Measuring Transformation & Elevating Youth Voice in Child Welfare

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month
#ChildAbusePreventionMonth

To Report Child Abuse and Neglect in Ohio
Call 855 O-H-CHILD
855-642-4453
Welcome and Introductions

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The Challenge

Ohio was ranks in the bottom 10% nationally on child welfare outcomes (2018 data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottom 10%</th>
<th>OH</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Those who attained a High School Diploma/GED</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those who were employed</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those who were enrolled in school</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those who experienced incarceration</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottom 20%</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Those who experienced homelessness</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those who have a connection to an adult</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My hope for youth in care is that their voices can be heard in a meaningful way.
How is Ohio doing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Statistics</th>
<th>Does Ohio meet the National Standard?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The percentage of children placed in congregate care among counties ranges from as high as 63% to as low as 5%. | **Safety**<br>More Ohio children experience multiple instances of abuse and neglect than nationally.  
More Ohio children experience maltreatment while in care than nationally. |
| Over 1,000 youth aged out of care in 2019 and 2020, but in 2021, the number decreased to 952. | **Permanency**<br>Ohio performs better than average on measures of permanency.  
Of children who are reunified, more return to foster care within 12 months than the national average. |
| Participation in Bridges, which offers independent living services to youth who age out of care, increased by more than 20% in each of the last two years. | **Stability**<br>Placement stability is an area of strength for Ohio, with children moving less frequently than in other states. |
| Roughly one in four children have more than one report of maltreatment in one year. | |
| Children in Ohio who are Black are three times more likely to be placed in out-of-home care as children who are white. | |
How are counties doing?

Dashboard Link: https://cdfohio.org/policy/resources/kids-count/

Measuring Transformation & Elevating Youth Voice

IN CHILD WELFARE

Benchmark County Profile

This is a sample profile that displays data for a hypothetical county that performs better than average on specific measures. Population and other narratives in the header show the state averages. To view a specific county, visit https://cdfohio.org/policy/resources/kids-count/

First and Foremost, Keep Children Safe.

This profile includes key indicators that measure how well our community is doing in ensuring the safety, permanency, stability, and well-being of children and youth in our community. The measures are important because they tell us which areas are most in need of improvement and how well we are preventing child maltreatment.

Every Child Deserves to be Listened to.

This profile includes key indicators that are critical to the health and well-being of children and youth in our community. The measures are important because they tell us which areas are most in need of improvement and how well we are preventing child maltreatment.

Racial Equity Must Remain Central.

This profile includes key indicators that are critical to the health and well-being of children and youth in our community. The measures are important because they tell us which areas are most in need of improvement and how well we are preventing child maltreatment.
Reason to Hope

Reform efforts in Ohio

• Children Services Transformation
• Youth and Family Ombudsman Office
• Addressing Racism
• Safe Babies Court Team
• Family First Prevention Services

“A Youth Ombudsman office represents hope to many of us who were in foster care."
Looking Ahead

Designing a Youth Experience Survey

“We also need to be taking qualitative, anonymous, if need be, surveys of our kids in care, frequently, and asking them if they are being maltreated.”
**Key Takeaways**

- Leaders in Ohio recognize the challenges faced by youth in the child welfare system and are working toward reform.
- Identifying measures is a key part of continuous quality improvement.
- Focus on performance measures that matter to youth
- Include youth interviews in performance measures
- Reimagine existing processes as performance measures
- Include measures of well-being from other systems
Challenges and Intersections

• Bias in data and the importance of survey design
• Caseworker workload and workforce challenges in Ohio
• Proactive role of the Youth Ombudsman office in using the data
• Status updates about the Youth Ombudsman office
• Youth Ombudsman offices in other states
• Initiatives in other states
Questions

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