

The Linkages Project Evaluation Statewide Outcomes Worksheets

WORKSHEET – Outcome 5

Outcome 5: Percent of children who do not re-enter foster care

This outcome measures whether children in Linkages families are less likely to re-enter foster care after reunification than children in other child welfare families. **Required fields are in red.**

Linkages Group

Step 1	<p>In this step you will enter the number of children in your CWS/CMS database with a Linkages start date during a specified time period ending <u>at least 12 months</u> earlier than today. Suggested time period: January 2009 – June 2009.</p>	
	<p>Select <u>time period</u> from these drop-down menus: October 2009 through February 2010</p>	
	<p>If you selected a time period <u>different from</u> January - June 2009, please explain why:</p>	<p>Tracking of Linkages Clients within CWS began in October 2009</p>
	<p><u>Number of children</u> with a Linkages start date during the selected time period:</p>	7
	<p><i>NOTE: If you would like to look at only a subset of your Linkages cases, for example only children of substance-using parents or only cases from one regional office, that is fine. Please define your population here:</i></p>	
Step 2	<p>Of the children identified in <u>Step 1</u>, how many had been in foster care and were reunified or placed under guardianship during the time the case was a Linkages case?</p>	1
Step 3	<p>Of the children identified in <u>Step 2</u>, remained out of foster care for 12 months after reunification?</p>	0
	<p>Calculate the percent. (Divide the number in <u>Step 3</u> by the number in <u>Step 2</u> and multiply by 100.)</p>	0%

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Comparison Group

Step 4 Repeat the above calculations for **one of the following comparison groups (a) and (b)**. Enter a checkmark next to the one(s) you are using:

a. **Same time period, but Non-Linkages clients.** In Step 1, select the children from CWS/CMS in the same time period, but who are NOT Linkages clients – use their CWS/CMS case start date.

- **Total number** of (non-Linkages) children in this category:
- Of these children, the **number** that had been in foster care and were then reunified while the Linkages case was open:
- The **number** that remained out of foster care for 12 months:
- The **percent** that remained out of foster care for 12 months:

b. **Different time period, similar clients.** In Step 1, select children from CWS/CMS from a time period prior to the start of your Linkages initiative. If possible, select children whose families had cases open in both Child Welfare and in CalWORKs (i.e., they are similar to Linkages families).

- Time period specified: **from**
through
- **Total number** of children in this category:
- Of these children, the **number** that had been in foster care and were then reunified while the Linkages case was open:
- The **number** that remained out of foster care for 12 months:
- The **percent** that remained out of foster care for 12 months:

Analysis Questions

1. Compared to your Comparison Group, does your Linkages Group have a **higher, lower, or similar** percentage of children who did not re-enter foster care within 12 months of reunification?

Only one (1) Linkages client reentered foster care after reunification.

2. Why do you think you might be seeing this result?

7 Linkages clients were active during the period, of whom only 1 reunified. The sample size is too small to make conclusions about causality. The program's effect may be more apparent in the future as more data is collected.

3. Any further comments or explanations about your calculations?

Both our Linkages and Comparison groups only included those clients with a removal from the home.