

2015 STATEWIDE 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 2015 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 **427 days**.

The median time between each subsequent permanency hearing is **351 days**.

The median time from the filing of the original abuse and neglect petition to the filing of the petition to terminate parental rights is **726 days**.

The median time from the filing of the original abuse and neglect petition to the actual termination of parental rights (TPR) (Order Terminating) is **940.5 days or 31 months**.

The median time from the *filing of the original abuse and neglect petition* to legal permanency (adoption, guardianship or reunification) is **284 days or 9.46 months**.

Adoption is achieved within **912 median days**.
Guardianship is achieved within **483 median days**.
Reunification is achieved within **229 median days**.

Data collected in 2015 on **quality measures** indicates:

Wyoming averages **1.1 continuances** per combined abuse and neglect and TPR case.

Wyoming GALs are appointed in a median time of **2.5 median days** from the filing of an abuse/neglect petition.

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 2015 data report was safeguarded and gathered from (1) review of juvenile court dockets (not actual files); 2) review of docket entries from WyUser (the Wyoming Supreme Court District Court Case Management System and (3) 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.



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

For additional information, please contact:

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Children's Justice Project

2015 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.

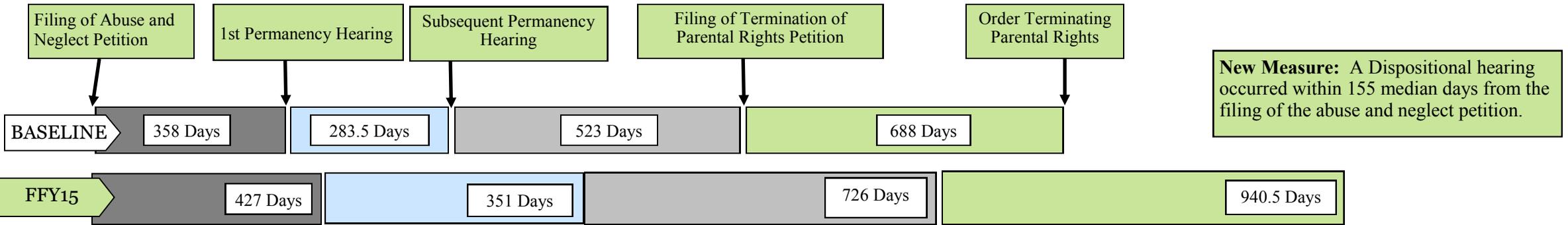
What are CJP's Data Requirements?

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.¹

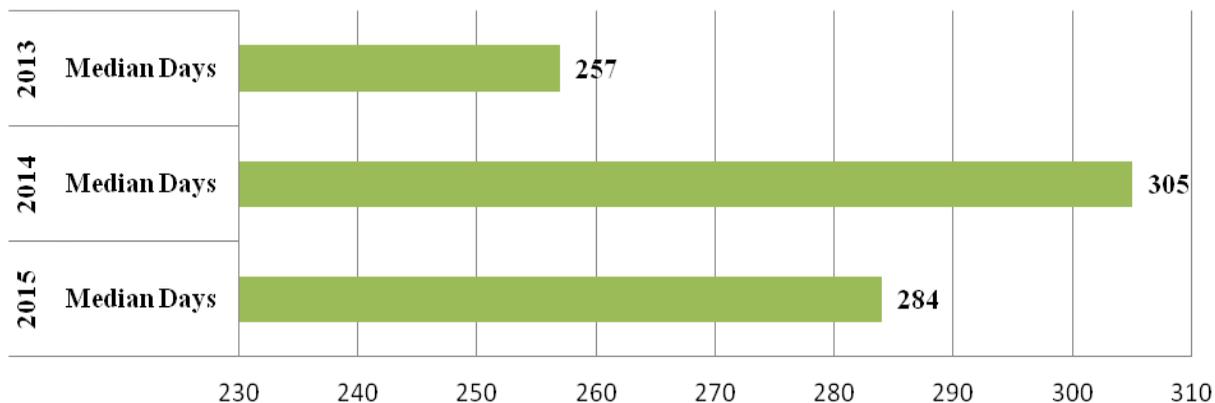
The information below computes the number of days between Abuse/Neglect and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) case filing dates and key hearings. The FFY15 statewide information was generated from a review of 47 Wyoming TPR cases (and the underlying Abuse/Neglect case) filed between October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.



TIME TO PERMANENT PLACEMENT

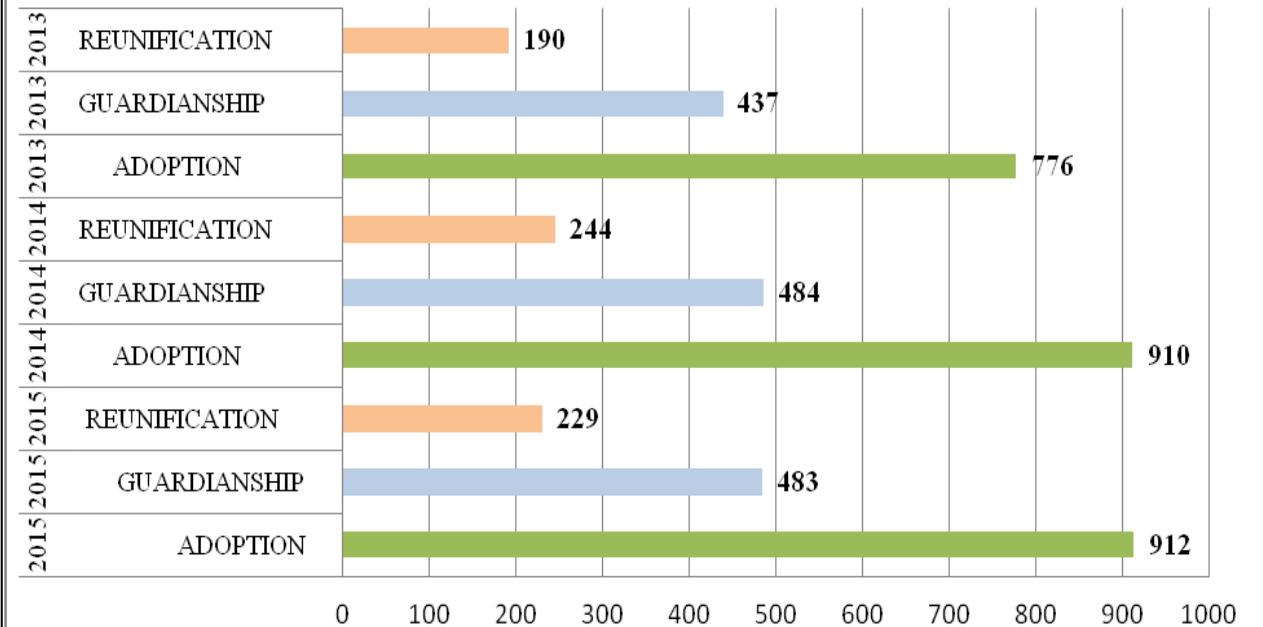
This measure computes the length of time between the day a child was removed from the home and placed into DFS custody to the day the child was discharged from DFS custody. The data used to create the bar graph below was generated from aggregate data contained in the DFS Case Management System (WYCAMS) for children that discharged from DFS custody in FFY13, FFY14 and FFY15. The statewide BASELINE for "time to permanent placement" is 288 days.

Statewide "Time to Permanent Placement" by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY13, FFY14 and FFY15)



Statewide Median Days to "Permanent Placement" by Exit Type:

Reunification, Guardianship and Adoption (FFY13, FFY14 and FFY15)



¹ 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).