

I have concerns with the foster care placement stability measure. As the resolution for children in care measure for 2 years indicates a recognition of the vulnerability of this population in terms of waiting too long for permanency, so should the placement stability measure. In my county, we are historically able to exceed the current standards for our children in care for under 2 years. However, we have historically had to challenge ourselves to meet the standard for children in care for longer than 2 years. Additionally, I do not feel that the incidence ratio is as helpful to stakeholders as the measures that refer to actual children. This data may prove less beneficial to practitioners and officials who need to make sense of what it all means when appropriating funding, etc. For example, as the round 1, 2 measures indicate, the federal benchmark for kids in care for 2 or more years is much lower than the one for children in care under 12 mo or under 24 mo. This, in and of itself, is an indication that this is a more vulnerable population and one whose quality of service must be carefully monitored.