



# Case Progression and Court Improvement Data 2008



District 5 Team Columbus – Boone, Colfax, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, & Platte Counties

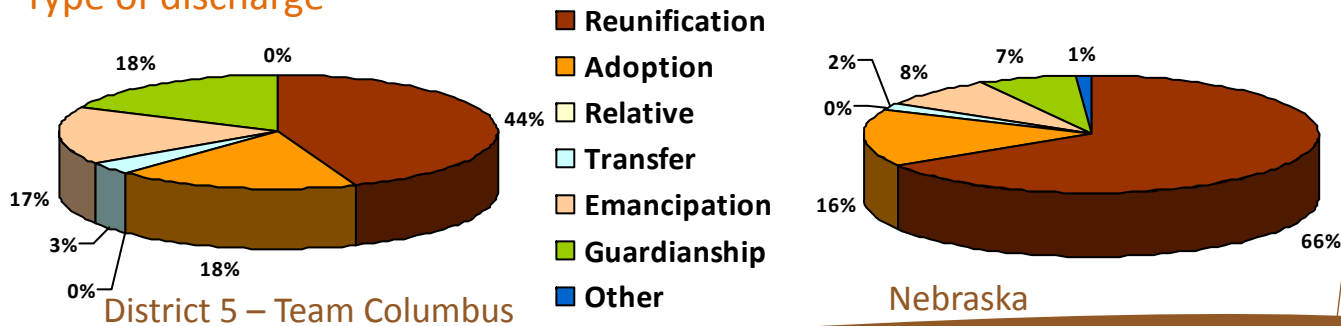
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law

Information provided in this document is designed to help your team improve case progression, as this is one area the courts can control. Timeliness of hearings has a significant impact on time to case closure, which means that courts can make a difference in the lives of children in the system. Data on page 1 comes from Fostering Court Improvement ([fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ne](http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ne)) and data on pages 2-4 was collected through JUSTICE to track case progression timelines for all abuse/neglect cases that closed in 2008.

This is an increase from 9.2 months in 2006, and is twice as high as the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> District

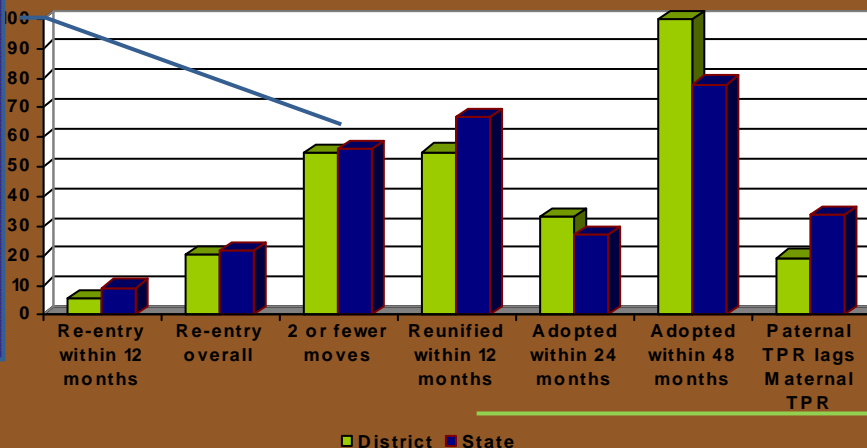
	District 5 C (2008)	Nebraska (2008)	Missouri (2008)	National (2003-2006)
Median days from report to removal	48 days	20	19	Not Available
Median length of stay	20 months	13 months	13 months	12 months
Median months to reunification	7 months	7 months	7 months	7 months
Median months to adoption	34 months	34 months	24 months	32 months

## Type of discharge



Percentages for 2008 Fiscal Year

The percent of children with two or fewer moves (55%) is similar to the 60.3% reported in 2006.

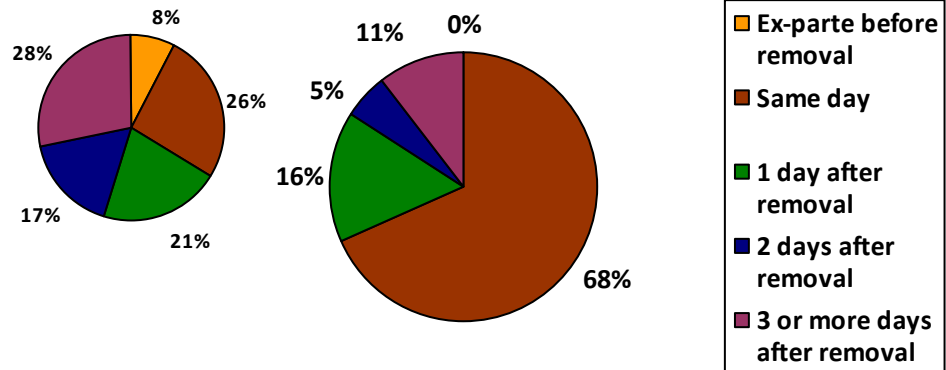


The percent of cases reunified within 12 months has decreased from 69.3% in 2006 to 52% in 2008.

## Timeline progression: All ages Removal to ex-parte

Nebraska (Median = 1 day)

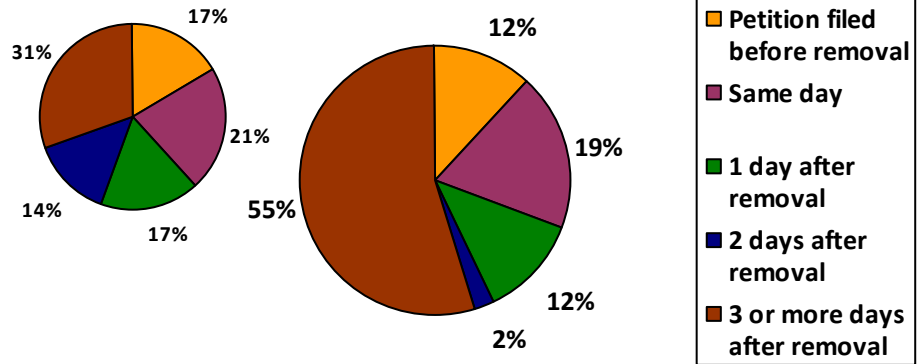
District 5, Team 1 (Median = 0 day)



## Removal to Petition Filing

Nebraska (Median = 1 days)

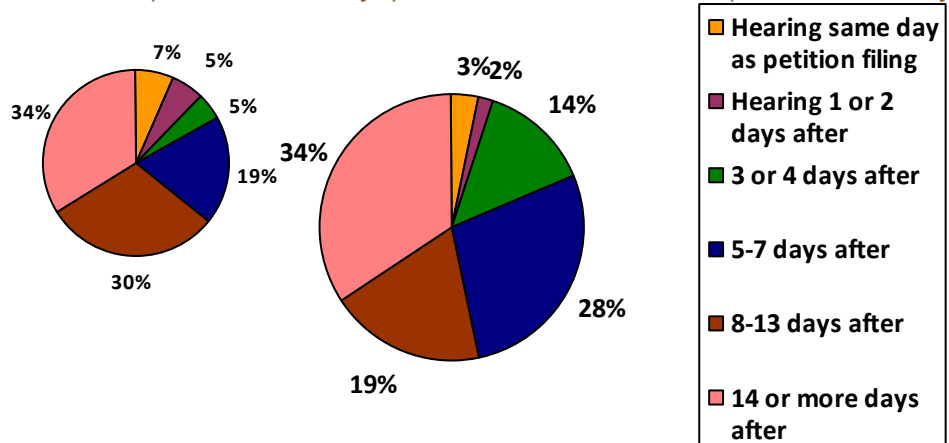
District 5, Team 1 (Median = 4 days)



## Petition to First Hearing

Nebraska (Median = 9 days)

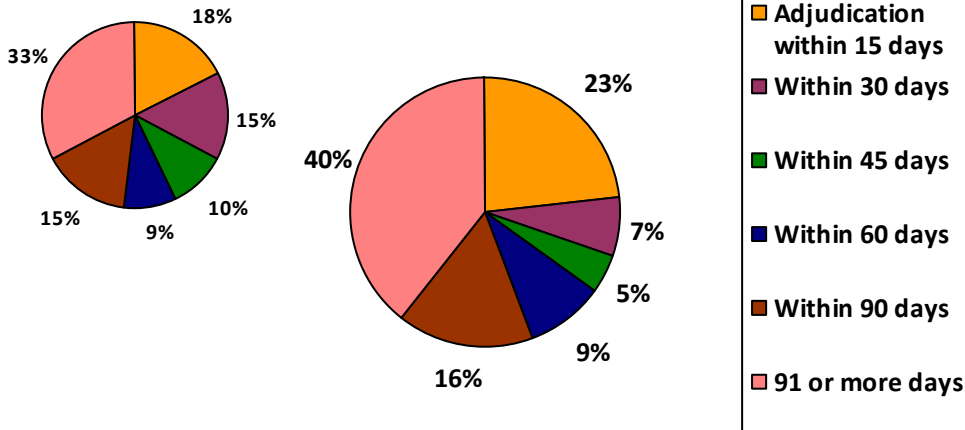
District 5, Team 1 (Median = 5 days)



\* Note: All data presented uses initial removal date to court closure date and may not match HHS reports

## Removal to Adjudication

Nebraska (Median = 1 day)      District 5, Team 1 (Median = 64 days)



## Best practice recommendations

**Removal to first hearing – 3 days**

15.4% of 2008 District 5 cases held the first hearing within 3 days of removal

**Removal to adjudication – 60 days**

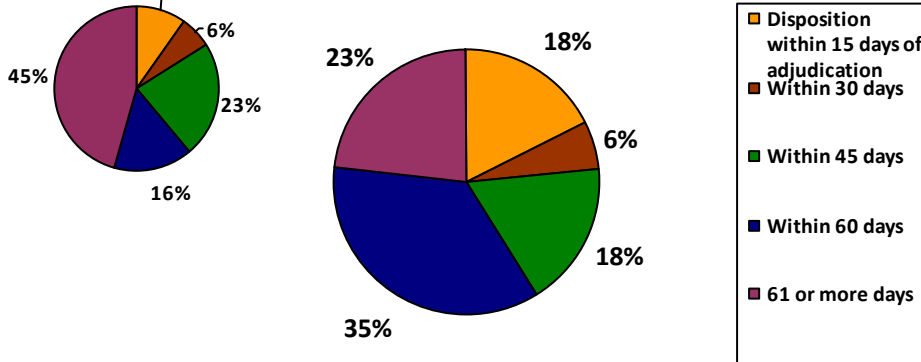
44% of 2008 District 5 cases adjudicated within 60 days.

**Adjudication to disposition – 30 days**

24% of 2008 District 5 cases held a disposition within 30 days of adjudication

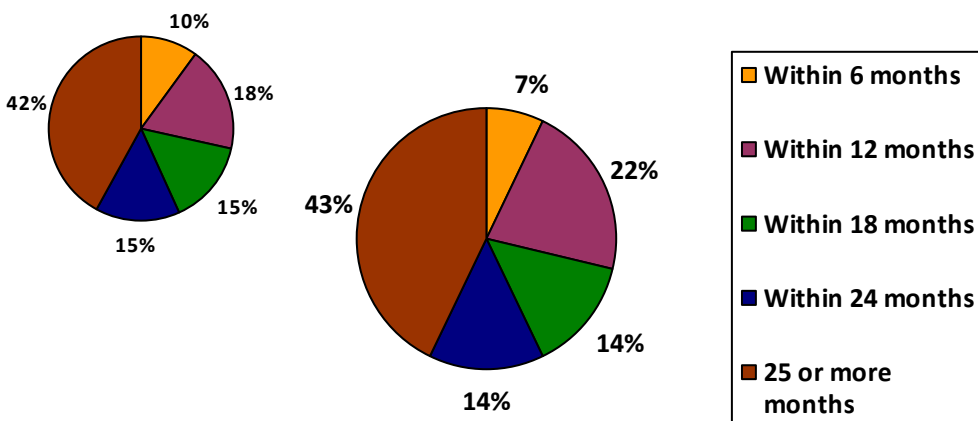
## Adjudication to Disposition

Nebraska (Median = 57 days)      District 5 (Median = 49 days)



## Removal to permanency

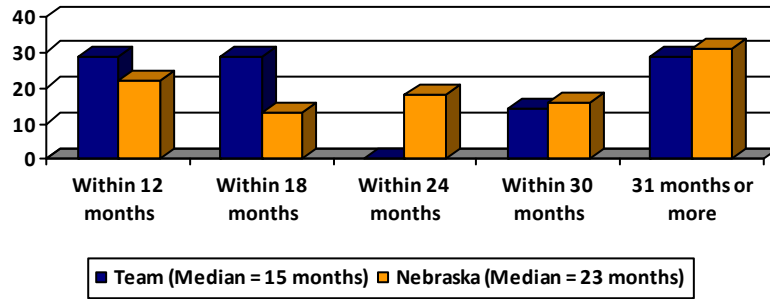
Nebraska (Median = 23 mo)      District 5, Team 1 (Median = 19 mo)



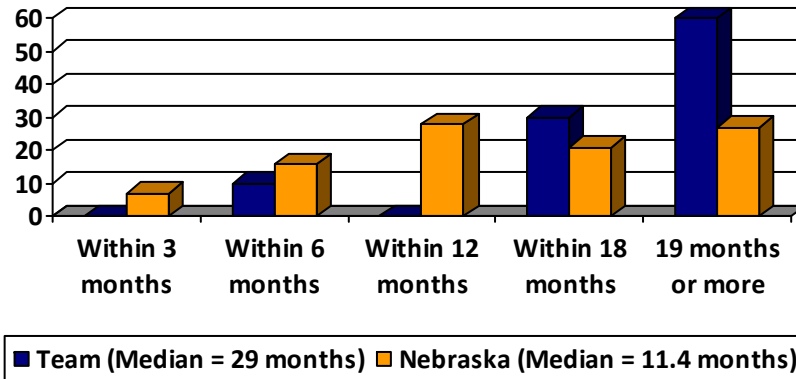
In other words, 22% of TPRs happen within 12 months statewide, compared to 27% for this team.

While this team progresses faster to TPR, time to adoption is slower than state averages.

Percentages for time in months from removal to TPR



Percentages for time in months from TPR to adoption



Analysis of the case progression data for all Nebraska judges shows that judges who have more timely adjudications of their cases are also able to close their cases in a more timely fashion. Specifically, those judges who have a median time to adjudications in less than 30 days from removal, have a median time to case closure of 15.5 months. Those judges who have a median time to adjudication of 31-60 days, have a median time to case closure of 17.2 months. Judges with a median time to adjudication of 61-90 days have a median time to case closure of 18.4 months. Finally, judges who have a median time to adjudication of 91 or more days have a median time to case closure of 34.3 months.

Timeline	District	NE
<b>Early Stages</b>		
Removal to ex-parte	0 days	1 day
Removal to 3a petition	7 days	1 day
3a petition to first appearance	5 days	9 days
Removal to adjudication	107 days	62 days
<b>Permanency Stages</b>		
Adjudication to disposition	46 days	58 days
Removal to permanency	20 months	22 months
<b>TPR Stages</b>		
Removal to TPR	33 months	23 months
TPR to adoption	11 months	9 months

Case progression for Children ages 0-3