

2014 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 2014 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 **434 days**.

The median time between each subsequent permanency hearing is **384.5 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 **635 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 **678 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 **305 days or 10 months**.

Adoption is achieved within **910 days**.
Guardianship is achieved within **484 days**.
Reunification is achieved within **244 days**.

Data collected in 2014 on **quality measures** indicates:

Wyoming averages **1.85 judges** per combined abuse and neglect and TPR case.

Wyoming averages **1.23 continuances** 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 2014 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.



Visit the CJP Website at:
[http://www.courts.state.wy.us/
Initiatives/CJP](http://www.courts.state.wy.us/Initiatives/CJP)

For additional information, please contact:

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Children's Justice Project

2014 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.

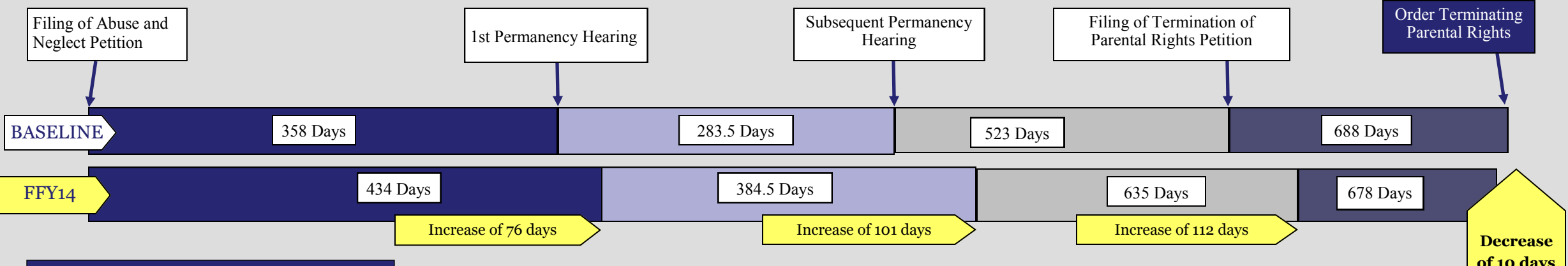
What are CJP's Data Requirements?

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 FFY14 statewide information was generated from a review of 39 Wyoming TPR cases (and the underlying Abuse/Neglect case) filed between October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.



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 (WYCAPS) for children that discharged from DFS custody in FFY13 and FFY14.

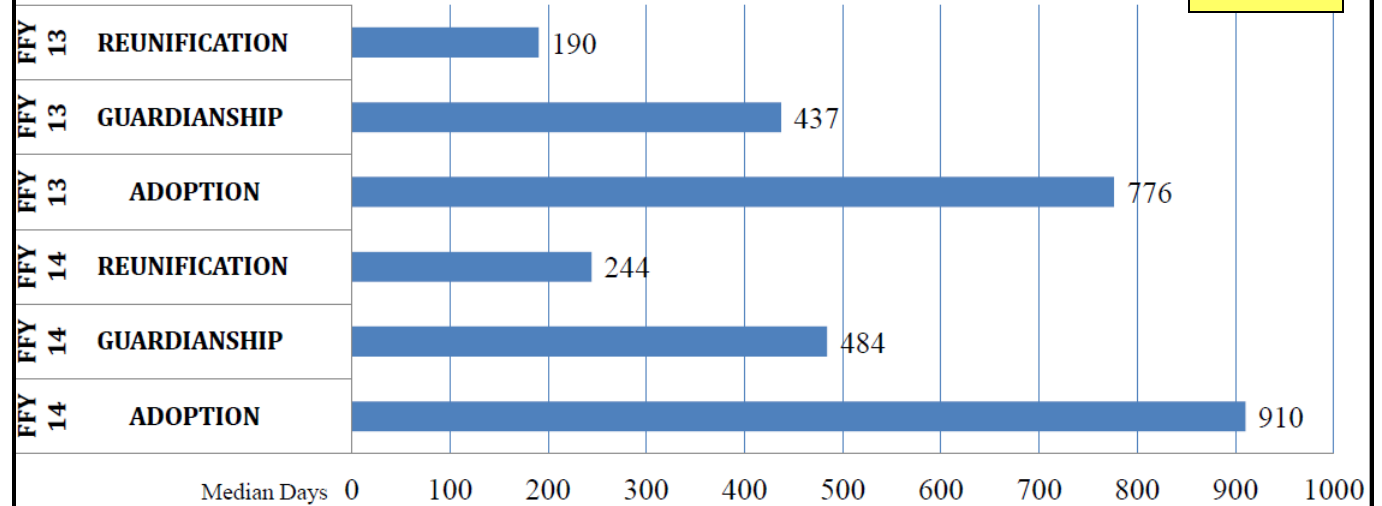
The statewide **BASELINE** for “time to permanent placement” is 288 days.

STATEWIDE "Time to Permanent Placement" by Federal Fiscal Year
FFY13 and FFY14

FFY13	Median Days	257
FFY14	Median Days	305

In FFY13, the statewide length of “time to permanent placement” decreased by 37 days (288 days to 257 days). In FFY14, the statewide length of “time to permanent placement” increased by 17 days (288 days to 305 days).

STATEWIDE "Time to Permanent Placement" by Exit Type: FFY13 and FFY14



In FFY14, the length of “time to permanent placement” for each exit type increased from FFY13. However, the statewide reunification rate increased by 5.4% from FFY13 to FFY14 (78.9%). And the judicial district with the longest time to reunification in FFY13 dropped 167 days (from 388 days to 221 days). The judicial district with the longest time to reunification in FFY14 is 280 days or 108 days less than the judicial district with the longest time to reunification in FFY13.

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).