care is changing in this jurisdiction?
- (a) Table 1
  - (b) Table 2
  - (c) Both
- (5) Based on your choice of data in the question above, would you say that length of stay in out-of-home care in this jurisdiction is...
- (a) Unchanged in the last several years
  - (b) Trending upward
  - (c) Trending downward
- (6 - 7)
- (6) You want to know how likely it is that a child will get placed in foster care after a CPS substantiation of “physical abuse.” Which question gives you the answer?
- (a) Of all children who were placed in foster care in 2015, what percent came into care because of physical abuse?
  - (b) Of all children who were the subject of a CPS investigation during 2015 that resulted in a substantiation of “physical abuse,” what percent were subsequently placed in foster care?
  - (c) Of all children who were in care on September 1, 2015, what percent came into care because of physical abuse?
- (7) You’re doing a case record review to learn about the relationship between the quality of permanency planning and length of stay in foster care. To get the most representative information, you should draw a sample of cases from...
- (a) ...all the foster care cases that closed in 2015.
  - (b) ...all the foster care cases that closed in 2015 where children had a length of stay longer than 1 year.
  - (c) ...all the foster care cases that opened in 2014 where children stayed in care at least 1 year.

**EXERCISE: What Can I Learn From This Table?**

**ANSWERS**

**Question 1: Has the likelihood of experiencing placement moves while in foster care changed over the years?**

Table 1: Number and Percent of Movements Observed Through June 30, 2010

Entry Year	Number by Number of Moves					Percent by Number of Moves				
	All First Entries	No Moves	One Move	Two Moves	Three or More Moves	All First Entries	No Moves	One Move	Two Moves	Three or More Moves
2003	823	230	226	141	226	100%	28%	27%	17%	27%
2004	675	184	194	108	189	100%	27%	29%	16%	28%
2005	659	191	163	114	191	100%	29%	25%	17%	29%
2006	653	221	199	119	114	100%	34%	30%	18%	17%
2007	805	231	275	122	177	100%	29%	34%	15%	22%
2008	741	235	271	127	108	100%	32%	37%	17%	15%
2009	652	243	238	103	68	100%	37%	37%	16%	10%

*The populations analyzed here are the 2003 through 2009 entry cohorts (first admissions to foster care). This table enables you to make a statement about changes in the likelihood of placement moves over time, but only for those entry cohorts in which a comparable amount of children have been discharged as of the censor date (in this case 6/30/2010).*

*The analyst should add a column to this table that shows the percent of children discharged (or conversely, the percent of each cohort still in care) in order to determine which cohorts can reliably be compared to one another. In the more recent cohorts—where we know less about children’s full trajectory—the findings regarding “total placement moves” will change as time goes by; for example, some children who have not moved yet will experience a disruption and move out of the **no moves** column, into one of the other columns.*

EXERCISE: What Can I Learn From This Table?

**Question 2: What is the likelihood of being placed in congregate care?**

Table 2: Number and Percent of Children In Foster Care on January 1<sup>st</sup>, by Placement Type on January 1<sup>st</sup>

Year	All Children	Number by Placement Type				All Children	Percent by Placement Type			
		Foster	Relative	Congregate	Other		Foster	Relative	Congregate	Other
2001	77,077	38,049	19,763	16,391	2,874	100%	49%	26%	21%	4%
2002	74,629	36,308	20,025	15,499	2,797	100%	49%	27%	21%	4%
2003	75,825	37,060	20,745	14,910	3,110	100%	49%	27%	20%	4%
2004	73,688	35,544	20,403	14,817	2,924	100%	48%	28%	20%	4%
2005	74,117	35,240	21,328	14,513	3,036	100%	48%	29%	20%	4%
2006	73,686	35,321	21,965	13,433	2,967	100%	48%	30%	18%	4%
2007	67,196	32,743	18,927	12,534	2,992	100%	49%	28%	19%	4%
2008	62,558	30,634	17,693	11,475	2,756	100%	49%	28%	18%	4%

*The populations analyzed here are the children in care on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 (i.e., eight point-in-time populations). This table tells you where children were placed on a single day. It does not tell you the **likelihood** of being placed in congregate care because the denominator does not include all the children **at risk** of experiencing that placement type. The point-in-time samples ignore children who have already left foster care—these children may have also experienced congregate care, but they would not get counted here. Moreover, there may be children in these point-in-time samples who, on January 1<sup>st</sup> were placed in a family setting but moved to group care later in the year—this table would not capture those congregate care placements either.*

*Instead, the analyst should examine each entry cohort and ask a question such as:*

- *What proportion of children had a first placement of congregate care?*
- *What proportion spent most of their spell in congregate care? (Note: Entry cohorts will be comparable as long as % discharged is comparable)*

EXERCISE: What Can I Learn From This Table?

**Question 3: What is the median length of stay (duration) in foster care and has it changed over time?**

Table 3: Median Duration in Foster Care for Children Exiting Foster Care, by Exit Year

Exit Year	Median Duration
2004	9.1
2005	8.8
2006	11.2
2007	11.1
2008	12.1
2009	12.6
2010	12.6

*The populations analyzed here are the 2004 through 2010 exit cohorts. This table does not tell you the median length of stay for children in foster care because it only examines duration for those who have left care. The calculation ignores the experience (and, therefore, the durations) of children who did not exit during each year (i.e., who were still in care at the end of the year).*

*Instead, the analyst should determine the median duration for each entry cohort. The median duration can be observed as long as half the children in the entry cohort have left care and there are no censored observations that have a shorter length of stay than the median.*

EXERCISE: What Can I Learn From This Table?

**Question 4: How likely is re-entry and has the re-entry rate changed over time?**

Table 4: Number and Percent of All Foster Care Entries, by Admission Type (First Entry or Not First Entry)

Entry Year	All Entries	Number		Percent	
		First Entry	Not First Entry	First Entry	Not First Entry
2001	99,565	77,077	22,488	77%	23%
2002	98,820	74,629	24,191	76%	24%
2003	100,869	75,825	25,044	75%	25%
2004	98,885	73,688	25,197	75%	25%
2005	100,539	74,117	26,422	74%	26%
2006	100,787	73,686	27,101	73%	27%
2007	93,551	67,196	26,355	72%	28%
2008	87,933	62,558	25,375	71%	29%

*The populations analyzed here are the 2001 through 2008 entry cohorts. This table tells you **how many** children in each entry cohort are came in as re-entries, but it does not tell you the likelihood of re-entering after a prior discharge. In order to make a statement about likelihood of re-entry, the population has to include all the children **at risk** of re-entering care—the population analyzed here only includes the children who **did** enter care.*

*Instead, the analyst should do one of two things:*

- Examine the entry cohorts and determine the proportion of children who re-enter care after exiting.*
- Examine the exit cohorts and determine the proportion of exiters who re-enter care. (This is one of the few instances in which an exit cohort is appropriate because **all** the children in an exit population are **at risk** of re-entering care.)*



EXERCISE: What Can I Learn From This Table?

**Question 5: Is the likelihood of being placed into foster care different for white children and African-American children?**

Table 5: Percent of First Entries by Race/Ethnicity

Entry Year	All First Entries	Percent by Race/Ethnicity						
		White	African American	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Other	Unknown
2001	100%	47%	37%	11%	1%	1%	1%	2%
2002	100%	47%	35%	12%	1%	1%	1%	3%
2003	100%	47%	34%	13%	1%	1%	1%	3%
2004	100%	49%	33%	13%	1%	1%	1%	3%
2005	100%	49%	31%	14%	1%	1%	1%	3%
2006	100%	45%	34%	15%	1%	1%	1%	3%
2007	100%	45%	32%	15%	1%	2%	2%	3%
2008	100%	44%	31%	17%	1%	2%	2%	4%

*The populations analyzed here are the 2001 through 2008 entry cohorts. This table tells you **how many** children in the entry cohort fall into each racial/ethnic category, but it does not tell you **how likely** it is for children in each of these groups to enter care. In order to make a statement about likelihood of entering care, the population has to include all the children **at risk** of entering care.*

*Instead, the analyst should examine the general child population in the state (or county, or region, etc., depending on the question), divide that population into racial/ethnic categories, and determine what proportion of each group are placed in foster care. Other risk sets might also be appropriate for analysis, for example:*

- Of all the children who were subject to an investigation, what percent were placed in foster care?*
- Of all the children who had a substantiated finding of maltreatment, what percent were placed in foster care?*

EXERCISE: What Can I Learn From This Table?

**Question 6: What is the likelihood of ending service as a foster parent because of adopting a foster child?**

Table 6: Exit Status of Foster Families By Year Opened

Year Opened	Number					Percent				
	Total Opened	License Revoked	Closed at Request of FP due to Adoption	Closed at Request of FP, other reason	Still Open	Total Opened	License Revoked	Closed at Request of FP due to Adoption	Closed at Request of FP, other reason	Still Open
2010	151	2	54	32	63	100%	1%	36%	21%	42%
2011	145	3	49	31	62	100%	2%	34%	21%	43%
2012	152	1	37	35	79	100%	1%	24%	23%	52%
2013	140	0	25	32	83	100%	0%	18%	23%	59%
2014	145	4	18	24	99	100%	3%	12%	17%	68%
2015	130	1	7	21	101	100%	1%	5%	16%	78%
2016	70	0	0	5	65	100%	0%	0%	7%	93%

*Note that these data are not from an actual jurisdiction, unlike the data in previous tables. The populations analyzed here are the 2010 through 2016 entry cohorts of foster parents opening each year. This table enables you to make a statement about changes in different types of exits (or proportion still serving) over time, but only for those entry cohorts in which a comparable amount of foster parents have been discharged as of the censor date (in this case 6/30/2016). As of this date, a large number of foster parents are still serving, though the proportion who close as a result of adoption is higher than those who close for other reasons.*