



# SPI 10 Discharge Rates by Placement Type

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## Introduction

The Ontario Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (OCANDS) is the first data system in Ontario to longitudinally track children and their families involved with the child welfare system. OCANDS extracts administrative data from participating child welfare agencies and standardizes these data to better understand the trajectories of children and their families across their involvement with the system. One of the tasks performed by OCANDS is to calculate “Service Performance Indicators” (SPIs) for participating child welfare agencies. In 2011, 24 SPIs were endorsed by the province as a metric that would represent the key dimensions of child welfare initially put forward by the National Outcomes Matrix (NOM) (Trocmé et al., 2009): safety, permanence and wellbeing, as well as agency management (Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, 2012). For additional contextual information about the SPIs, please see the OCANDS fact sheets (Fallon et al., 2016; Fallon, Filippelli, Black, King, & Ekins, 2016).

With resources from a SSHRC connections grant, we have partnered with a group of agencies to utilize OCANDS to address their specific questions about the experiences of children and their families who are served by their agencies in Ontario. The purpose of this information sheet is to present aggregate data collected from 6 participating agencies for SPI 10, which measures time to discharge for children taken into care within a fiscal year. This is viewed as a proxy for measuring time to permanence. These results have been disaggregated by placement type, with a particular focus on children who are placed in residential or group care.

## Methodology

SPI 10 measures the percentage of children discharged from care at intervals within a 36-month period. That is, for a cohort of children entering care each fiscal year, this SPI tracks how long it takes for them to be discharged from care. SPI 10 results were further categorized by last placement types prior to discharge and, for children placed in group or residential care, to whom children were discharged and age.

## Findings

### **Children Discharged from Care by Last Placement Type (2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 Fiscal Years)**

Table 1 presents the number of children entering into care in fiscal years 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, disaggregated by the child's last placement type, who were discharged within 12 months, 24 months, and 36 months. Overall, these findings indicate that the majority of children taken into care in each of the fiscal years are discharged within 12 months. It should be noted that comparing the rates between categories presents challenges as both the denominators and numerators vary significantly between last placement types. (That is, the rate of a category with a relatively small denominator will fluctuate more dramatically based on a very small number of cases.) **Data from the 2011/12 fiscal year indicates that the majority of children entering into care were discharged by 36 months (87%).**



Table 1.

*Time to Discharge (SPI 10) by Child's Last Placement Type (2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 Fiscal Years)*

By Child's Last Placement Type	2011-12						
	Total Children	12 months		24 months		36 months	
		Number Discharged	%	Number Discharged	%	Number Discharged	%
Adoption Probation	192	24	12.5%	93	48.4%	154	80.2%
Kinship	193	149	77.2%	160	82.9%	162	83.9%
Foster Care	393	303	77.1%	341	86.8%	365	92.9%
Treatment/Specialized Care	141	91	64.5%	118	83.7%	121	85.8%
Group/Residential Care	159	96	60.4%	113	71.1%	121	76.1%
ECM/Transitional housing/ Independent	99	14	14.1%	25	25.3%	65	65.7%
Other	917	678	73.9%	794	86.6%	835	91.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2094</b>	<b>1355</b>	<b>64.7%</b>	<b>1644</b>	<b>78.5%</b>	<b>1823</b>	<b>87.1%</b>
2012-13							
Adoption Probation	189	31	16.4%	92	48.7%	136	72.0%
Kinship	179	131	73.2%	142	79.3%	147	82.1%
Foster Care	357	290	81.2%	323	90.5%	335	93.8%
Treatment/Specialized Care	147	89	60.5%	121	82.3%	129	87.8%
Group/Residential Care	131	72	55.0%	87	66.4%	101	77.1%
ECM/Transitional housing/ Independent	80	11	13.8%	23	28.8%	67	83.8%
Other	748	559	74.7%	639	85.4%	676	90.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1831</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>77.9%</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>86.9%</b>
2013-14							
Adoption Probation	132	28	21.2%	71	53.8%	94	71.2%
Kinship	177	105	59.3%	113	63.8%	115	65.0%
Foster Care	359	253	70.5%	303	84.4%	316	88.0%
Treatment/Specialized Care	146	92	63.0%	107	73.3%	112	76.7%
Group/Residential Care	96	54	56.3%	71	74.0%	80	83.3%
ECM/Transitional housing/ Independent	55	19	34.5%	31	56.4%	53	96.4%
Other	747	516	69.1%	570	76.3%	600	80.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1712</b>	<b>1067</b>	<b>62.3%</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>73.9%</b>	<b>1370</b>	<b>80.0%</b>

### **Discharge Rates from Group/Residential Care by Age Group (2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 Fiscal Years)**

Table 2 provides data related to children who were last placed in group/residential care disaggregated by age. This data indicates that no children below the age of six had group/residential care as their last placement before discharge. The largest number of children in this placement type were between the ages of 13 and 15. On average, just over half of all children were discharged from care within 12 months. Again, it should be noted that comparisons between the age groups are quite difficult due to the low overall numbers of children.



Table 2.

*Time to Discharge (SPI 10) for Children Last Placed in Group/Residential Care Disaggregated by Age (2011-12)*

Age Group	2011-12						
	Total Children	12 months		24 months		36 months	
		Number discharged	%	Number discharged	%	Number discharged	%
6-12	50	25	50%	30	60%	30	60%
13-15	82	57	69.5%	66	80.5%	73	89%
16 or older	2	2	100%	2	100%	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>62.7%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>78.4%</b>
2012-13							
6-12	48	28	58.3%	34	70.8%	36	75%
13-15	70	37	52.9%	43	61.4%	55	78.6%
16 or older	7	4	57.1%	7	100%	7	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>78.4%</b>
2013-14							
6-12	22	12	54.5%	16	72.7%	17	77.3%
13-15	63	36	57.1%	48	76.2%	56	88.9%
16 or older	6	5	83.3%	6	100%	6	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>76.9%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>86.8%</b>

## Limitations

OCANDS collects administrative data from participating CASs. Administrative data was designed for case management. It should be noted that reasons for discharge are varied and include events like family reunification and adoption, as well as aging out of care, and transfers to another child protection agency.

## References

Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare (2012). A new approach to accountability & system management: Report and recommendations. Retrieved from: [http://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/en/CPSCW\\_2012sept-Accountability\\_system\\_management.pdf](http://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/en/CPSCW_2012sept-Accountability_system_management.pdf)

Trocmé, N., MacLaurin, B., Fallon, B., Shlonsky, A., Mulcahy, M., & Esposito, T. (2009) National Child Welfare Outcomes Indicator Matrix (NOM). Montreal, QC: McGill University: Centre for Research on Children and Families.

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