

Permanency Outcomes Performance Framework Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 1.3 children in out-of- home care who were reunified

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	Indicator 1.3 children in out-of-home care who were reunified
METEOR identifier:	757648
Registration status:	Children and Families , Standard 18/04/2023
Description:	The proportion of children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care (excluding children on long-term guardianship orders) who were reunified in the reporting period.
Indicator set:	Permanency Outcomes Performance Framework Indicators 2020–21 Children and Families , Standard 18/04/2023
Data quality statement:	Child Protection National Minimum Dataset, 2020–21 Data Quality Statement AIHW Data Quality Statements , Standard 15/06/2022

Collection and usage attributes

Population group age from:	0
Population group age to:	17 years
Computation description:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Each child is only counted once. Where a child has multiple exits to reunification during a reporting period, only the last reunification in the reporting period is counted.2. Includes all children who were in out-of-home care in the reporting period, except those on long-term guardianship orders for the whole period.3. Age is calculated at time of reunification or, for children without a reunification, at the end of the reporting period or the end of their episode of care if they are not in care at the end of the reporting period.4. A reunification is only counted if it is also an “exit” from care – that is, the child was not in care for at least 60 days following the reunification event.
Computation:	$100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$
Numerator:	The number of children in out-of-home care who were reunified in the reporting period (excluding children on long-term guardianship orders for the whole of the reporting period) who were aged 0–17 at the time of reunification.
Numerator data elements:	

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—living arrangement start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—living arrangement end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Order—order start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Order—order end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Order—order type, care and protection code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—living arrangement type, child under care code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Child—reunification type, code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—financial payment indicator, living arrangement code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Denominator:

The number of children in out-of-home care during the reporting period (excluding children on long-term guardianship orders for the whole of the reporting period) who were aged 0–17 at the end of the reporting period or at the end of their latest episode of care.

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—living arrangement start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—living arrangement end date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—living arrangement type, child under care code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—financial payment indicator, living arrangement code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Disaggregation:

- Reunification status
- Indigenous status
- State or territory
- Reporting period (2016–17 to 2020–21)

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Child protection NMDS 2020–21](#)

Comments:

Comparability with similar reporting

Indicator 1.3 is derived using the same methodology as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle indicator 2.3 (AIHW 2022a).

Data for Indicator 1.3 is also reported in Table S6.1 of Child protection Australia 2020–21 (AIHW 2022b). The same methodology is used to derive the two sets of data.

Exclusion of children on long-term guardianship or custody orders

Although some children are reunified from long-term orders, reunification is generally not a safe option for these children; children on these orders are therefore not included in the numerator or denominator for this indicator.

Reunifications

There is no nationally agreed definition of reunification. As such, comparison of reunification data across jurisdictions acknowledges that reporting of reunification is based on local definitions.

This indicator includes all children who were reunified in the reporting period regardless of whether the reunification was successful and/or the number of reunification events. It also includes children who self-reunify and for whom the reunification is subsequently endorsed by the department.

Although this indicator is a proxy for reunification rates, it does not take into consideration time spent in care – children who enter care at the end of the reporting period will be counted with the same weight in the denominator as children who have been in care for the entire period.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Person

Format: N[NN].N

Data source attributes

Data sources:**Data Source**[AIHW Child Protection Collection](#)**Frequency**

Annual

Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Accountability attributes**Reporting requirements:** Fourth Action Plan 2018–2020 under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020***Organisation responsible for providing data:** Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)**Accountability:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**Source and reference attributes****Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**Relational attributes****Related metadata references:** See also [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 2.3 Indigenous children who were reunified Children and Families](#), Standard 17/08/2022