Statistics

CIP Performance Measures

Administrative Rule 1(F)

Contact: Colleen Saylor; email: colleen.saylor@courts.in.gov

The Court Improvement Program ("CIP") Performance Measures were established by Ind. Administrative Rule 1(F) to track and measure court performance in Child in Need of Services ("CHINS") cases. They provide an opportunity for courts to identify roadblocks to timely permanency in their local child welfare systems.

Every court with CHINS jurisdiction is required to report quarterly on several 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 measures are calculated by converting data directly from the Odyssey or Quest case management systems or through manual entry directly into the application through a text form.

The Timeliness Measures report is 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, each year.

Cases are only included if an adjudication occurs through a voluntary agreement or trial that a child is a CHINS, and the case proceeded to disposition. CHINS petitions dismissed or discharged prior to a CHINS adjudication are excluded. Informal adjustments that did not lead to a CHINS adjudication are also excluded. The current set of timeliness measures are:

1. Time to Permanency– this measures the time from the date the CHINS 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, as recognized by Ind. Code 31-34-21-7.5.
    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, and the case was closed, but no adoption or guardianship was completed.
    d. Guardianship: The child was placed in legal guardianship.
    e. Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement: The child was placed in another living arrangement, such as a group home, or independent living.

Other: Cases that reach disposition but close for other reasons (e.g., "aging out," case transfer, death of the child, runaway, emancipation, or other such reasons unrelated to the child's permanency) may be listed as Other.

2. Time to First Permanency Hearing – this measures the time from the date the CHINS petition was filed until the first permanency hearing. For these measurements, permanency hearings must be calendared as such and must meet all the requirements of I.C. 31-34-21-7. This includes, but is not limited to, the requirements that the permanency plan be filed; parties have notice of the permanency hearing and a copy of the permanency plan, 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 ("TPR") petition was filed. A termination petition must be filed when a child is removed from the home for 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 I. C. 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 for termination has not been concluded.
5. Time to 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.
6. Time to Adjudication – this measures the time from the date the CHINS petition was filed until the hearing date of the child's adjudicatory hearing (fact finding). This date is the date upon which a fact finding, or other proceeding was completed, even if the order finding the child to be a CHINS was not issued on that date. If there is no fact-finding hearing because the parties have entered admissions, the date of the hearing at which admissions were entered is used. If the parties have separate fact-finding hearings, the date of the first completed fact-finding hearing is used.
7. Time to Disposition – this measures the time from the date the CHINS petition was filed until the date of the child's dispositional hearing. If the dispositional hearing happened for both parents on different dates, the date of the first completed fact-finding hearing is used.
8. Timeliness of Dispositional Hearing – this shows the percentage of cases in which disposition occurs within 10, 30, and 60 days of the child's adjudication. I.C. 31-34-19-1 requires that the dispositional hearing be completed not more than 30 days after adjudication.
9. Timeliness of Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings – this shows the percentage of cases in which there is a final TPR order within 90, 120, and 180 days of filing of the TPR petition. I.C. 31-35-2-6 requires the TPR hearing to be commenced within 90 days and concluded within 180 days, or the case shall be dismissed upon motion of any party.

10. Time from Disposition to Termination of Parental Rights – this shows the percentage of cases in which TPR is filed within 3, 6, 12, and 18 months of the dispositional hearing.
11. Achievement of Child Permanency – this shows the percentage of children in CHINS cases who reach reunification, adoption, relative placement, or guardianship permanency outcomes.
12. Children Not Reaching Permanency – this shows the percentage of children in CHINS cases who do not reach reunification, adoption, relative placement, or guardianship permanency outcomes.
13. Timeliness of First Case Review Hearing – this measures the percentage of CHINS cases where the first case review occurs within either six months of removal from the home or six months from the dispositional decree, whichever comes first, as required by I.C 31-34-21-2. Cases are classified as untimely if the first review hearing occurs more than six months after the date of removal or disposition, whichever comes first, or if no first review hearing was held within that timeframe.
14. Timeliness of Adoption Petition – this shows the percentage of cases in which an adoption is filed where the adoption petition is filed within 3, 6, and 12 months of completion of TPR.
15. Timeliness of Adoption Proceedings – this shows the percentage of cases in which an adoption is filed where the adoption is completed within 3, 6, and 12 months of filing of adoption petition.
16. Time to Final Termination of Parental Rights Hearing – This shows the percentage of cases in which there is a final TPR hearing within 0-90, 91-180, 181-365 and 366 or more days of filing of the TPR petition. IC 31-35-2-6 requires the TPR hearing to be commenced within 90 days and concluded within 180 days, or the case shall be dismissed upon motion of any party

Other measures may be added as the need arises, and useful updated guidance may be found in the CIP INcite application.