

## SELF EVALUATION TEAM BULLETIN (# 04-03)

**Topic:** Progress on Achieving Placement Stability for Children in Out-of-Home Care

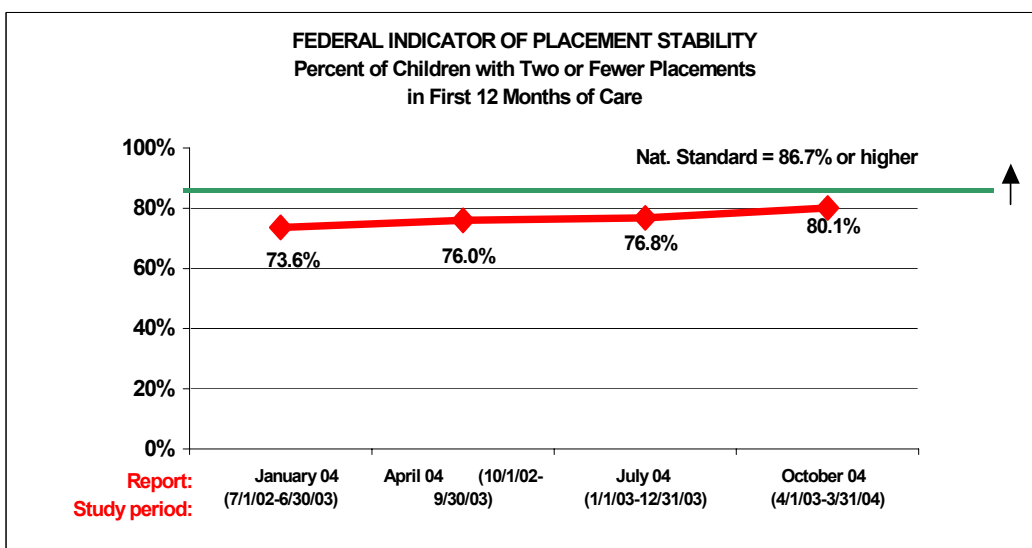
**Description:** The OC Children and Family Services Self Improvement Plan (SIP) focuses on improving permanency outcomes for children. One goal of the SIP is to:

- **REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PLACEMENT MOVES A CHILD EXPERIENCES**

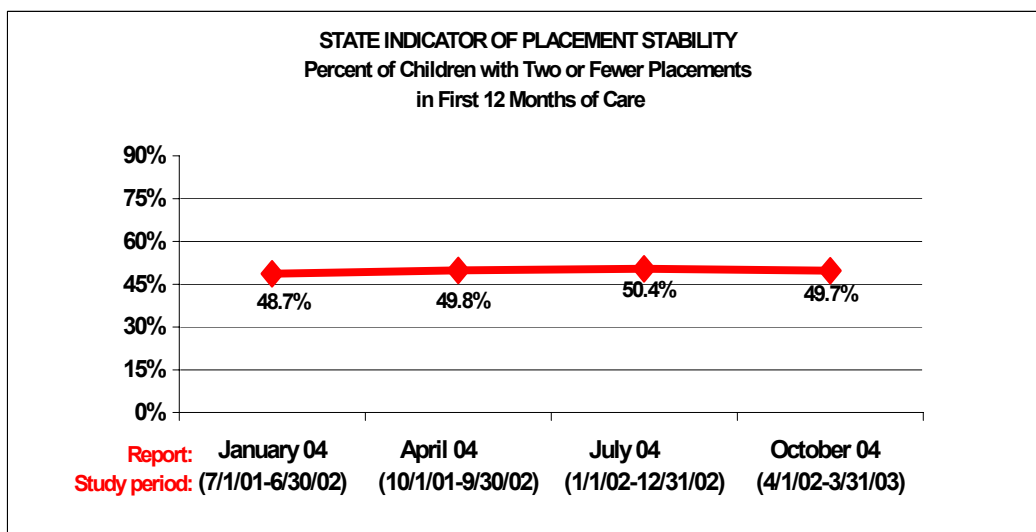
**Progress:** Progress on this goal is tracked using two data indicators in the AB 636 Outcomes and Accountability report. SSA receives this report on a quarterly basis from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Each indicator looks at our performance in slightly different ways. \*

The Federal indicator looks only at the children in care less than 12 months in the most recent study year. The State indicator follows children longitudinally from the year they enter care and looks at the number of placements for children in care at least 12 months.

Since the first report in January 2004, the Federal indicator shows that the percent of children with two or fewer placements in their first year of care has increased by 6% and is approaching 86.7%, the level that is expected in order to be in compliance with Federal standards.



The State indicator is also beginning to show improvement. Because the State indicator measures outcomes for children based on the year they entered care and follows these children forward over time, it is reporting on children who entered care earlier than the children assessed by the Federal indicator. Therefore, it will take longer for this measure to show the impact of new CFS practices. Another important difference between the Federal and the State indicators is that only the Federal indicator has a standard or goal that must be met. At this point in time, the State has not set a standard, but is looking for progressive improvement in achieving placement stability for children.



**Conclusion:** New CFS practices are reducing the number of placement moves for children.

\***More Information:** About the SIP is posted on the website: <http://www.family2familyoc.com/>

About AB 636 outcomes: [cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Ccfsr.asp](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Ccfsr.asp)