



Case Progression and Court Improvement Data Report for 2010



District 6 Team 1: Dodge County

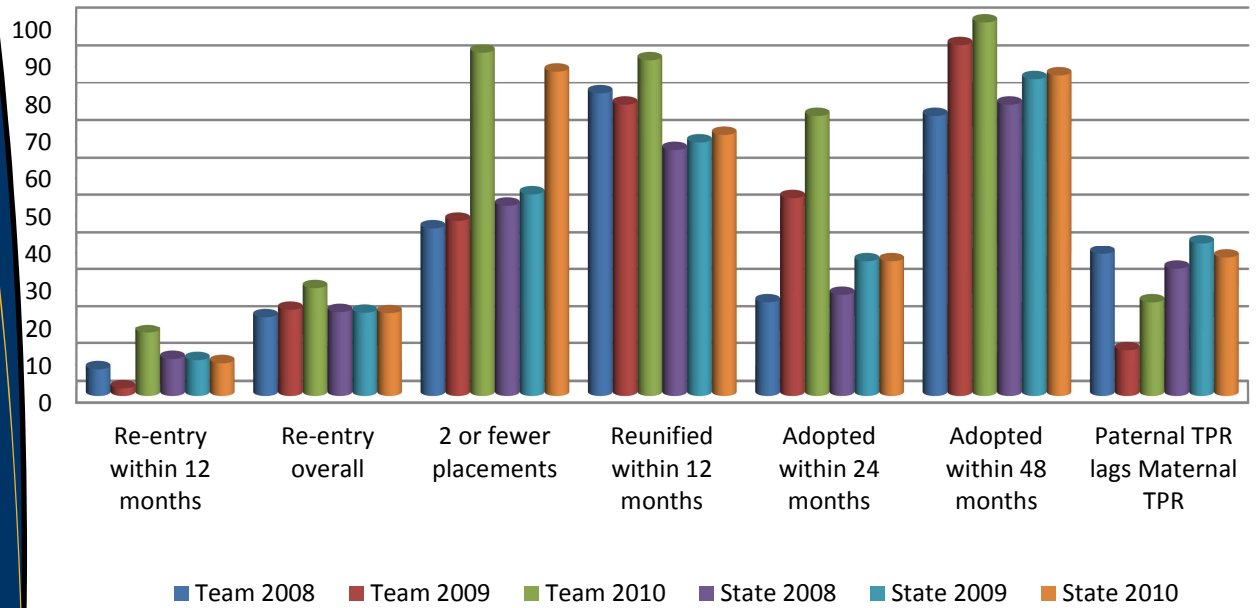


Information provided in this document is designed to help your team improve case progression, as this is one area the courts can control. Timeliness of hearings has a significant impact on time to case closure, which means that courts can make a difference in the lives of children in the system. Data on pages 1 and 2 come from Fostering Court Improvement (fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ne) and data on pages 3-8 were collected through JUSTICE to track case progression timelines for all abuse/neglect cases that closed in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

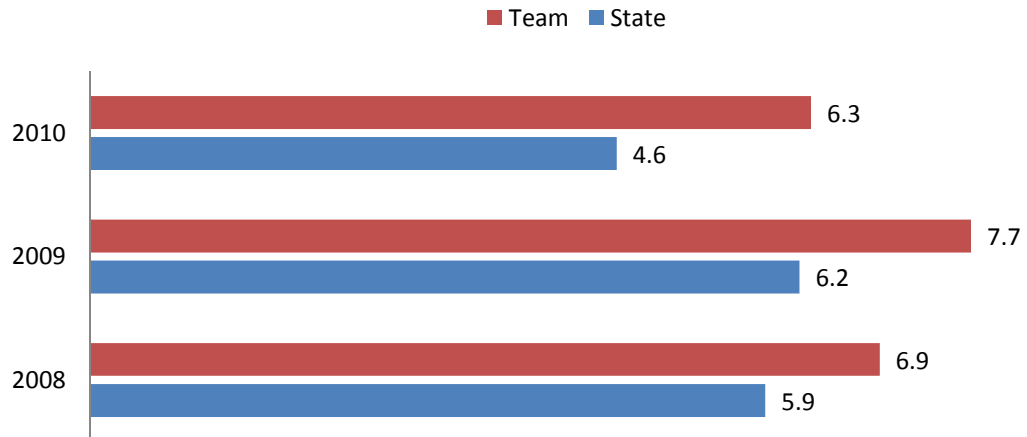
	2008	Team 2009	2010	2008	State 2009	2010	National 2009
Poverty rate*	13.2%	14.1%	n/a	13.7%	15.3%	n/a	20%
Median length of stay	13 months	13 months	10 months	13 months	12 months	14 months	14 months
Median months to reunification	7 months	4 months	8 months	7 months	7 months	11 months	n/a
Median months to adoption	25 months	22 months	22 months	34 months	29 months	29 months	n/a

* Poverty data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. For the Fostering Court Improvement measures, 2010 refers to data from April 2010 through March 2011.

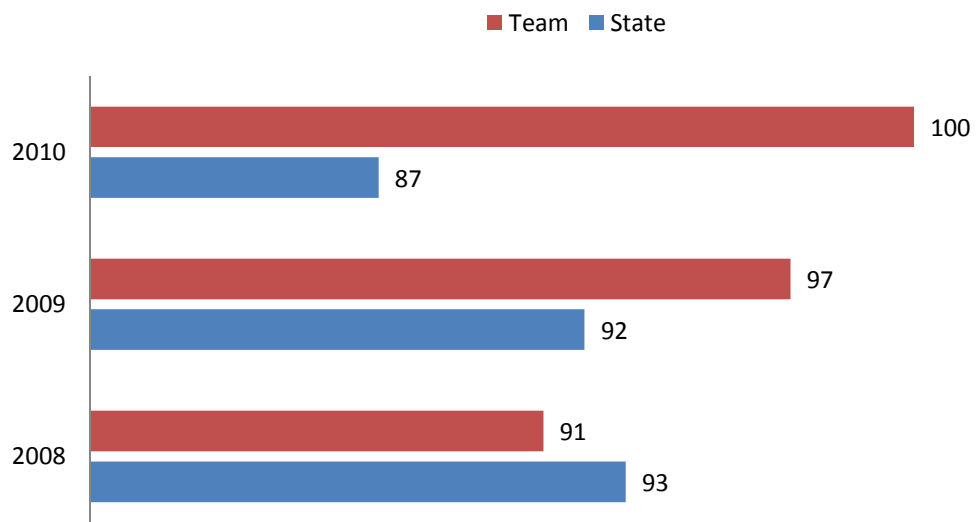
Percentages for 2008, 2009, and 2010



Rates of Removal per 10k Children



Percent of Children over 12 in Group Home



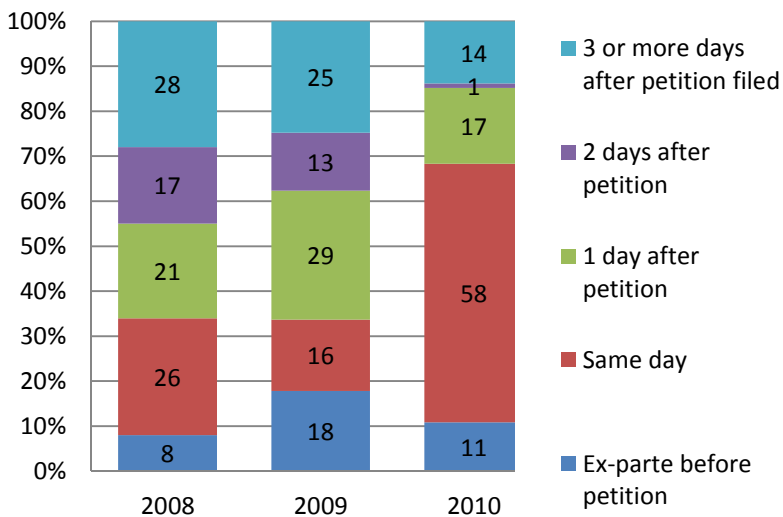
In Dodge County, there were 49 abuse and neglect cases that closed between January 1 and December 31, 2008. In 2009, 31 such cases closed. In 2010, 31 abuse and neglect cases closed. The analyses below are based on that data.

Medians represent the center-point for cases in your team. Half of your cases had time that was shorter than the median, and half of cases had time longer than the median. N/r means that values were "not reported." N/a means "not applicable" because the sample size was too small for analyses to be conducted.

Timeline progression: All ages

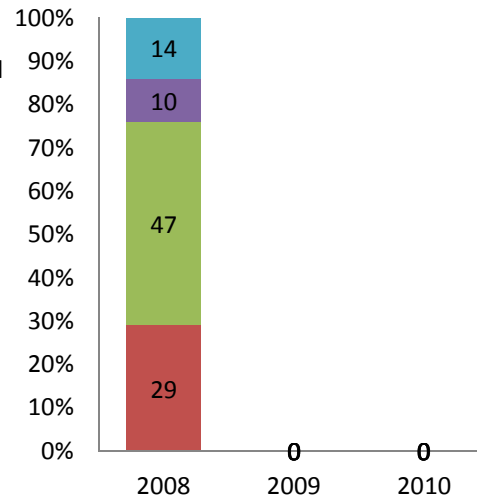
Nebraska Petition to ex-parte

2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = 1 day
2010 Median = 0 days



District 6 Team 1

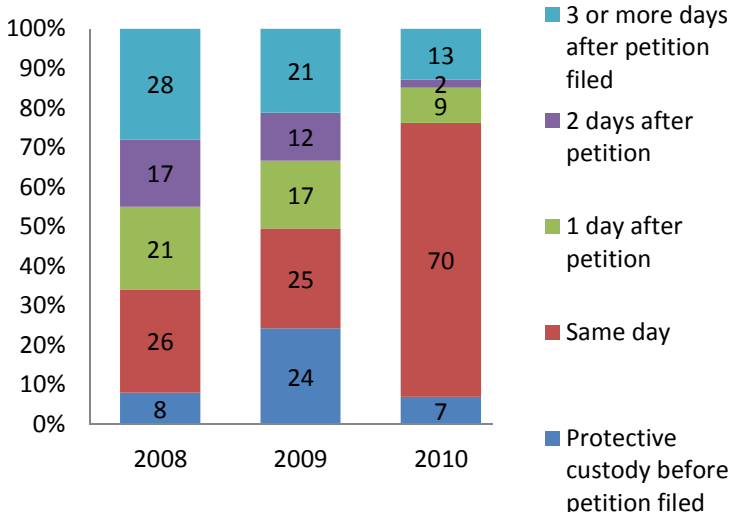
2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = n/r
2010 Median = n/r



Petition Filing to Protective Custody

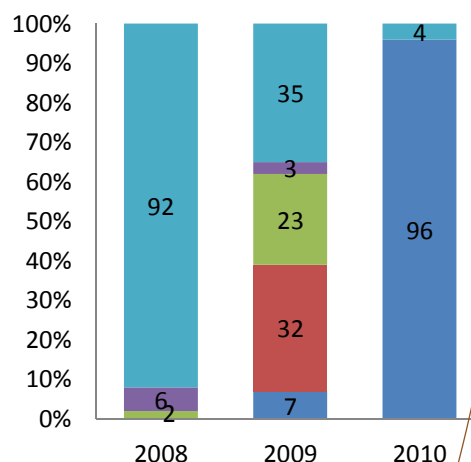
Nebraska

2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = 1 day
2010 Median = 0 days



District 6 Team 1

2008 Median = 5 days
2009 Median = 1 day
2010 Median = -6 days



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

Petition to First Appearance

Best practice recommendations

Petition to Protective Custody – petition prior to or same day

0% of 2010 District 6 Team 1 cases filed the petition the same day as the protective custody

Petition to adjudication – 60 days

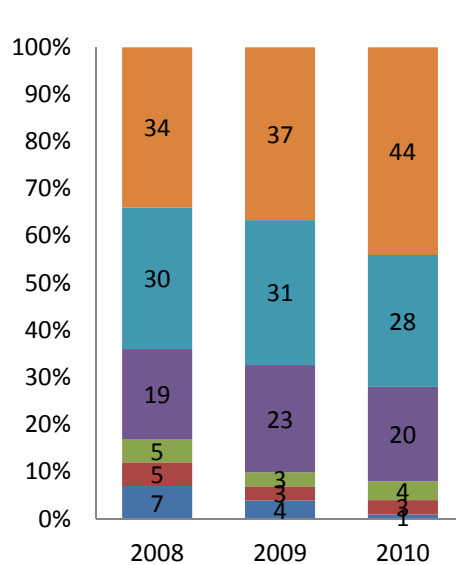
33% of 2010 District 6 Team 1 cases held the adjudication within 60 days of petition filing

Adjudication to disposition – 30 days

5% of 2010 District 6 Team 1 cases held the disposition within 30 days

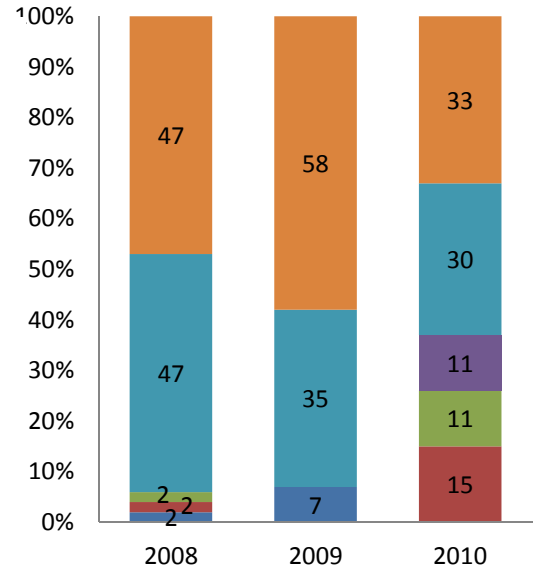
Nebraska

2008 Median = 9 days
2009 Median = 10 days
2010 Median = 12 days



District 6 Team 1

2008 Median = 12 days
2009 Median = 14 days
2010 Median = 8 days



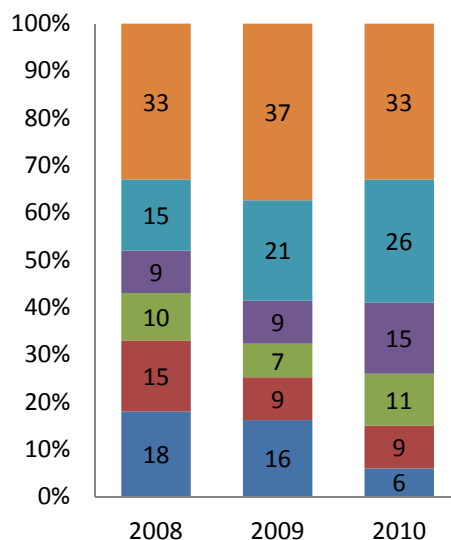
■ Hearing same day as petition filing
■ 3-4 days after
■ 5-7 days after
■ 8-13 days after

■ Hearing 1-2 days after
■ 5-7 days after
■ 14 or more days after

Petition to Adjudication

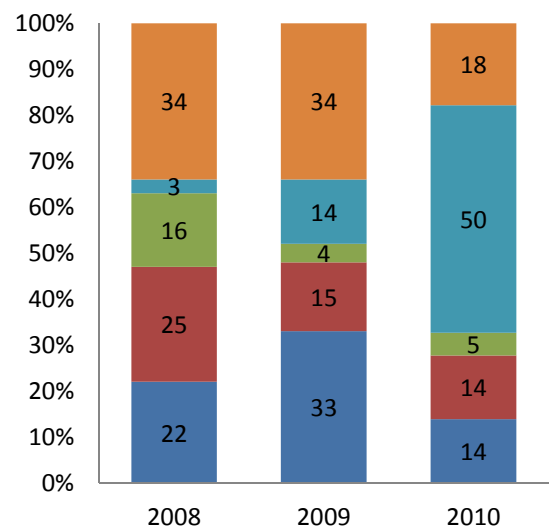
Nebraska

2008 Median = 57 days
2009 Median = 72 days
2010 Median = 73 days



District 6 Team 1

2008 Median = 41 days
2009 Median = 36 days
2010 Median = 77 days



■ Adjudication within 15 days
■ Within 30 days
■ Within 60 days
■ Within 90 days

■ Within 45 days
■ 91 or more days

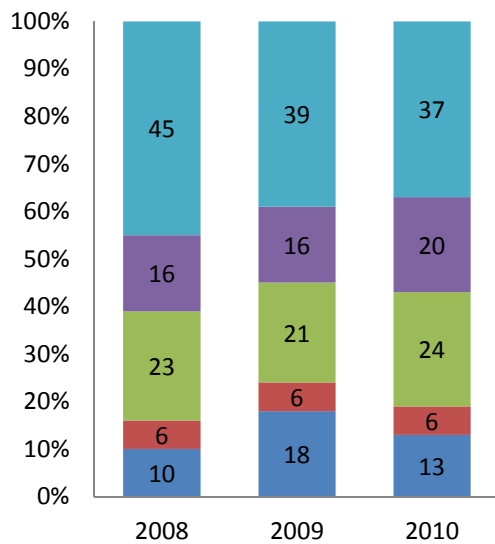
Adjudication to Disposition

Nebraska

2008 Median = 56 days

2009 Median = 49 days

2010 Median = 50 days



■ Disposition within 15 days

■ Within 30 days

■ Within 45 days

■ Within 60 days

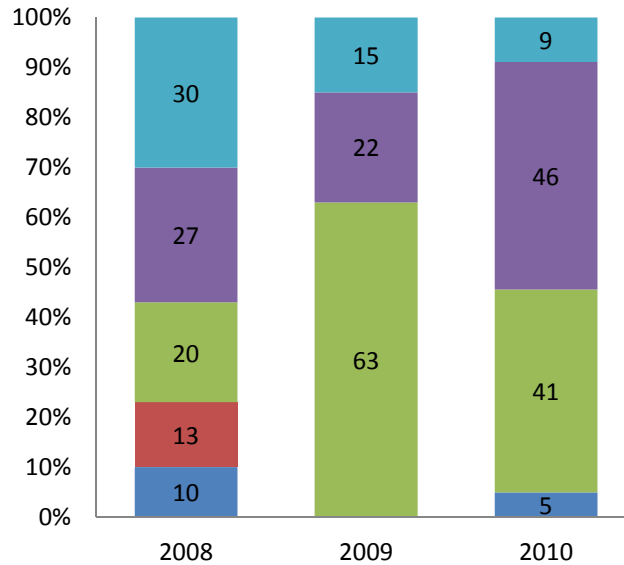
■ 61 or more days

District 6 Team 1

2008 Median = 48 days

2009 Median = 42 days

2010 Median = 47 days



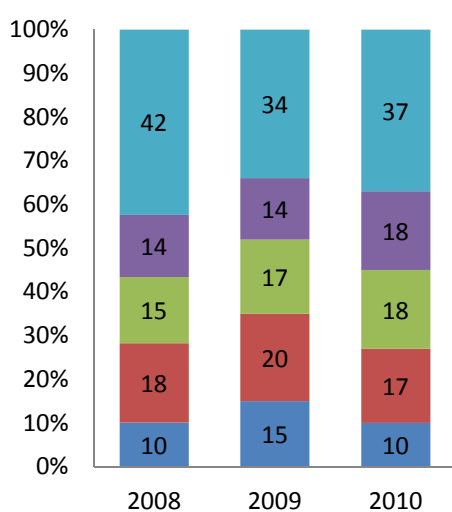
Petition to Case Closure

Nebraska

2008 Median = 23 months

2009 Median = 18 months

2010 Median = 19 months



■ Within 6 months

■ Within 12 months

■ Within 18 months

■ Within 24 months

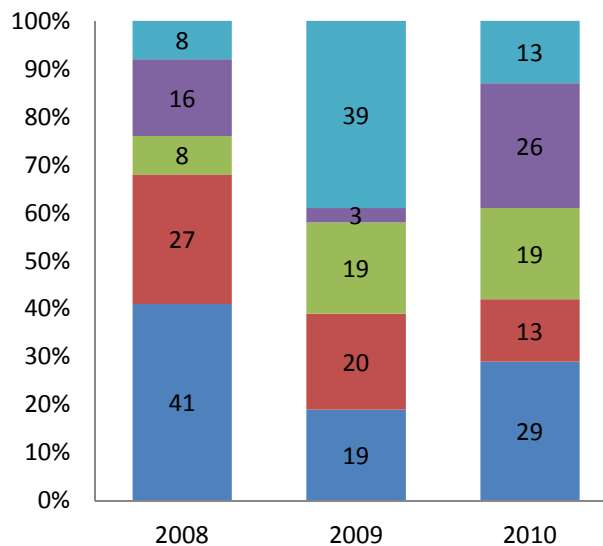
■ 25 or more months

District 6 Team 1

2008 Median = 11 months

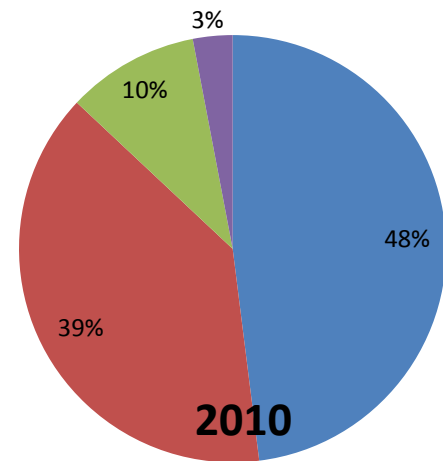
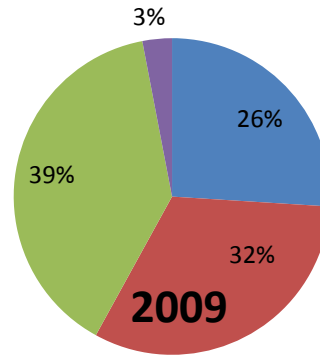
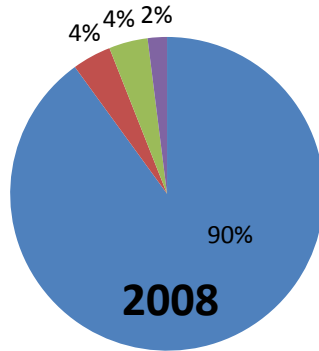
2009 Median = 15 months

2010 Median = 15 months

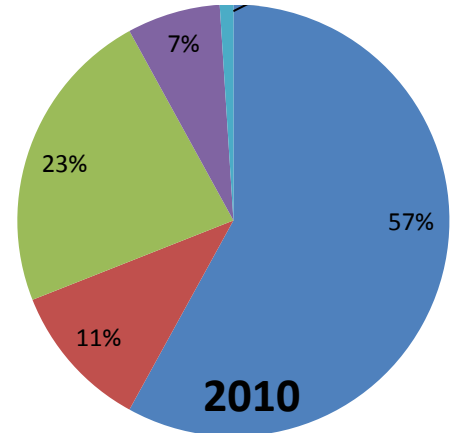
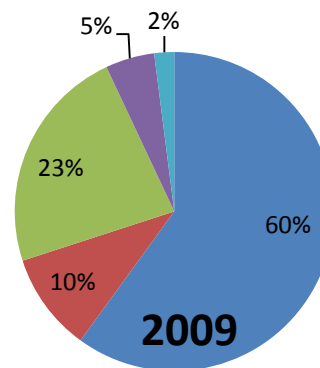
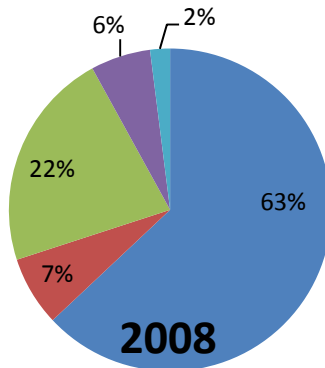


Type of Discharge

Team



State



■ Reunification

■ Guardianship

■ Adoption

■ Independent Living

■ Other

Trends



This team continues to show more timely case progression and more timely outcomes for children than the state averages, but in some areas positive trends have been reversed in 2010. For example, the time to case closure is increasing but is still well under the state averages. The time to adjudication is also creeping up. Timely reunifications are increasing, but there is also an increase in overall re-entries and re-entries within 12 months. The team may want to explore whether cases are closed prematurely or whether rehabilitative services for parents are effectively addressing the problems contributing to the maltreatment.



Case Progression for Zero to Three

Median Times	2008	Team 2009	2010	2008	State 2009	2010
Early Stages						
Petition to Ex-parte	1 day	n/r	n/r	1 day	1 day	0 days
Petition to Protective Custody	5 days	1 day	-6 days	1 day	0 days	0 days
Petition to First Appearance	12 days	14 days	8 days	9 days	10 days	13 days
Petition to Adjudication	41 days	23 days	78 days	62 days	70 days	70 days
Permanency Stages						
Adjudication to Disposition	46 days	41 days	47 days	58 days	49 days	50 days
Petition to Case Closure	10 months	15 months	14 months	21 months	19 months	20 months
TPR Stages						
Petition to TPR	n/a	17 months	n/a	23 months	19 months	21 months
TPR to Adoption	n/a	7 months	n/a	9 months	7 months	8 months

Infants and toddlers make up approximately one-third of children in foster care in Nebraska. This early stage of the child's life is crucial to his/her development. Therefore, the court system must do everything it can to ensure timely and safe permanency for them. Additionally, the courts need to assure that the health, mental health, and educational (school readiness) needs of these young children are met.

Your team might work on one or all of the following:

- Reducing time to permanency for infants and toddlers
- Ensuring that parenting time recommendations are followed
- Increasing the use of high quality and stable child care
- Ensuring CAPTA Part C evaluations are occurring and young children are getting services they need
- Ensuring that infants and toddlers with mental health needs get evidence based interventions



Improving Outcomes for Adolescents

Almost 40% of Nebraska youth in out-of-home placement are between 16 and 19 years old. Exiting foster care through "aging out" without a permanent family relationship is associated with a variety of serious negative outcomes including lack of a high school degree, unemployment, and homelessness.

The federal Fostering Connections Act and recent Nebraska legislation require a detailed written independent living transition plan for all youth age 16 and over. This plan is to be prepared by DHHS in conjunction with the youth and is to be reviewed at each review or permanency hearing by the court.

Your team might review the new state law and develop a plan to make the transition planning and review process meaningful and effective in preparing older youth for the challenges of adulthood.