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REPORT SERIES | VOLUME 3



Moving Youth to Family

Level of Need and the Impact on Legal and Relational Permanency

MAY 2020

FROM DATA TO PRACTICE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was authored by Whitney Rostad, Amy Zimmermann, Kirk O’Brien, Matthew Claps and Michael Martinez. The authors wish to thank the many individuals who contributed their insights and stories.

Foreword

DEAR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND COLLEAGUES,

Casey Family Programs (Casey) believes that every child deserves a safe, supportive, and permanent family. We work in all 50 states to safely reduce the need for foster care and to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety, success and well-being of children, families, and the local, state, and tribal communities where they live. We do this work grounded in our mission to provide, improve — and ultimately prevent the need for — foster care in America with a particular focus on ensuring youth remain connected to their families, cultures, and communities.

We are excited to share the third *From Data to Practice* report, **Moving Youth to Family — Level of Need and the Impact on Legal and Relational Permanency**. This *From Data to Practice* report builds on what was learned from the previous two *From Data to Practice* reports that examined the impact of the amount of time spent with family by a youth and its relationship to achieving permanency and improving overall well-being. These previous reports found that the faster a youth can be placed with family after entering the dependency system, the more likely, and faster, they are to exit the dependency system with a forever family who is legally committed to them via reunification, adoption, or guardianship.

The specific area of focus for the third report in the series, developed by Casey front-line practitioners, asks the questions:

- What do we know, and what can we learn, about those youth who are referred to Casey for services who are not residing with a family member at the time of referral?
- What are the outcomes for those youth who have no identified potential long-term permanency option, or family member, at the time of referral, thus warranting the need for extensive family-finding, engagement and family-building efforts?
- How does the youth’s level of need impact their prospects for permanency?

Through this analysis, this report seeks to better understand the services and outcomes for this group of youth and provide recommendations for enhancing Child and Family Services (CFS) practices and outcomes and potential application to the larger field of child welfare.

Casey’s CFS team has a long and successful history of supporting families and valuing kinship care as a preferred option for children and youth when they cannot stay with their biological parents. The data and recommendations presented in this report confirm this important approach. The report confirms that we remain on the right track in our core values and commitment to fully adhere to the principle of the centrality of family and cultural relevance in decision-making for all children that we believe is the gold standard for child welfare practice, a principle derived from the Indian Child Welfare Act. Furthermore, this report highlights the importance of long-term relationships that help a youth feel loved and connected and how this relational permanence positively impacts legal permanence.

Many social workers have a unique relationship with data, often prioritizing direct services to children, youth, and families while struggling with the distraction of why data and data entry are needed. In CFS, we are attempting to shift our culture of practice to becoming more data-informed in decision-making, since the most we can ask of our staff is to make the best decisions that they can, at the time that they have to make the decision. Data helps inform that critical thinking to ultimately improve the day-to-day decisions we make in partnership with youth and families. One way we are shifting our culture to be more data-informed is by engaging our direct service staff in telling the stories behind the data. We’ve even adopted the motto, “No data without stories; no stories without data.” With this in mind, we have included a qualitative analysis that is illustrative of the emerging themes and study results. Thus, this report is a testament to our efforts to become more data-driven. It also gives us the opportunity to share some lessons learned in our continued pursuit of providing services that support family-centered practices. This report also helps confirm our assertion that the future of child welfare rests in enhancing practices that identify, engage, support, and strengthen families, in the context of safe and supportive communities, so that youth who come into care can remain connected to their family, communities, and cultures.

Inspired by, and for the benefit of, children, youth, and families,

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FROM DATA TO PRACTICE

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Overview

As part of the *From Data to Practice* series, Child and Family Services (CFS) partnered with Research Services at Casey Family Programs to explore legal and relational permanency outcomes for youth who, at the time they came into Casey out-of-home care (OOHC), were not residing with a family member — either biological family or kin, such as a parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, or fictive kin. The target population was 513 youth who entered Casey OOHC between July 1, 2013, and December 31, 2017, and who exited care between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2017 (an *exit cohort*). Preliminary findings were shared with CFS staff so they could help interpret results and identify next steps.

An important concept we refer to throughout this report is *placement with family and placement not with family*. Placement with family is defined as primary placement in Casey OOHC when the youth is residing in a trial home visit, relative placement, or placement with fictive kin. In other words, a youth is living with a “family” member while also having a dependent status with the child welfare system and being served by CFS. Placement not with family is defined as primary placement in Casey OOHC in a group home, residential treatment facility, nonrelative home (such as licensed foster care or a court-ordered nonrelative/nonfictive kin placement), juvenile correctional facility, in respite placement, on runaway status, or supervised independent living.

This report includes the demographic characteristics and findings for the 513 youth who at the time of referral and entry into Casey OOHC were *not placed* with family. This report also highlights the findings of a qualitative analysis of a small sample of youth, and family stories that are illustrative of the emerging themes and study results.

Key Findings and Recommendations for the Field

Casey field office staff and leadership reviewed findings and discussed several potential next steps that could be taken. The following includes the study's main findings and considerations for how they might inform practice.

1

RELATIONAL PERMANENCY
Youth who come into care not placed with family, but are moved to a family placement while in Casey care, are more likely to retain or obtain relational permanency than those who are never placed with family.

2

LEGAL PERMANENCY
Youth who come into care not placed with family, but are moved to a family placement while in Casey care, are more likely to obtain legal permanency than those who are never placed with family.


3

LEVEL OF NEED
Regardless of level of need, youth who come into care not placed with family, but are moved to a family placement while in Casey care, achieve legal permanency at higher rates than youth who are never placed with family. Specifically, youth with a high level of need who moved to a family placement while in Casey care were more likely to achieve permanency than youth with low needs who were never placed with family.

These findings build on a body of child welfare knowledge that recognizes the importance, from both a value-based and practice perspective, of working closely with family to achieve permanency for youth. Essential child welfare practices of family finding and engagement, youth and family advocacy and empowerment, and teaming collaboratively with youth and families are foundational elements of family-centered practice in child welfare systems. These findings continue to augment the research base that family connections work in improving youth well-being and achieving permanency in child welfare.¹ They are also consistent with the Child and Family Services Practice Model that articulates the values and approaches of day-to-day CFS practice.


HOW ARE WE CURRENTLY MOVING YOUTH TO FAMILY WHILE IN CASEY CARE?

Using tools
for family finding




- Genograms
- Mobility maps
- Case mining
- Youth and family interviews

Busting barriers
to permanency




- Connecting family to community resources
- Coaching around navigating the legal system
- Advocacy on behalf of youth and families
- Financial support
- Developing family support networks

Creating a relationship
with family



- Letter writing
- Life books
- Video sharing
- Visits


Teaming to support permanency



- Partnering with CFS specialty positions
- Use of child and family team meetings
- Using tools, such as the Consultation and Information Sharing Framework, in team meetings
- Continually assessing family members as permanency options
- Foster families supporting youth being connected to family


WHAT MORE COULD WE DO TO MOVE YOUTH TO FAMILY WHILE IN CASEY CARE?

Designate a family-finding position



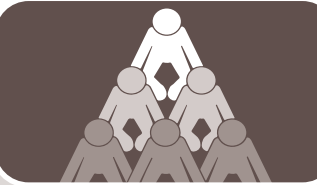
- Engage community volunteers in every office for family finding

Coach from the middle




- In cases in which Casey staff do not have decision-making authority, Casey staff could support other multidisciplinary team members to make timely permanency-related decisions

Expand programming



- Expand wilderness programming to support youth identity development, emotional healing, and other prosocial growth
- Use in-home parent and relative coaching (e.g., Trust-Based Relational Intervention, or TBRI) to support placement transition as a path to permanency²

Build Communities of Hope



- Build capacity for in-home and prevention work in local communities so that removal from family is not needed in the future

What we did

This *From Data to Practice* report explores legal and relational permanency outcomes for the target population of 513 youth who entered Casey OOHC between July 1, 2013, and December 31, 2017, residing in a nonfamily placement and who exited care between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2017 (an exit cohort), and were in care for at least 30 days. The timeframe for selecting the exit cohort was determined according to when the data was considered to be of good quality (i.e., after case management system had been in operation for a year). After pulling data for the exit cohort from Casey’s case management system, we ran descriptive statistics for demographics of youth who entered OOHC without a family placement at the time of entry and compared to those who entered with a family placement.

As an indicator of well-being, specific items of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool (see glossary), measured over time, were aggregated across the behavioral/emotional health, life functioning, cultural, strengths, and risk domains to examine how the needs of youth who enter Casey care without a family placement change over time. We examined the effects of youth being moved to a family placement compared to youth who remained in a non-family placement, on relational and legal permanency, while taking into account their level of well-being need at exit.

Relational permanency, the many types of important, stable relationships that help a child or youth feel loved and connected, was assessed by analyzing the relational permanency item score in the CANS at the time of entry and exit. We examined how youth moving from a nonfamily placement to a family placement and level of need at exit contributed to relational permanency. The CANS relational permanency item used for analysis focuses primarily on a youth’s relationship with their biological parents.

Legal permanency occurs when a child’s or youth’s relationship with a parenting adult is recognized by law, such as through reunification with family, guardianship, or adoption, and the youth exits their dependency status from the child welfare system. We examined whether youth in OOHC who moved from a nonfamily placement to a family placement were more likely to achieve legal permanency, and whether youths’ level of need at exit and relational permanency also contributed to legal permanency. Time-to-event analyses allowed us to compare time to legal permanency for youth based on placement (with or without family) and level of need at case closure. Finally, multivariate analyses were used to examine significant predictors of legal permanency, including relational permanency and level of need by placement status at exit (with or without family).

Who was served

While this *From Data to Practice* report explores outcomes for youth who come into Casey OOHC not placed with family, for context, the first set of data in Figure 1 includes information on the entire exit cohort (i.e., those youth whose first placement was with family, and those whose first placement was not with family). The exit cohort consisted of 1,072 youth aged 1 to 18 years (average age at exit=12.4 years), who had been served in OOHC for at least 30 days; 559 youth came into Casey OOHC placed with family and 513 youth came into Casey OOHC not placed with family.

Youth not placed with family were slightly older on average at enrollment (12.5 versus 10.3 years), and gender breakdowns were similar between the two groups. Youth who came into care not placed with family had on average more placements prior to Casey OOHC and while in Casey care. They also had longer lengths of stay in Casey care. At exit from Casey out-of-home care, 53% of youth whose first placement in Casey care was not with family exited to legal permanency, while 83% of youth whose first placement in Casey care was with family exited to legal permanency.

FIGURE 1: Full exit cohort demographics and outcomes



*Casey has primary case management responsibilities.



Robert and Stella

Background: Robert was referred to a Casey field office when he was 12 years old. Robert has four siblings who were also placed into child protective services. Prior to entering Casey services, Robert had multiple placement disruptions, including placement in a shelter, and had repeated involvement in the child welfare system. He was living in a group home when he was enrolled in Casey services. Robert experienced significant adversity and trauma, both within his family of origin and due to system involvement. Robert endured sibling/family separation, school disruptions, placement changes, legal issues, living on the streets, and the loss of his brother to suicide.

Barriers: Robert struggled with depression and anxiety, engaged in violent behavior toward animals, and struggled to attend school. At the start of Casey care, Casey staff had a difficult time engaging Robert's family.

Casey's services: The Casey social worker developed care plans that focused on connecting with birth family and increasing resiliency-building factors. The resiliency factors included a stable caring adult caregiver, a sense of mastery over life circumstances, strong executive function and self-regulation skills, and affirming cultural traditions.

The Casey social worker focused on supporting the caring adult relationships that Robert already had with his sister Stella and former foster parent and supported building new relationships. The Casey social worker also encouraged Robert to be directly involved in decision-making in his case. The Casey social worker utilized tools such as narrative practice techniques, collaborative problem solving, and cost-benefit analysis.



Robert and Stella

A turning point in Robert's case occurred when he and Stella were collaboratively involved in decision-making regarding the trajectory of their future. Although it was acknowledged that there would be adversity and challenges, the multidisciplinary team (MDT) formed to support them was committed to facing these challenges and overcoming them.

What we found

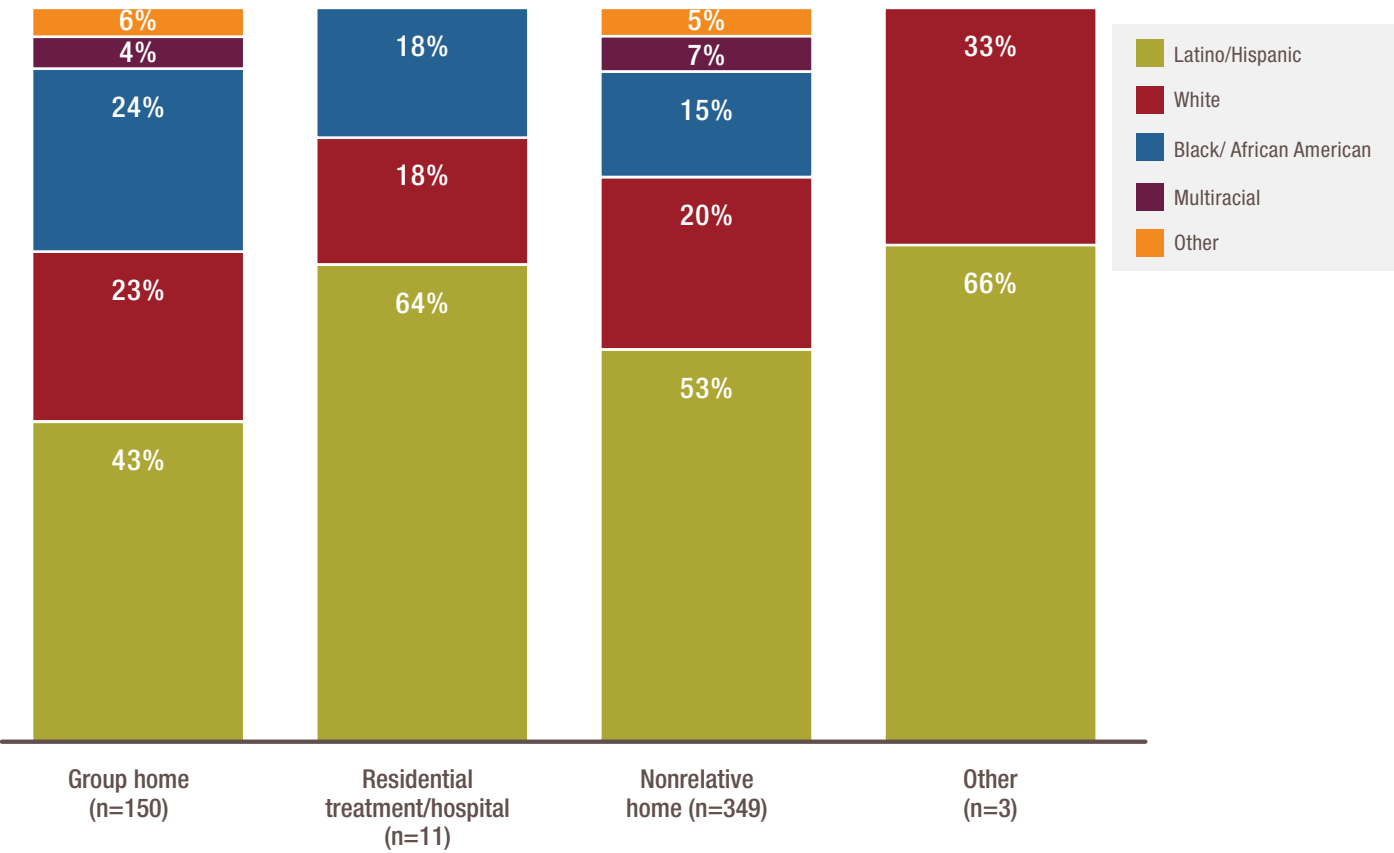
Because this report explores the outcomes for youth who come into Casey care not placed with family, **the remainder of this report will focus on the 513 youth in the exit cohort who were not placed with family upon entry into Casey care.**

DEMOGRAPHICS AND LIVING SITUATION

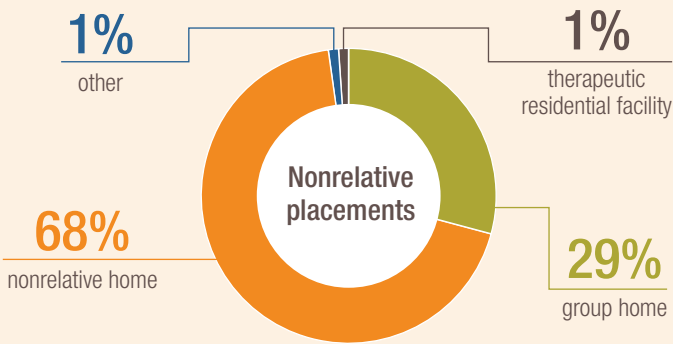
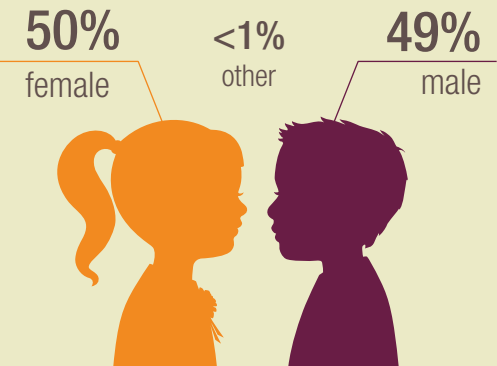
The average age of youth at enrollment into Casey out-of-home care was 12.5 years (SD=4.3), and 49% identified as male. Half of the youth served (n=258) were identified by their Casey social worker as Latino/Hispanic, 21% (n=109) as white, and 18% (n=90) as Black or African American (see Figure 2). This breakdown is similar to the population served by Casey OOHC, with over half of youth identified as Latino/Hispanic, 18% as white, and 16% as Black or African American. Compared to the general population of youth entering foster care in the United States,³ more than twice as many youth who come into Casey care not placed with family are identified as Latino/Hispanic (50% vs. 21% in U.S.) and half as many are identified as white (21% vs. 44%); relatively similar rates of youth entering Casey care without a family placement and entering foster care in general are identified as Black or African American (18% vs. 23%).

The majority of youth who entered Casey care not placed with family were placed in nonrelative foster homes (n=349, 68%). An additional 29% (n=150) resided in group homes. The remaining 3% were placed in therapeutic residential facilities (n=7) or placements designated as “other” type placements, including in respite (n=2), hospital (n=4), or supervised independent living (n=1) (see Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: Youth who entered care not placed with family: demographics and living situation



*Other race/ethnicity category includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Chinese, and other.



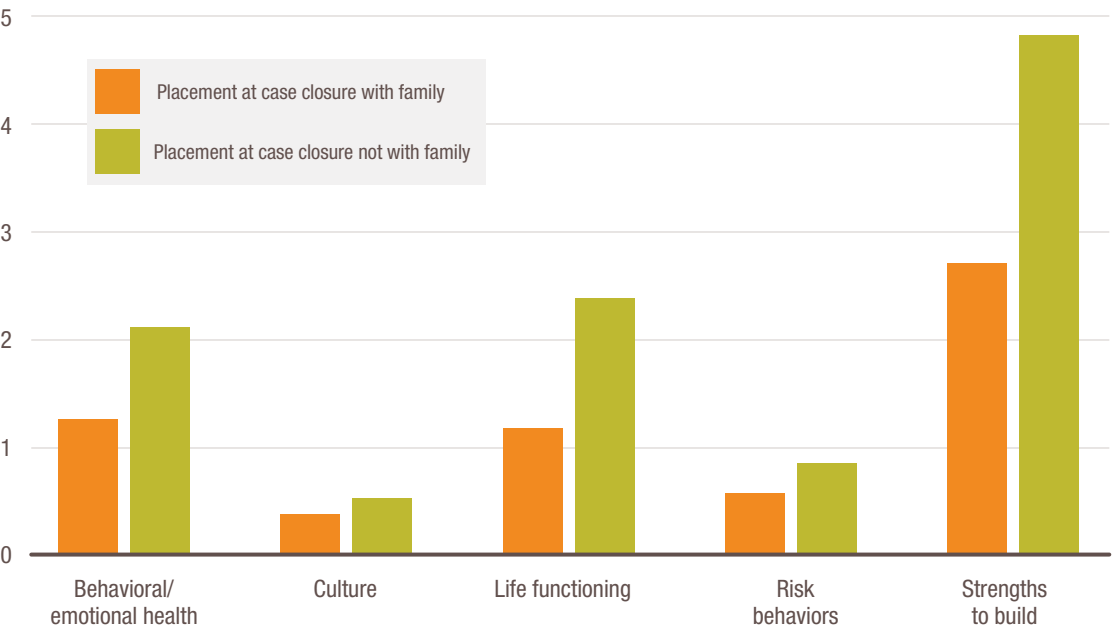
DETERMINING LEVEL OF NEED FOR ANALYSIS

Change in CANS score over time was calculated for each CANS item using the first and last CANS assessment for each youth. Change over time resulted in three possible scenarios for each CANS item:

- **No need:** There was no need or no strength to be built at intake and exit (came and left with it). Thus, this was not an assessed area of concern at any time during service provision.
- **Presenting-resolved:** There was an identified need, or strength to be built at intake, and a strength or no need at exit (i.e., need identified at intake, but improved and did not leave with it, or did not come with a strength, but improved and left with it). Thus, this was an area of concern at intake, but had been resolved by exit.
- **Discovered:** No identified need or strength to be built at intake and then a need or strength to be built at exit (i.e., need or strength to be built discovered along the way that was not identified as an issue at intake, no improvement and did not leave with it).

To examine the association between changes in needs and permanency outcomes, youth who entered Casey care without a family placement were grouped according to the number of presenting needs that were unresolved or discovered across the behavioral/emotional health,

FIGURE 3: Average needs by domain and placement at case closure

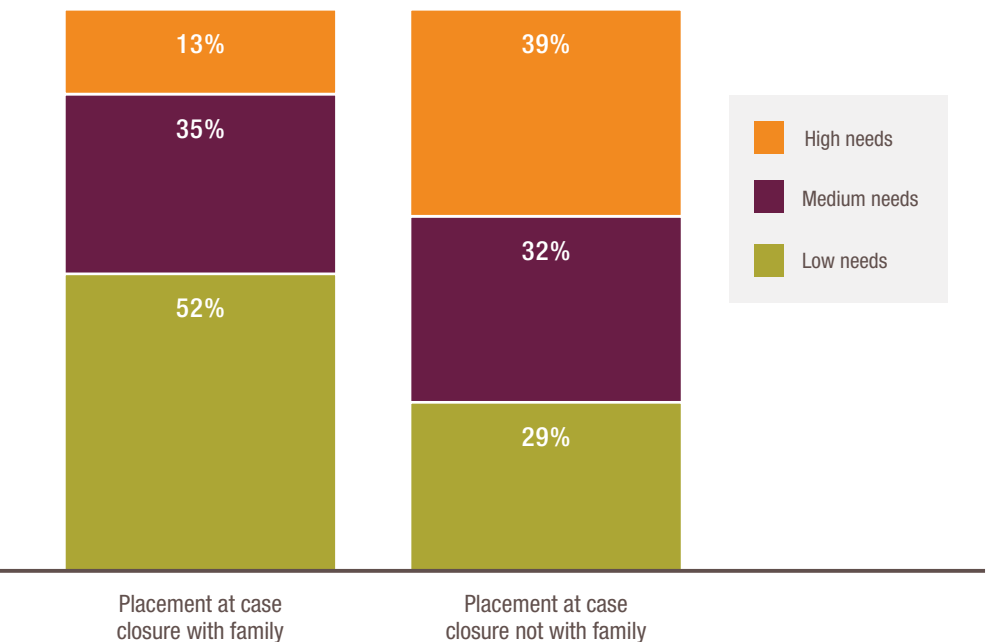


cultural, life functioning, strengths, and risk domains (see Figure 3). Three different groups of youth were created based on the number of needs unresolved and discovered while in Casey care — in other words, this represents their needs upon exiting care:

- **High needs:** Across all CANS items, youth had more than 10 presenting issues that were unresolved or discovered (n=155, 30%)
- **Moderate needs:** Across all CANS items, youth had 3 to 10 presenting issues that were unresolved or discovered (n=170, 33%)
- **Low needs:** Across all CANS items, youth had fewer than 3 presenting needs that were unresolved or discovered (n=188, 37%)

When comparing level of need at the time of exit for those youth residing with family versus those not with family, a notable pattern emerged: youth who were moved to a family placement were more likely to have low needs than youth who were not moved to a family placement, while youth not placed with family were more likely to have high needs at exit (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: Level of need by placement at case closure



Robert and Stella

A barrier to Stella adopting Robert was his age (nearly 18). In Arizona, older children are often discouraged to achieve legal permanency due to Independent Living financial incentives. Barriers also included concerns about Stella’s ability to parent Robert, as she is only 21 years old and a young adult who experienced the child welfare system as well. These barriers were addressed by demonstrating that safety and well-being could be realized with supportive relationships from MDT and the community. Robert’s mother voluntarily terminated her parental rights, realizing that she was unable to care for Robert, in an act of support for him being with family. Casey has supported the birth mother in this case, despite her not being the identified permanency resource, with a realization that she will be in Robert and Stella’s life moving forward.



Robert and Stella

Robert had several caring and supportive adults in his life who loved him unconditionally, including his adult sister Stella and his former foster parent, who was instrumental in supporting this permanency and continues to be a mentor for both Robert and Stella. Because of these relationships, for the first time in his life Robert was able to begin formulating a vision for his future. He became directly and genuinely involved in decision-making. As a result of these relationships and decision-making involvement, Robert began to fulfill the high expectations that so many people had for him. He began to believe in himself and after only three-quarters of his junior year at a high school of over 4,000 students, he received a nomination from each of his teachers for “Student of the Year.”

1

RELATIONAL PERMANENCY

Youth who come into care not placed with family, but are moved to a family placement while in Casey care, are more likely to retain or obtain relational permanency than those who are never placed with family.

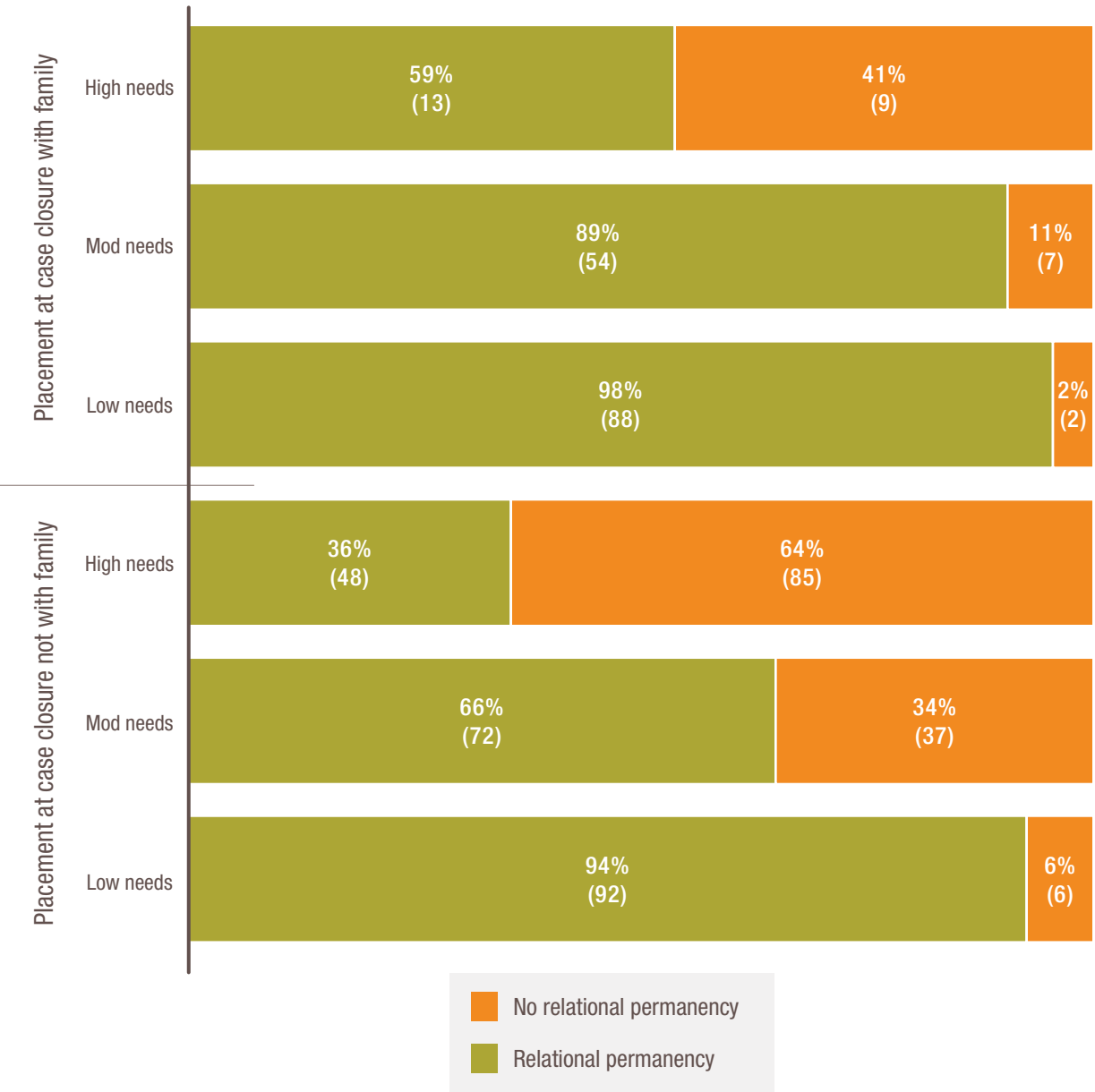
Helping youth develop, maintain and/or obtain stable and significant relationships is a key element of CFS work (see the CFS Practice Model). Relational permanency occurs when a youth has relationships with one or more adults who are reliable and committed to the youth throughout their life. CFS prioritizes identifying extended family members and contacting/consulting with extended relatives to provide family structure and support for a youth and his or her family. Figure 5 shows the number of youth who had achieved relational permanency at exit.

FIGURE 5: Relational permanency at exit



Meanwhile, Figure 6 shows that a greater portion of youth with moderate or high needs who exit care with a family placement obtain relational permanency than youth with similar needs who exit care without a family placement.

FIGURE 6: Relational permanency rates by level of need and placement at case closure





Robert and Stella

When Robert’s adult sister came forth to request providing permanency and Robert agreed, the MDT began assessing the situation, developing supports, safety planning, and addressing barriers. Robert survived foster care, and as a result of valuing, supporting, and believing in birth family, Robert and Stella are experiencing healing and optimistically breaking the intergenerational cycles of trauma this family has endured.

2 **LEGAL PERMANENCY**
Youth who come into care not placed with family, but are moved to a family placement while in Casey care, are more likely to obtain legal permanency than those who are never placed with family.

CFS works diligently to secure both relational and legal permanency for every youth in care. The ultimate goal for children and youth in foster care is for them to transition to safe and legally permanent families. In other words, no youth will age out of foster care, and all youth will be legally connected to a family. For youth who came into care not placed with family, 272 (53%) exited to legal permanency and 241 (47%) exited without legal permanency (e.g., moved to another program or out of region, aged out, ran away) (see Figure 7).

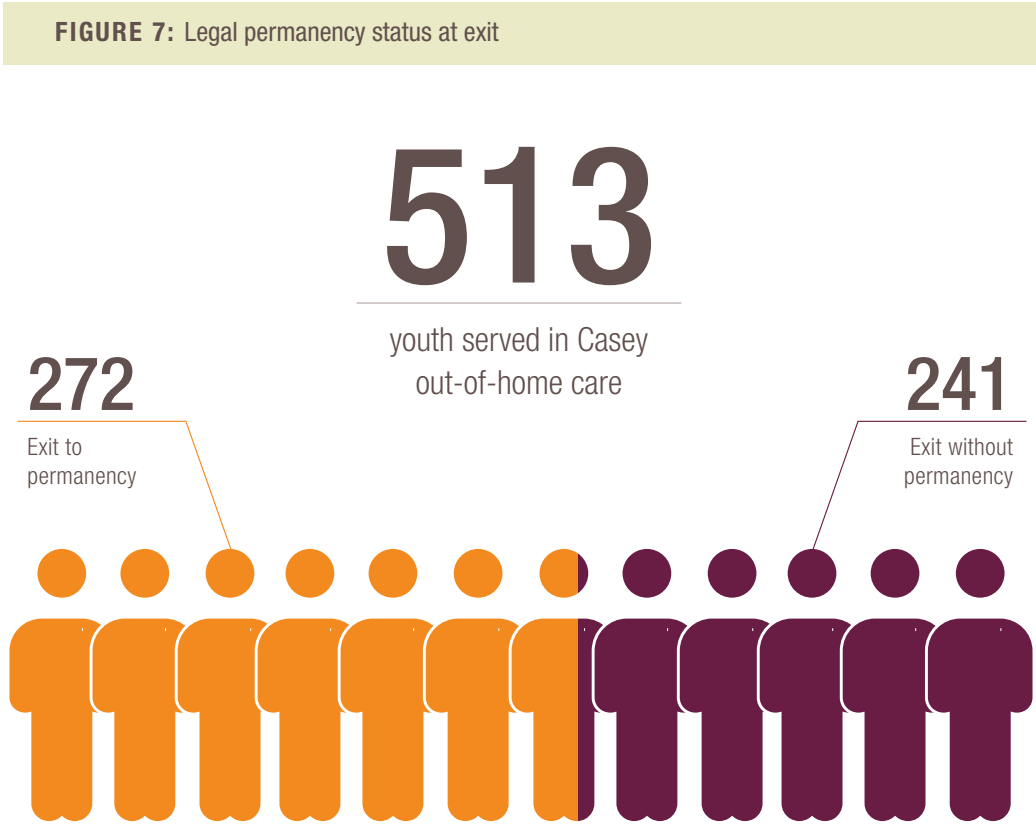
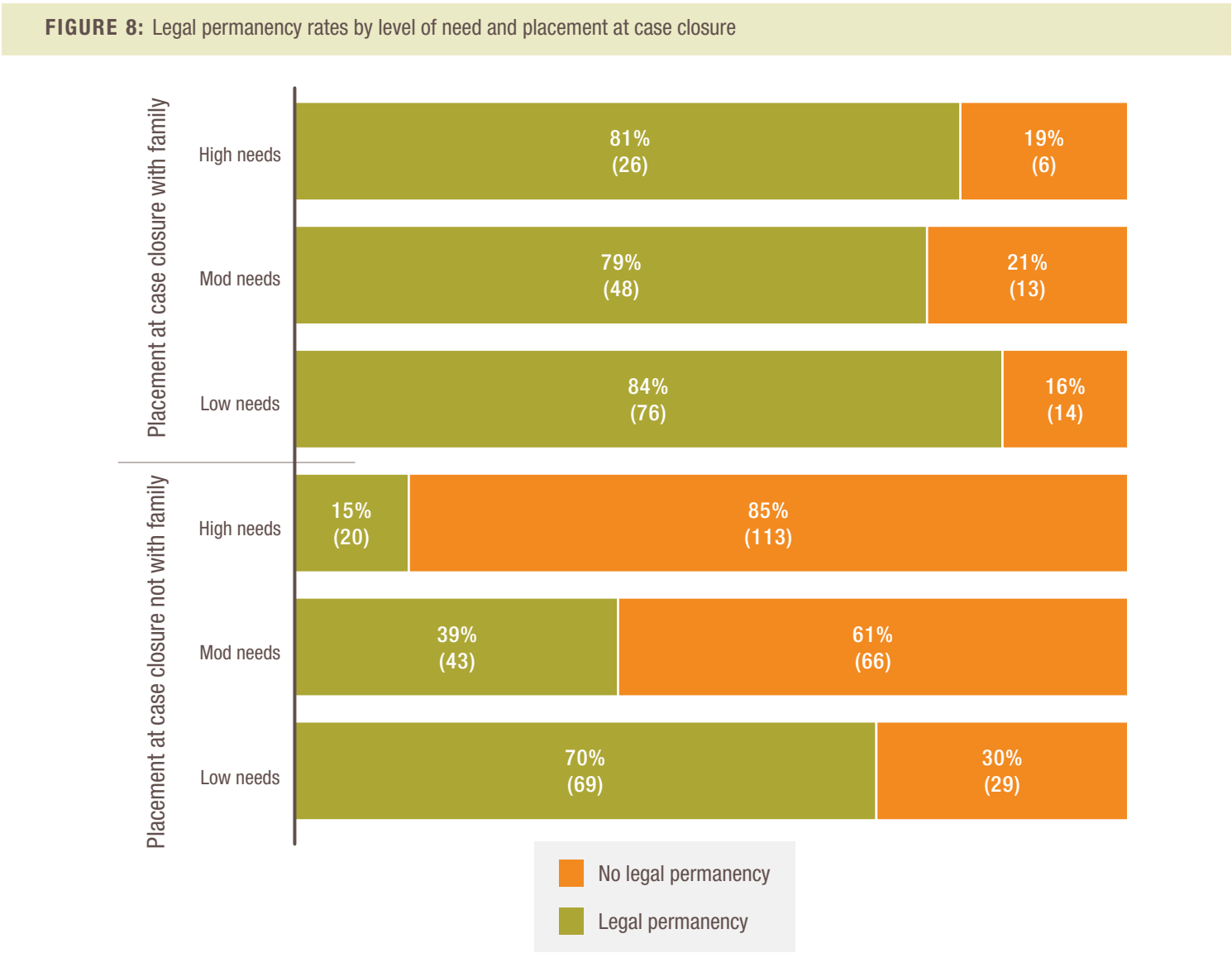


Figure 8 shows that a larger percentage of high needs youth whose placement at case closure was with family exited to legal permanency compared to low needs youth whose last placement was not with family (73% vs. 70%, respectively). Notable in this finding is that regardless of the level of need, there were relatively similar legal permanency rates among youth who were moved to family. This finding illustrates that youth with high needs can achieve legal permanency, despite those needs, and that placement with family can be a mitigating factor for those high needs, which, under other circumstances, could be a barrier to permanency.



FROM DATA **TO PRACTICE**

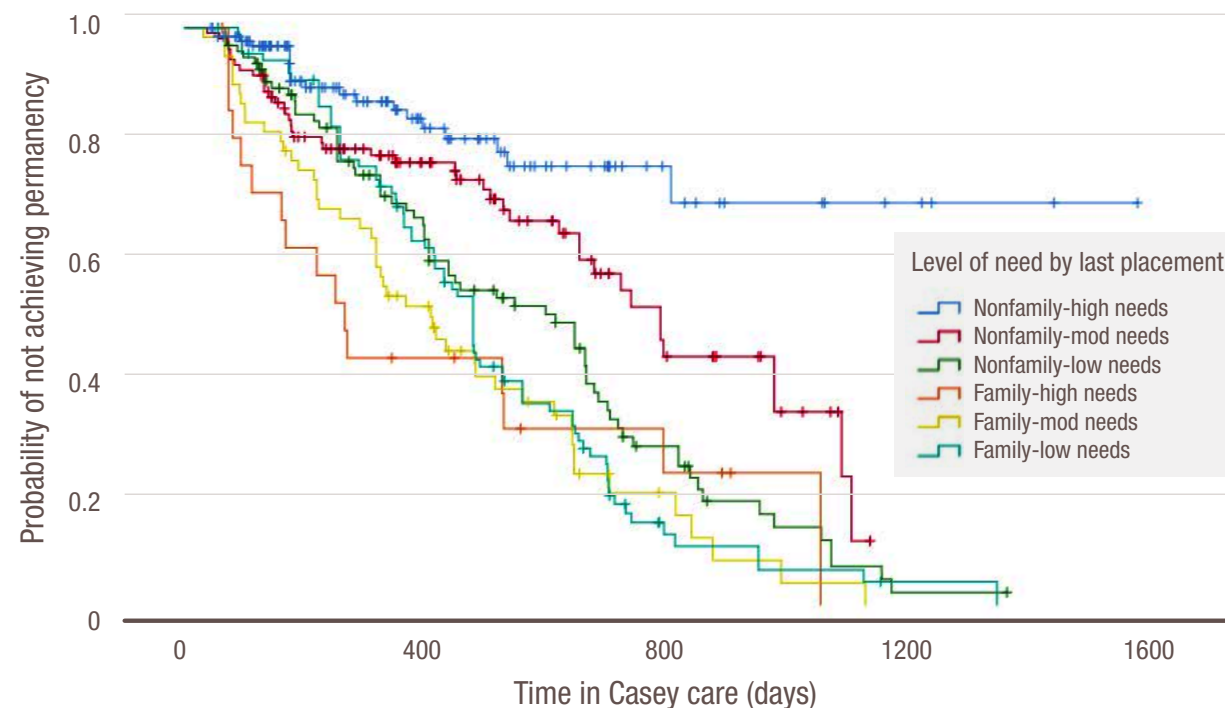
TIME-TO-EVENT ANALYSES

Multivariate time-to-event analyses were completed to compare time to legal permanency based on youth placement and level of need at case closure, as well as several other predictors, including relational permanency. In addition to placement and level of need at case closure, significant predictors included number of placements prior to Casey care, age at enrollment, and relational permanency.

Figure 9 highlights the probability of a youth not achieving permanency over time given the level of need and placement status. The asterisks in Figure 9 indicate where youth are exiting without permanency (for each of the lines). A step down in the line, or curve, represents a case moving to legal permanency. The figure indicates that:

- Youth whose last placement was with family exited to legal permanency at a higher rate and significantly faster than those whose placement at case closure was not with family, regardless of level of need (teal, yellow, and orange lines move closer to 0 probability faster than blue, red, and green lines). This is likely due to those youth achieving legal permanency with those family members with whom they were residing.

FIGURE 9: Probability of not achieving legal permanency for youth by level of need and placement at case closure



- The biggest difference in time to legal permanency was between youth placed with family with high needs at exit (orange line) and youth without a family placement and high needs (blue line). While there were significant differences between youth placed with family with low (teal line) and moderate needs (yellow line), and the reference group of youth without a family placement with high needs (blue line), these differences were less pronounced. Thus, even if a youth has high needs, there is a greater likelihood of legal permanency when youth are moved to family.
- Table 1 shows no significant differences in time to legal permanency were detected for youth whose last placement was not with family with moderate (red line) and low needs (green line) at exit and those with high needs (blue line). In other words, youth not placed with family who have low needs at exit do not achieve legal permanency any faster than youth without a family placement who have high needs. However, youth with low needs in a nonfamily placement do achieve legal permanency at a higher rate.
- Youth who obtained relational permanency were also more likely to exit to legal permanency faster than youth who did not obtain relational permanency.

TABLE 1: Multivariate analysis predicting likelihood of achieving legal permanency

							95% Confidence Interval	
Variable	B	Standard error	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower bound	Upper bound
Number of placements prior to Casey	-0.08	0.02	11.86	1	.00	0.93	0.89	0.97
Placement supervision ^a	0.02	0.14	0.01	1	.91	1.02	0.77	1.33
Age at enrollment	-0.05	0.02	12.63	1	.00	0.95	0.92	0.98
Relational permanency ^b	0.95	0.23	17.65	1	.00	2.58	1.66	4.02
Nonfamily placement - Moderate needs ^c	0.51	0.28	3.27	1	.07	1.67	0.96	2.91
Nonfamily placement - Low needs ^c	0.50	0.28	3.17	1	.08	1.65	0.95	2.88
Family placement - High needs ^c	1.91	0.35	29.50	1	.00	6.74	3.39	13.42
Family placement - Moderate needs ^c	0.99	0.29	11.25	1	.00	2.68	1.51	4.77
Family placement - Low needs ^c	0.65	0.28	5.29	1	.02	1.92	1.10	3.35

a Placement supervision refers to situations in which Casey is acting as the child-placing agency; reference group is non-placement supervision

b Reference group is no relational permanency

c Reference group is Nonfamily placement-High needs group

Note: Race/ethnicity was not significant when including African American, Hispanic/Latino, white, and other (all other race/ethnicity types combined due to low N) in the model

To supplement the analysis above, a stratified random sample of six cases was chosen for a qualitative review to determine if there were any consistent specific practices or interventions (e.g., all youth had a family group conference or all youth had a completed practice tool, such as the Consultation and Information Sharing Framework) used, or other identifiable themes, that contributed to a youth moving to family. The review revealed that there were no common tools or practices that moved a youth to family. Rather, each case had a unique set of barriers and supports that led to the youth's final placement and outcome, and that permanency was relentlessly pursued by the social worker and other individual team members for that youth and family.

For example, in one case, the youth's maternal grandmother was identified as a permanency resource, but achieving legal permanency through guardianship could not occur because of jurisdictional concerns that the youth's mother was still residing in the home. The Casey social worker coordinated multiple family group conferencing (FGC) and multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings and worked to connect the youth with extended family. After it was deemed appropriate, the youth attended family therapy and had therapeutic visits with their mother. After these visits were successful, the permanency plan was changed to reunification with birth mother. Sadly, the youth's mother died unexpectedly. Because of the relationship already built between the youth and the youth's grandmother, the youth was able to be reunified with their grandmother. To support this placement, the Casey social worker convened additional FGC and MDT meetings, and worked closely with the youth's grandmother to strategize around meeting the youth's needs and externalizing behaviors.

Although a common practice or tool to move youth to family was not identified, across all cases, Casey social workers served the youth and families with a relentless and urgent pursuit of permanency and approached their practice from the perspective that youth are best served in the context of family — the pillars of Casey's Practice Model.

Casey's Child and Family Services believes that youth do better when they are connected to family, a core value expressed in our practice model and by our commitment to the principles of the Indian Child Welfare Act — with its call to help youth remain connected to their families, cultures, and communities — as the gold standard of child welfare practice. The findings in this report highlight how this value manifests in our practice and improves the permanency and well-being outcomes for youth who enter Casey care not placed with family. This *From Data to Practice* series is one part of our larger effort to continuously build and improve our learning culture within Casey's Child and Family Services to ensure a safe, loving, and permanent family for every youth.

This research provides important insights into how we approach our practice in the future. The findings further our understanding of how our values affect outcomes among the children and families we serve and affirm our belief that families and cultural relevance play a central role in the decision-making process. Ultimately, a youth's chance of achieving relational and legal permanency is significantly greater if their final placement in Casey out-of-home care is with family (compared to youth whose final placement is not with family), regardless of level of need at exit.

Glossary

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

A multipurpose tool developed for children’s services to support decision-making, including level of care and service planning, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services.

From Data to Practice

An evaluation series that exemplifies the partnership between Child and Family Services (CFS) and Research Services. The inaugural report can be found at <https://www.casey.org/data-practice/>

Legal permanency

A youth’s relationship with a parenting adult that is recognized by law, with the adult being the youth’s birth parent or becoming the youth’s kin, foster, guardianship, or adoptive parent. Legal permanency confers emotional, social, financial, and other status.

Placement supervision

Situations where Casey is operating as the child-placing agency and has oversight over the placement.

Placement in out-of-home care

The primary placement type listed for each youth in Casey out-of-home care on any given day. Placements include fictive kin, group home, juvenile correctional facility, no recorded placement, nonrelative home, relative home, respite care, runaway, supervised independent living, therapeutic residential facility, and trial home visit.

Placement with family

Primary placement in Casey out-of-home care in a trial home visit, relative placement, or placement with fictive kin.

Placement not with family

Primary placement in Casey out-of-home care in a group home, residential treatment facility, nonrelative home, juvenile correctional facility, respite, runaway, or supervised independent living.

Relational permanency

The many types of important long-term relationships that help a child or youth feel loved and connected — relationships with brothers and sisters, family friends and extended relatives, former foster family members and other caring adults. The CANS relational permanency item used for analysis focuses primarily on a youth’s relationship with their biological parents.



References

1. See previous *From Data to Practice* reports here: <https://www.casey.org/impact-of-placem-ent-with-family/>

2. See, for example, Purvis, K.B., Cross, D.R., Dansereau, D.F., Parris, S.R. (2013). Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI): A systemic approach to complex developmental trauma. *Child & Youth Services* 34(4): 360-386. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3877861/>

3. *The AFCARS report*. (2018). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/afcars-report-26>



Casey Family Programs

Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care in the United States. By working together, we can create a nation where Communities of Hope provide the support and opportunities that children and families need to thrive. Founded in 1966, Casey Family Programs works in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and with tribal nations across North America to influence long-lasting improvements to the well-being of children, families and the communities where they live.

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