

## 2013 DATA REPORT

### Summary

Wyoming Juvenile Courts are doing a good job expediting permanency for abused and/or neglected children involved in the court system.

Data collected in 2013 on the required **timeliness measures** indicates:

The median time from the filing of the original abuse and neglect petition to the 1st permanency hearing in Wyoming is **358 days or less than 1 year**.

The median time between each subsequent permanency hearing is **283.5 days**.

The median time from the filing of the original abuse and neglect petition to the filing of the petition to terminate parent rights is **523 days or 17-18 months**.

The median time from the filing of the original abuse and neglect petition to the actual termination of parental rights (TPR) (Order Terminating) is **688 days or 22-23 months**.

The median time from the *filing of the original abuse and neglect petition* to legal permanency (adoption, guardianship or reunification) is **288 days or 9-10 months**.

Adoption is achieved within **884 days**.

Guardianship is achieved within **445 days**.

Reunification is achieved within **185 days**.

Data collected in 2013 on **quality measures** indicates:

Wyoming averages **1.62 judges** per combined abuse and neglect and TPR case.

Wyoming averages **.77 continuance (less than 1)** per combined abuse and neglect and TPR case.

**CJP continues to develop and monitor interventions promoting timely and quality court hearings.**

### Data Collection Processes...

Wyoming Juvenile Court cases are confidential and the information contained in these files is protected. The data collected as part of this 2013 data report was safeguarded and gathered from (1) review of juvenile court dockets (not actual files) and (2) review of data contained in the Wyoming Department of Family Services case management system (only aggregate data was reviewed). The documents reviewed were made available for statistical purposes authorized under Wyoming Statute §14-3-439 and via Court Order. Only reviewers who had access to Juvenile Court documents via their current agency employment or Court Order were allowed to participate in data collection activities.



Children's Justice Project  
A PROJECT OF THE WYOMING SUPREME COURT

Visit the CJP Website at:  
<http://www.courts.state.wy.us/>

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## Children's Justice Project

### 2013 DATA REPORT

#### What is the Children's Justice Project (CJP)?

The mission of the Wyoming Children's Justice Project is to improve outcomes for abused and/or neglected children involved in the court system. CJP was established in 1999 as a project of the Wyoming Supreme Court. The Chief Justice appoints an advisory council to set policy and oversee CJP work. The project is funded by federal court improvement grants administered by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal grant program was established in 1994 as a response to the dramatic increase in child abuse and neglect cases and the expanded role of courts in achieving stable and permanent homes for children in foster care. All 50 states receive court improvement grant funding.

#### What are the Goals of CJP?

To ensure that proceedings related to child abuse and neglect promote: (1) due process of law; (2) timely, thorough and complete court hearings; (3) high quality legal representation to parents and children, both in and out of court, in an ongoing fashion; and (4) engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification and adoption.

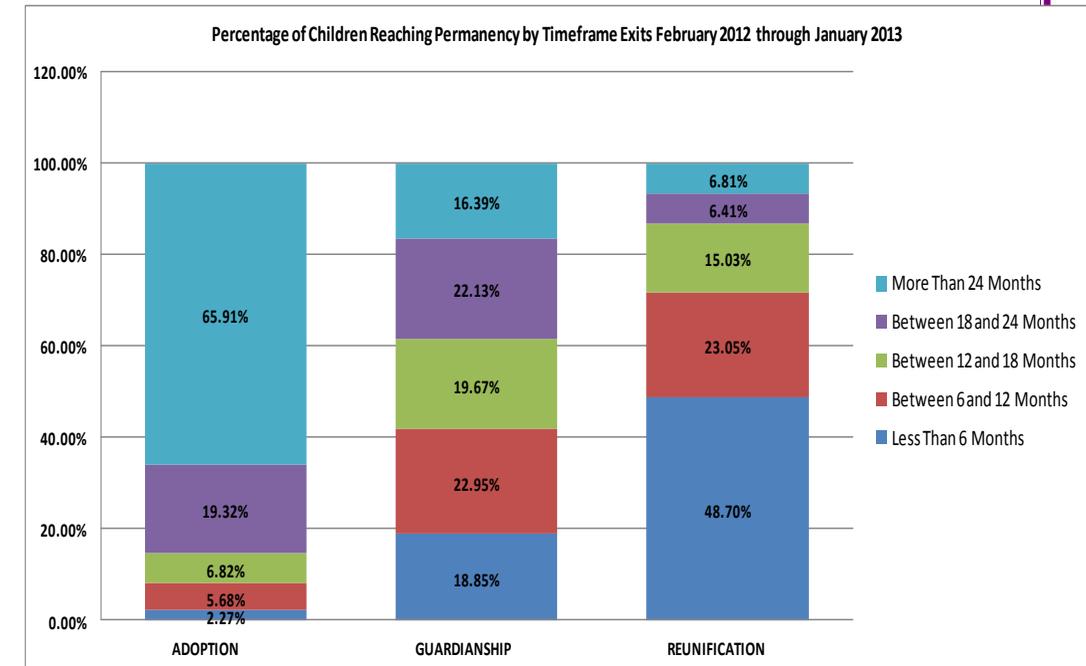
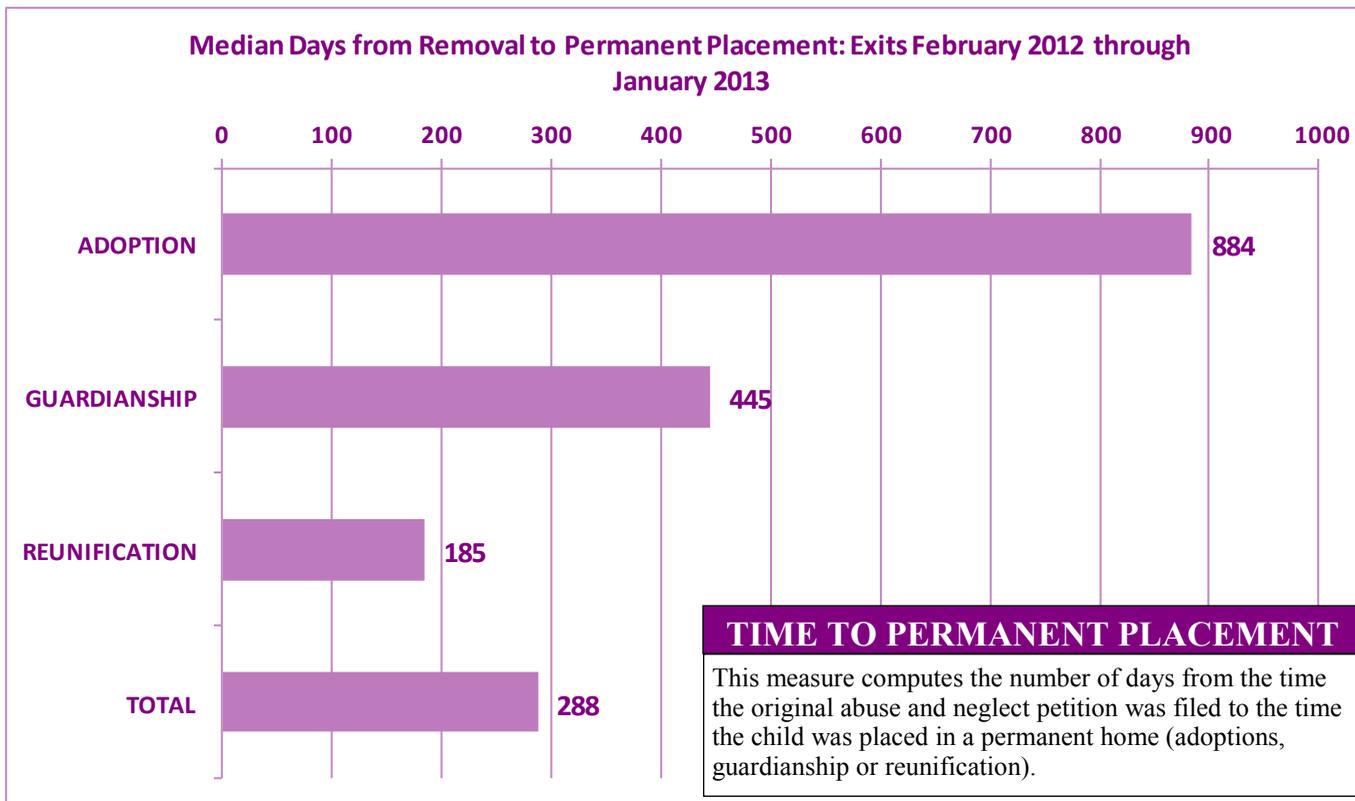
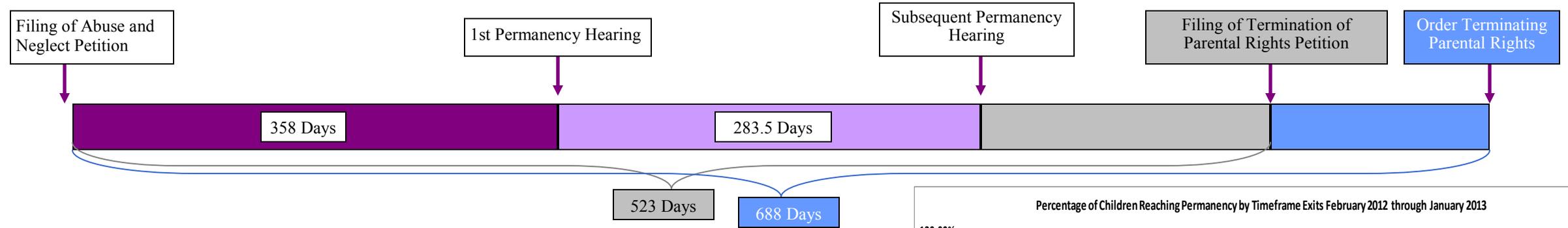
#### What are CJP's Data Requirements?

CJP is required to gather juvenile court data and report information on timeliness and quality measures to track and assess compliance with federally required timelines. CJP is required to implement Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) processes that use data to identify, inform and systematically monitor the implementation and results of programs and interventions in an ongoing fashion.

## WHAT IS THE GOAL? TIMELINESS

The desired outcome in Juvenile Court cases is to achieve permanency for children as quickly as possible, by minimizing delays in court proceedings. Children can be damaged by remaining too long in temporary foster care homes.<sup>1</sup>

The information below was generated from a review of 52 Wyoming Termination of Parental Rights cases (and the underlying abuse and neglect case) filed between February 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013 and a review of aggregate data from the DFS Case Management System (WYCAPS) from February 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013.



### CURRENT INTERVENTIONS:

- (1) Development of Guardian *ad Litem* Handbook and Training Modules
- (2) 2014 Children's Justice Conference
- (3) Targeted Trainings (BlogTalk)/ CJP Publication Marketing and Distribution
- (4) Permanency Roundtable Project (CJP/DFS)
- (5) Utilization of Unified District Court Case Management System (WYUSER)
- (6) Future Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Activities

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Court Performance Measures in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases: Key Measures (2008).