

# Problem Solution

## COI – Test the Solution

**Define the Problem:** Re-Entry into Foster Care

**Understand Underlying Conditions:** We selected an entry cohort of all children in California (from all 58 counties) between 10/1/13 and 9/30/14 who were reunified or exited to guardianship within 12 months of entry into care. From there we chose two random, statistically valid representative samples. One sample was the control and involved children who had not re- entered care, the other were comparison children that experienced re-entry into care. The goal was to examine the use of the SDM suite of tools and see whether there was a correlation in the use of these tools and the impact on re-entry. The sample sizes have a 95% confidence interval and are outlined below:

There is a **19.1%** difference in assessment completion between the re-entry cases and those who did not re-enter care. It appears that when SDM Assessment tools including the Risk Reassessment & Reunification Reassessment are conducted *accurately and timely* through the life of a case it leads to a **decrease** in the re-entry of children into care within a year of reunification.



**96** children who did not experience re-entry within a year of reunification. (control)

**110** children who experienced re-entry within a year of reunification. (comparison)



Of the 96 children who did not experience re-entry within a year of reunification, **71.8%** of case workers had conducted accurate and timely on-going assessments throughout the life of the case.



Of the 110 children who experienced re-entry within a year of reunification, only **52.7%** of those case workers had conducted accurate and timely on-going assessments throughout the life of the case.

**Identify a Solution and Plan for Implementation:** The accurate and timely usage of SDM's Assessment Tools (Risk Reassessment & Reunification Reassessment) will lower re-entry rates in to California Child Welfare System.

**Implement the Solution:** \*15.4% of both random samples identified cases that had no SDM Assessment usage. 96 No Re-Entry Sample and 110 Re-Entry Sample. Training plans for all case workers to use SDM across the State.

**Test the Solution and Revise Approach as Needed:** The accurate completion of SDM's was able to help identify what additional resources or services was needed to help lower re-entry rates. *Did the Solution lead to the desired change? What strategic Decisions should be made after the results? What ways can your County utilize Case Review data to test a solution? What training plans or policies can be utilized to test a solution? How can the Case Review Data enhance your CQI process?*