Foster Care Placements

**Negative Outcome**

**Brief Name**
Foster Care Placements

**Indicator**
Rate of children entering Out-of-Home or foster care per 10,000 youth.

**Description**
This measure indicates the rate of children entering into Out-of-Home care through an intervention by the child welfare system. Types of placements include licensed family foster care, treatment foster care, pre-adoptive foster homes, group homes and residential care centers, unlicensed relatives or non-relatives, and court-ordered placements.

**Importance**
Out-of-Home placements occur to protect children from serious neglect, psychological, emotional and or physical risks. Yet, once removed from their home, these children are at risk of experiencing severed parent-child bonds (Hess, 1991). Such disintegration of the parent-child bond, even if the parent is abusive or neglectful, might have profound implications for a child's development (Bowlby, 2012). Children in foster care or other Out-of-Home placements are also often exposed to traumatic events before removal from home, in addition to potentially experiencing the removal itself as traumatic (Lang, 2016).

**Limitations**
These data are entered by county systems and thus accuracy depends on uniform data reporting by local programs.

**Source**

