

Appendix A: Statutory Requirement

NATIONAL RANDOM SAMPLE STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE

Sec. 429. [42 U.S.C. 628b]

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall conduct (directly, or by grant, contract, or interagency agreement) a national study based on random samples of children who are at risk of child abuse or neglect, or are determined by States to have been abused or neglected.

(b) Requirements. —The study required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) have a longitudinal component; and

(2) yield data reliable at the State level for as many States as the Secretary determines is feasible.

(c) Preferred Contents. —In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary should—

(1) carefully consider selecting the sample from cases of confirmed abuse or neglect; and

(2) follow each case for several years while obtaining information on, among other things—

(A) the type of abuse or neglect involved;

(B) the frequency of contact with State or local agencies;

(C) whether the child involved has been separated from the family, and, if so, under what circumstances;

(D) the number, type, and characteristics of out-of-home placements of the child; and

(E) the average duration of each placement.

(d) Reports. —

(1) In general.—From time to time, the Secretary shall prepare reports summarizing the results of the study required by subsection (a).

(2) Availability. —The Secretary shall make available to the public any report prepared under paragraph (1), in writing or in the form of an electronic data tape.

(3) Authority to charge fee.—The Secretary may charge and collect a fee for the furnishing of reports under paragraph (2).

(e) Appropriation. —Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002 \$6,000,000 to carry out this section.¹

¹ Most recently, funding has been extended through the Children and Families Services Programs appropriation in P.L. 119-4, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2025.