



Department
for Education

Adoption scorecards: year ending March 2014

Methodology and guidance document

December 2014

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Guidance for Adoption Score cards 2014

Notes for all tables

1. All calculation have been derived from unrounded figures.
2. The average number of days has been derived from unrounded figures and are presented rounded to the nearest day.
3. The distance from the 2011-14 performance threshold has been derived from unrounded figures and presented rounded to the nearest day. Therefore the difference between the 3 year average and the 2010-13 threshold may differ from any calculations made using the rounded indicators presented elsewhere in the score card.
4. Percentages for information relating to the child have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was 5 or less or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x). Percentages relating to the adopter have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator or denominator was five or less they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x).
5. Numbers in the related information section of the scorecard are rounded to the nearest 5 children. For confidentiality purposes, numbers from one to five inclusive have been replaced by a cross (x). Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure submitted was zero (0). Unrounded numbers have been presented for adopter information.
6. Symbols used:
 - x Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.
 - .. Not applicable, i.e. no children in the cohort.
 - Percentages less than 0.5% but greater than 0%
7. All figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
8. These tables are based on the data submitted and signed-off by the LA at the time of the data collection, but we have subsequently been notified of some errors in the data submitted by some LAs. One of these affects the Adoption Scorecard 3 indicator where Bexley identified that four children have been incorrectly given a date for an agency decision maker's decision that they should be adopted.

The numbering of the indicators is the same as in the previous years. However, the order they are presented in this guidance notes reflects their display order in the score card.

Adoption Scorecards Indicators

A1. Average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted

Definition

For all the children that have been adopted during the year ending 31 March, the average length of time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, i.e. being placed for adoption codes A3 to A6.

Children who were not placed for adoption prior to the adoption order are excluded.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by averaging the time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family (i.e. being placed for adoption, placement codes A3 to A6), for all children that were adopted between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014.

The indicator is presented rounded to the nearest number of days.

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

Good performance

A **low** number of days represents good performance.

A2. Average time (in days) between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family

Definition

For all the children that have been adopted during the year ending 31 March, the average length of time (in days) between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child (i.e. a placement order being granted) and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family.

Children who were not placed for adoption prior to the adoption order are excluded. Children with no Placement Order or Freeing Order are also excluded (legal status codes E1 and D1, respectively).

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by averaging the time (in days) between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child, i.e. granting a placement order or a freeing order (legal status codes E1 and D1, respectively) and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family, for all children that were adopted between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014.

The indicator is presented rounded to the nearest number of days.

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

Notes

A time of zero is assigned to children who were matched before court authority was received.

Good performance

A **low** number of days represents good performance.

A3. Percentage of children who wait less than 18 months¹ between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family

Definition

All the children that have been adopted during the year ending 31 March and those in the adoption system (i.e. with an agency decision maker's decision that they should be adopted) at 31 March are considered.

Of these children, we are also interested in the subset of children that waited less than 18 months¹ between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.

Children adopted who were not placed for adoption first are excluded.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by determining the number of children, who either:

- were adopted between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014 and waited less than 18 months¹ between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (excludes children adopted who were not placed for adoption first); or
- were in the adoption system at 31 March 2014 and had waited less than 18 months from becoming looked after to be placed (if placed for adoption); or
- were in the adoption system at 31 March 2014 and had been looked after less than 18 months (if still waiting to be placed).

This is divided by the sum of children adopted between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014 and all children in the adoption system at 31 March 2014.

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

Good performance

A **high** percentage represents good performance.

¹ This threshold was 20 months for the indicator covering the period between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2013, and before that it was 21 months for the periods between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2012 and 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2011.

Adopter Indicators

Data for the adopter indicators (A11 and A12) is collected and published by Ofsted from their Adoption quality assurance and data collection.

Information on the data collection for 2013/14 can be found [here](#).

A11. Number of approved adoptive families as at 31 March 2014

Definition

The number of approved adoptive families as at 31 March 2014.

Note that the adopter recruitment practice of some local authorities (for example, a Local Authority outsourcing their recruitment) will impact this indicator.

A12. Percentage of adoptive families matched to a child who waited at least 3 months from approval to being matched

Definition

All the adoptive families matched to a child during the year ending 31 March are considered.

Of these children, we are also interested in the subset of adoptive families that waited more than 3 months from approval to being matched to a child.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the year ending 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by determining the number of adoptive families matched to a child during the year 31 March 2014 that waited more than 3 months from approval to being matched and then dividing by the number of adoptive families that were matched to a child during the year ending 31 March 2014.

Note

Note that the adopter recruitment practice of some local authorities (for example, a Local Authority outsourcing their recruitment) will impact this indicator.

Good performance

A **low** percentage represents good performance.

Related Information

A4. Adoptions from care (number adopted leaving care who are adopted)

Definition

All children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending on 31 March are considered. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

Of these children, we are interested in the subset of children who ceased to be looked after because they were adopted.

Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been included. Children who ceased to be looked after in more than one year will be counted more than once.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by adding all the children looked after who ceased to be looked after who were adopted (children with a reason episode ceased E11 or E12) in the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014. This total is then divided by the combined total of children looked after who ceased to be looked after in the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014 to obtain the indicator.

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

Good performance

A **higher** percentage represents good performance, but percentages should not reach 100%.

A5. Children for whom permanence decisions has changed away from adoption

Definition

All children with a decision made by an agency decision maker during or before the period covered (i.e. an ongoing adoption decision) for whom the decision was reversed in the current period covered.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

To calculate the percentage, the number of children with an ongoing adoption decision between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014 who had that decision reversed during that same period is divided by the number of children with an ongoing adoption decision between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014.

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

A10. Average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions.

Definition

For all the children that have been adopted during the year ending 31 March, the average length of time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, i.e. being placed for adoption (codes A3 to A6).

The indicator is adjusted for foster carer adoptions, in that if a child was adopted by their foster carer, the time considered is stopped at the date the child moved in with the foster family.

Children who were not placed for adoption prior to the adoption order are excluded.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by averaging the time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family (i.e. being placed for adoption, placement codes A3 to A6) or if adopted by a foster carer (placement code A3 and A5), until they had moved with the foster carer, for all children that were adopted between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014.

The indicator is presented rounded to the nearest number of days.

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

Note

This indicator includes the same children as indicator A1 and the average time is calculated in the same way for children who are not adopted by their foster carers i.e. time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption (the date they move with their adoptive family).

However, the average time for children who are adopted by their foster carers is calculated differently to A1. Where children are adopted by their foster carer, the time is measured until the date they moved in with their foster carer.

Good performance

A **low** number of days represents good performance.

A6. Adoptions of children from ethnic minority backgrounds (number adopted of BME children leaving care who are adopted)

Definition

All children from a minority ethnic group who ceased to be looked after during the year ending on 31 March are considered. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements. Children from minority ethnic backgrounds are those classified as being from a Black, Asian, Mixed or Other ethnic background.

Of these children, we are interested in the subset of children who ceased to be looked after because they were adopted.

Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been included. Children who ceased to be looked after in more than one year will be counted more than once.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by adding all the children from an ethnic minority group who ceased to be looked after who were adopted (children with a reason episode ceased E11 or E12) in the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014. This total is then divided by the combined total of children from an ethnic minority group who ceased to be looked after in the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014 to obtain the indicator.

Children from minority ethnic backgrounds are those classified as being from a Black (codes BCRB, BAFR, BOTH), Asian (AIND, APKN, ABAN, AOTH), Mixed (MWBC, MWBA, MWAS, MOTH), Chinese (CHNE) or Other ethnic background (OOTH).

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

Note

Percentages show the proportion of all minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted. Therefore if a local authority has a low proportion of black and minority ethnic children in their care population then the denominator will reflect this low number.

Good performance

A **high** percentage represents good performance.

A7. Adoptions of children aged five or over (number adopted of children aged 5 or over leaving care who are adopted)

Definition

All children who ceased to be looked after aged five or older during the year ending on 31 March are considered. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements. The age of the child is the age when leaving care.

Of these children, we are interested in the subset of children who ceased to be looked after because they were adopted.

Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been included. Children who ceased to be looked after in more than one year will be counted more than once.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Calculation

The indicator is calculated by adding all the children who ceased to be looked after aged five or older who were adopted (children with a reason episode ceased E11 or E12) in the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014. This total is then divided by the combined total of children who ceased to be looked after aged five or older in the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014 to obtain the indicator.

The indicator is a three year average based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

Good performance

A **high** percentage represents good performance.

A8. Average length of care proceedings locally (weeks)

Figures are provided from the Cafcass national Case Management Systems (CMS and ECMS)

Definition

The average length of care s31 applications, in calendar weeks, calculated by applications closing within the period, for the year ending 31 March.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the years ending 31 March 2012, 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Notes

The unit of measurement is a care application. An application can involve multiple children. ECMS is a live system and any late entries will be accounted for at the time of release of subsequent updates to this data."

Average care duration is calculated from date of care application to the court to date application completed on CMS/ECMS in the selected time period. Averages are based on care applications completed in the period.

The average length of care proceedings locally includes all care proceedings which the local authority has initiated, including care proceedings which take place in courts outside of the local authority area.

All data updated on the 11th July (CMS snapshot on day it was shut down) and 3rd September (ECMS). Changes to figures are due to updates in information within the ECMS.

A9. Number of children awaiting adoption

Definition

The number of children looked after with an adoption plan at 31 March who had not been placed for adoption on that day.

When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan. An adoption plan is made by an agency decision maker.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the year ending 31 March 2014.

The indicator is based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

A14. Number of children awaiting adoption with a placement order

Definition

The number of children with an adoption plan and a placement order in year ending 31 March that were still looked after at 31 March and who had not been placed for adoption at 31 March.

When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan. An adoption plan is made by an agency decision maker.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to the year ending 31 March 2014.

The indicator is based on a snapshot of the data taken in summer 2014.

A13. Number of applications for adopters still to be assessed (not yet approved or rejected) as at 31 March 2014

Definition

The number of applications for adopters still to be assessed (not yet approved or rejected) as at 31 March.

Period covered

The most recent indicator refers to 31 March 2014.

Further information

Data for this indicator is collected and published by Ofsted from their Adoption quality assurance and data collection.

Information on the data collection for 2013/14 can be found [here](#).



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