

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

South Carolina FINAL REPORT 2025

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Final Report: South Carolina Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the state of South Carolina. The CFSRs enable the Children's Bureau (CB) to: (1) ensure conformity with certain federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and (3) assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes. Federal law and regulations authorize the CB, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, to administer the review of child and family services programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The CFSRs are structured to help states identify strengths and areas needing improvement in their child welfare practices and programs as well as institute systemic changes that will improve child and family outcomes.

The findings for South Carolina are based on:

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) and submitted to the CB on February 3, 2025. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The August 2024 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 100 cases (40 foster care and 60 in-home), conducted via a State-Led Review process in South Carolina from April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, examining case practices occurring between April 2024 and September 2025.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys for the agency
 - Attorneys for child/youth and Guardians Ad Litem
 - Attorneys for parents
 - Child welfare agency leadership and regional managers
 - Child welfare agency caseworkers and supervisors
 - Foster and adoptive parents and kinship providers
 - Judges and judicial officers
 - Tribal child welfare staff and representatives
 - Parents
 - Youth

Background Information

The Round 4 CFSR assesses state performance with regard to substantial conformity with 7 child and family outcomes and 7 systemic factors. Each outcome incorporates 1 or more of the 18 items included in the case review, and each item is rated as a Strength or Area Needing Improvement based on an evaluation of certain child welfare practices and processes in the cases reviewed in the state. With two exceptions, an item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90% or more of the applicable cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies to these two items. For a state to be in substantial conformity with a particular outcome, 95% or more of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome. In addition, for Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's RSP on applicable statewide data indicators must be better than or no different than national performance. This determination for substantial conformity is based on the data profile transmitted to the state to signal the start of that state's CFSR. The state's RSP in subsequent data profiles will be factored into the determination of indicators required to be included in the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

Eighteen items are considered in assessing the state's substantial conformity with the 7 systemic factors. Each item reflects a key federal program requirement relevant to the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for that systemic factor. An item is rated as a Strength or an Area Needing Improvement based on how well the item-specific requirement is functioning. A determination of the rating is based on information provided by the state to demonstrate the functioning of the systemic factor in the Statewide Assessment and as needed, from interviews with stakeholders and partners. For a state to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factors, no more than 1 of the items associated with the systemic factor can be rated as an Area Needing Improvement. For systemic factors that have only 1 item associated with them, that item must be rated as a Strength for a determination of substantial conformity. An overview of the pathways to substantial conformity for the CFSR outcomes and systemic factors is in Appendix B of the Round 4 *CFSR Procedures Manual*.

The CB made several changes to the CFSR process, items, and indicators that are relevant to evaluating performance, based on lessons learned during the third round of reviews. As such, a state's performance in the fourth round of the CFSRs may not be directly comparable to its performance in the third round.

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

South Carolina 2025 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

The CB has established high standards of performance for the CFSR based on the belief that because child welfare agencies work with our country's most vulnerable children and families, only the highest standards of performance should be considered acceptable. The high standards ensure ongoing attention to achieving positive outcomes for children and families regarding safety, permanency, and well-being. This is consistent with the CFSR's goal of promoting continuous improvement in performance on these outcomes. A state must develop and implement a PIP to address the areas of concern identified for each outcome or systemic factor for which the state is found not to be in substantial conformity. The CB recognizes that the kinds of systemic and practice changes necessary to bring about improvement in some outcome areas often take time to implement. The results of this CFSR are intended to serve as the basis for continued improvement efforts addressing areas where a state still needs to improve.

Table 1 provides a quick reminder of how case review items and statewide data indicators are combined to assess substantial conformity on each outcome:

Table 1. Outcomes, Case Review Items, and Statewide Data Indicators

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Safety Outcome 1	Item 1	Maltreatment in foster care Recurrence of maltreatment
Safety Outcome 2	Items 2 and 3	N/A
Permanency Outcome 1	Items 4, 5, and 6	Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability
Permanency Outcome 2	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 1	Items 12, 13, 14, and 15	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 2	Item 16	N/A

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Well-Being Outcome 3	Items 17 and 18	N/A

South Carolina was found in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes.

The following 3 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Statewide Information System
- Quality Assurance System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

CB Comments on State Performance

SCDSS is the state agency responsible for child welfare services. Within SCDSS, the Division of Child Welfare Services (CWS) provides state-level administration and oversight of adoption, child protective services, child abuse and neglect prevention, kinship and foster care, licensing of childcare institutions, and family preservation services.

The Round 4 CFSR conducted in 2025 found that South Carolina was not in substantial conformity with any of the 7 federal outcomes. The review found the state to be in conformity with 3 of the 7 systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, and Agency Responsiveness to the Community. The systemic factors found not in conformity were the Case Review System, Staff and Provider Training, Service Array and Resource Development, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

The highest performing outcomes for South Carolina were Safety Outcome 1, Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect, and Well-Being Outcome 2, Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs, both at 70% substantial conformity. For Safety Outcome 1, performance was driven largely by timely initiation of investigations. For Well-Being Outcome 2, the agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess children's educational needs. A practice area noted for improvement affecting Well-Being Outcome 2 was the provision of services to address identified educational needs.

The next highest performing outcome was Permanency Outcome 2, The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children, with 36% of the cases being rated as substantially achieved. Performance varied across items. The agency performed relatively well on placement with siblings, with two-thirds of cases rated as a Strength. Items related to maintaining parent-child relationships were rated lower. Item 8, which assesses visits between children in care and their parents, was rated as a Strength in 50% of cases. Item 11, which measures efforts to support a positive relationship between a child in foster care and his or her parents, was rated as a Strength in 5% of cases. No applicable cases showed concerted efforts to promote relationships with fathers, while such efforts were documented in 11% of applicable cases involving mothers.

Performance on Safety Outcome 2, Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, was 29%. A key factor affecting this outcome was the difference in service provision between case types. For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, 18% of in-home services cases were rated as a Strength, compared to 60% for foster care cases. This rating was associated with the agency not consistently providing or arranging for appropriate services to protect children and prevent removal. For Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, performance was also lower for in-home cases (23% Strength) compared to foster care cases (48% Strength), with a lack of ongoing safety assessments contributing to the ratings. These safety practices are closely tied to caseworker visits with the child, as the frequency and quality of visits affect ongoing assessments.

South Carolina demonstrated the lowest performance on Permanency Outcome 1, Children have permanency and stability in their living situations, and Well-Being Outcome 1, Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs, with 10% of cases rated as substantially achieved for each outcome.

For Permanency Outcome 1, 10% of cases achieved substantial conformity. This performance reflects challenges in achieving timely permanency for children. Item 6, which assesses achievement of permanency through reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement, was rated as a Strength in 30% of cases. Delays were observed in changing permanency goals to adoption, with reunification goals sometimes remaining in place despite limited parental engagement in services. After adoption was established as the goal, additional delays were associated with agency documentation processes and communication with prospective adoptive parents. Guardianship goals also experienced timeliness challenges and were, in some cases, established without identified guardians. Placement stability was also identified as an area needing improvement, with some children experiencing moves not clearly related to case plan goals or individual needs. Court processes, including continuances and extended timeframes for decision-making, also affected timely permanency outcomes.

For Well-Being Outcome 1, performance was consistently low across items. The agency's efforts to assess and provide services to children, parents, and foster parents (Item 12) received a Strength rating in 10% of cases. Differences were noted in engagement with mothers and fathers. Concerted efforts to assess and address the needs of fathers were made in 9% of cases, compared to 12% for mothers. The agency also experienced challenges involving families in case planning (Item 13), with fathers actively engaged in 19% of cases.

Caseworker visits with children and parents influenced performance across multiple outcomes, as the frequency and quality of visits affected timely achievement of permanency, ongoing safety assessments, and service provision to prevent foster care entry. Differences in practice were observed between in-home and foster care cases, with less effective service provision (Item 2) and ongoing risk and safety assessment (Item 3) in in-home cases. The use of formal tools, such as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) and the Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST), did not consistently result in individualized assessments and service plans tailored to each family's needs. Although Child and Family Team Meetings were used to engage families, their effectiveness varied, including lower rates of engagement with fathers and paternal relatives.

Well-Being Outcome 3, Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs, was rated as substantially achieved in 33% of cases. While the agency generally assessed children's physical and mental/behavioral health needs, it was less consistent in providing services to address those needs. For mental and behavioral health (Item 18), services were provided in 36% of applicable cases. Limited placement resources, particularly for children with higher behavioral health needs, contributed to placement disruptions.

A key systemic factor affecting outcomes was the Service Array. Case review results and stakeholder interviews identified gaps in the availability and accessibility of services across South Carolina. Rural areas experience limited access to mental health services, substance use treatment, and transportation. Wait times for services, including mental health and developmental assessments, ranged from several months to over two years. Limited placement resources, particularly for children with higher needs, resulted in some children staying in offices or hotels. These factors affect the agency's ability to support safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. By addressing these practice and systemic challenges and considering the integration of the A Home for Every Child approach into South Carolina's PIP, the state may strengthen outcomes for children and families.

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

For each outcome, we provide the state's performance on the applicable statewide data indicators from the data profile that was transmitted to the state to signal the launch of the CFSR and performance summaries from the case review findings of the onsite review. CFSR statewide data indicators provide performance information on states' child safety and permanency outcomes. The statewide data indicators are aggregate measures calculated using information that states report to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). For general information on the statewide data indicators and their use, see the National Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement page, <https://ncwcia.childwelfare.gov/>. For a detailed description of the statewide data indicators, see CFSR Technical Bulletin #13A, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/training-technical-assistance/cfsr-technical-bulletin-13a>. Results have been rounded to the nearest whole number. A summary of the state's performance for all outcomes and systemic factors is in Appendix A. Additional information on case review findings, including the state's performance on case review item rating questions, is in the state's practice performance report in Appendix B.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

State policy requires that SCDSS initiate a CWS investigation or family assessment within 24 hours of an accepted report of child abuse, neglect, or harm when the report indicates that:

- A child is at imminent and substantial risk of physical or mental injury; or
- The family may flee or the child may be unavailable for the investigation; or
- A child has been taken into emergency protective custody.

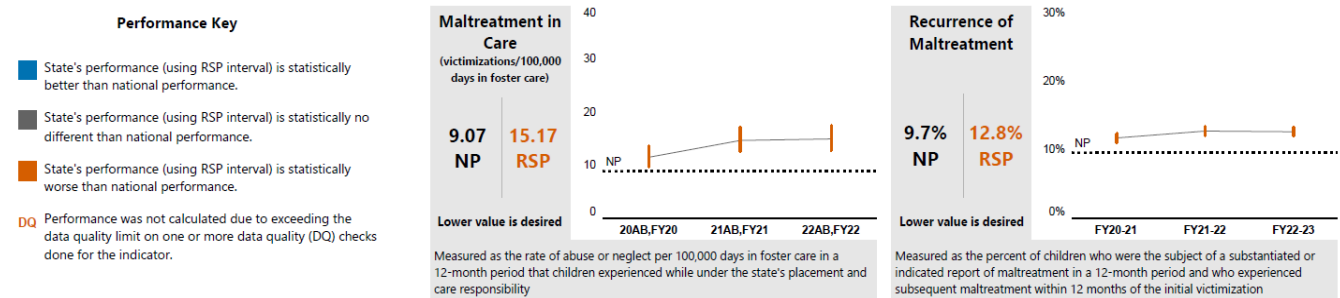
Although South Carolina law does not explicitly define the method of "initial contact," SCDSS practice standards require investigators to make direct contact, typically face-to-face, with the child and caregivers as part of initiating the assessment. Limited, situational exceptions allow initial contact by telephone and must be documented; however, face-to-face contact with the child is still required as soon as reasonably possible to complete the investigation.

For reports that do not meet the 24-hour response criteria, policy requires that a CWS investigation begin within the response timeframe assigned by intake staff, not to exceed 2 business days.

Statewide Data Indicators

The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

Figure 1. State's Performance on Safety Outcome 1 Indicators



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1:

- The state's performance on the "maltreatment in foster care" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "recurrence of maltreatment" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 1.

Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Safety Outcome 1 Data Indicators During Round 4

Table 2. Risk-Standardized Performance Compared to National Performance—Safety 1 Data Indicators

Statewide Data Indicator	August 2024 Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2025 Profile	August 2025 Profile	February 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	Worse	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	Worse	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

All results reported here are based on the February 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the August 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

South Carolina performed statistically worse than the national performance on both Safety Outcome 1 indicators across all 3 reporting years. Observed maltreatment in care rate fluctuated slightly, from 11.7 to 12 to 11 victimizations per 100,000 days, and recurrence of maltreatment improved gradually, from 9.8% to 9.7% to 9.5%. Despite these modest improvements, state’s performance for the two indicators remained worse than national performance in all reporting periods.

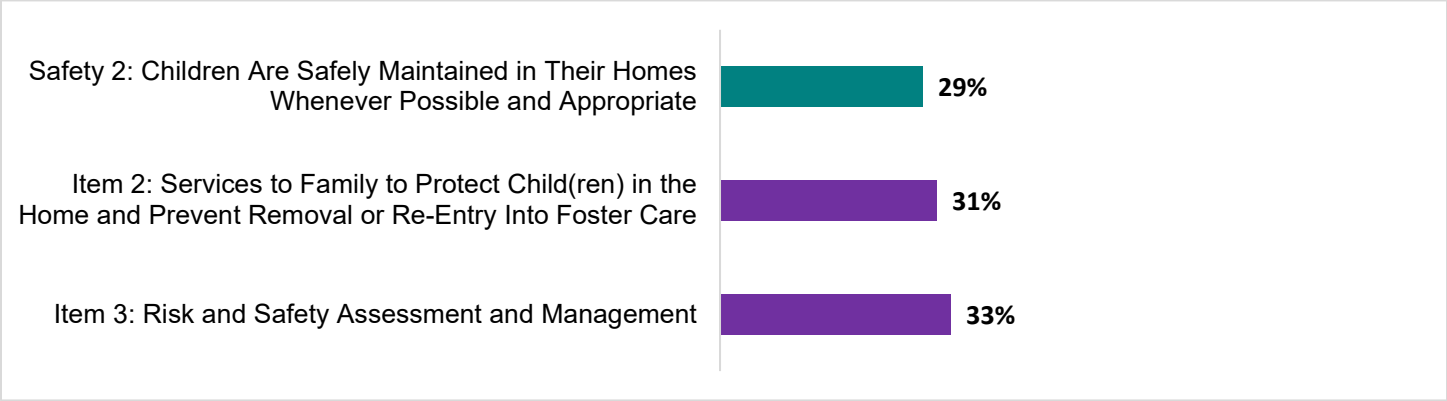
- Infants aged 0 to 3 months experienced the highest maltreatment in care rate in the most recent period, while infants aged 4 to 11 months had the highest recurrence of maltreatment. Seventeen-year-olds consistently had the lowest rates across both indicators.
- Recurrence of maltreatment was generally stable across racial and ethnic groups over the 3 reporting periods, but children identified as Unknown or Unable to Determine had the highest maltreatment-in-care rate. Among groups of children with sufficient numbers for reliable comparison, children identified as Two or More Races consistently had the highest recurrence percentages, followed by Black or African American children.
- County-level patterns differed across the two safety indicators. Maltreatment in care showed substantial year-to-year variability. For example, Richland County’s rates worsened from 10 to 17 before improving to 11.8. Greenville County’s rates showed a significant worsening trend, worsening from 8.2 to 9.5 to 16.9, over the reporting periods. In contrast, recurrence of maltreatment was generally more stable across counties and changes were small compared to the variation seen in maltreatment in care. Across both indicators, small counties produced the most extreme values due to very small denominators.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state’s performance on Items 2 and 3.

Case Review

Figure 3. Performance on Safety Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 2:

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 2.

- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 3.

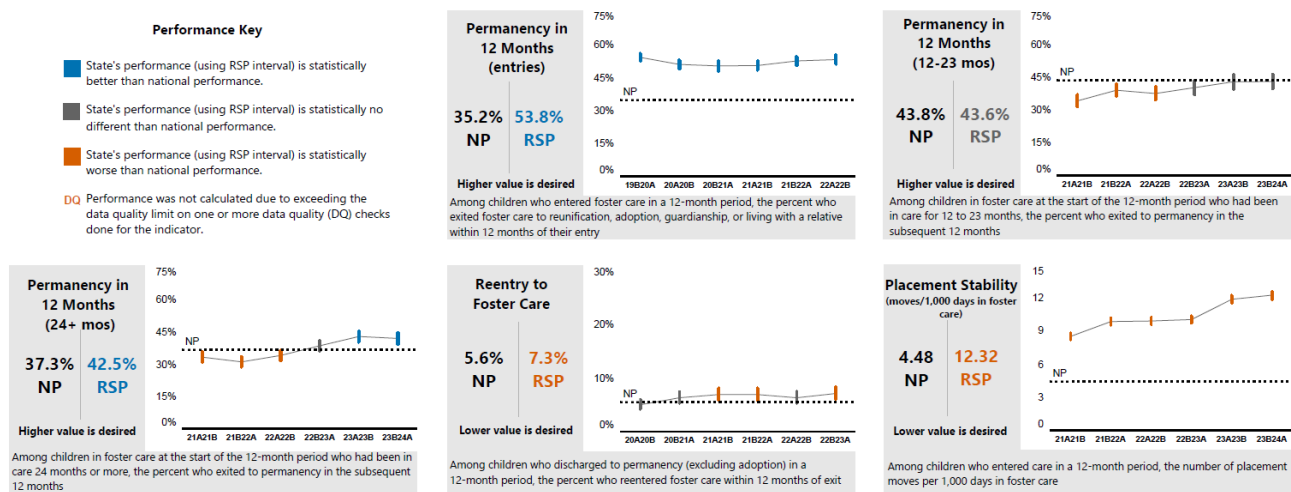
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on 5 statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Items 4, 5, and 6.

Statewide Data Indicators

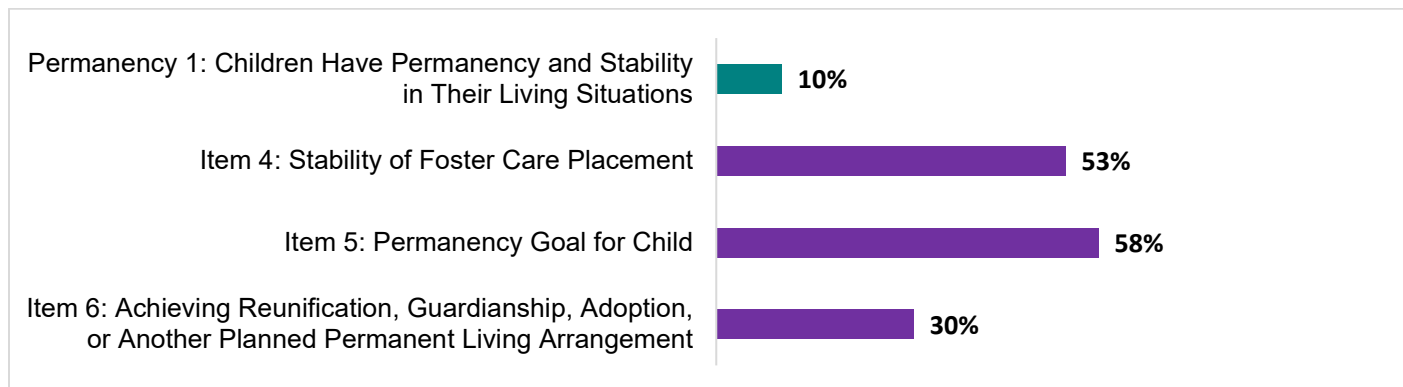
The chart below shows the state's performance during the August 2024 data profile period as captured on the February 2026 data profile. The August 2024 data profile period signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

Figure 4. State's Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 Indicators



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 1:

- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months" data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.

- The state’s performance on the “reentry to foster care in 12 months” data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- The state’s performance on the “placement stability” data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6.

Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Permanency Outcome 1 Data Indicators During Round 4

Table 3. Risk-Standardized Performance Compared to National Performance—Permanency 1 Data Indicators

Statewide Data Indicator	August 2024 Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2025 Profile	August 2025 Profile	February 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Better	Better	Better	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months	No Different	No Different	No Different	No Different	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Better	Better	Better	Better	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	Worse*	Worse	No Different	No Different	No
Placement stability	Worse	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

*This differs from what was contained in the published August 2024 profile. The state had some data quality issues, which they have since corrected.

All results reported here are based on the February 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the August 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

Permanency in 12 Months

South Carolina performed statistically better than the national performance for children entering care and children in care 24 months or more across all reporting periods. For children in care 12 to 23 months, performance was statistically no different from national performance. Observed permanency percentages remained stable at approximately 53% for entries, 42% to 45% for children in care 12 to 23 months, and 39% to 45% for children in care 24 months or longer.

- Children aged 6 to 10 had the highest permanency percentages among entries, while infants aged 0 to 3 months had the lowest. Among children in foster care for at least 1 year, children aged 1 to 5 had the highest permanency percentages, averaging around 52% for the 12-to-23-month cohort and 60% for the 24-month-or-more cohort. Seventeen-year-olds had the lowest permanency percentages across the longer-stay cohorts.
- For children entering care, permanency percentages were highest among White children and children identified as Unknown or Unable to Determine, although several racial and ethnic subgroups had denominators too small for reliable interpretation.
- County permanency performance varied across the three cohorts, with no single pattern shared across counties. Larger counties tended to fluctuate in the entries cohort, showed modest improvement in the 12-to-23-month cohort, and were relatively stable in the 24+ month cohort. Small counties showed extreme swings in all cohorts because very small denominators made their percentages highly sensitive to changes involving only one or two children.

Reentry to Foster Care

The February 2025 data profile showed data quality issues that prevented calculation of statewide foster care re-entry performance for several reporting periods. South Carolina corrected and resubmitted its data, and the February 2026 profile indicates that, despite fluctuations over time, the state's performance in the two most recent periods is statistically no different than national performance.

- Children aged 11 to 16 had the highest reentry percentages in each period. Infants consistently had the lowest rates, including 0% in the most recent year.
- Black or African American children had the highest re-entry percentages, especially when compared to the percent of total exits by this group. In the last reporting period, 39% of Black or African American children exited care but 58% re-entered. Several racial groups had small denominators that limit interpretation.
- County-level reentry percentages varied widely. Large counties, such as Greenville, Richland, Charleston, Horry, and Spartanburg, showed noticeable up-and-down shifts rather than consistent patterns. Small counties produced the most extreme values, including very high percentages or zero re-entries, because of small numbers of children exiting care.

Placement Stability

Placement stability remained a significant challenge for South Carolina. Across all reporting periods, the state performed statistically worse than the national performance. Observed placement move rates worsened from 11.9 in the earliest reporting period peaked at 13.9 before improving slightly to 13.53 moves per 1,000 days in the latest reporting period.

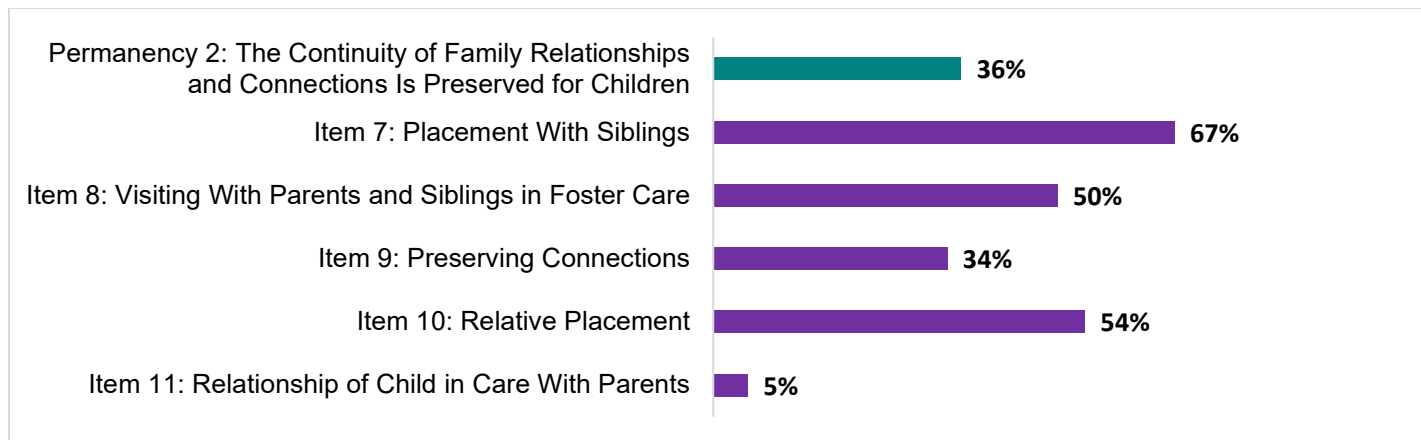
- Seventeen-year-olds had the highest placement move rates in almost every reporting period, with youth aged 11 to 16 showing the second highest rates. Infants aged 0 to 11 months experienced the fewest moves across the reporting periods.
- Race and ethnicity patterns were similar across groups, with only small differences between Black, White, Hispanic, and other groups.
- County-level placement stability performance varied widely, with larger counties showing noticeable fluctuations in performance over the reporting years. Richland County consistently remained on the highest end of the range, while Greenville and Charleston counties were consistently lower than the statewide average. Small counties produced the most extreme values because of small denominators, including both very low and very high move rates.

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Case Review

Figure 6. Performance on Permanency Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 2:

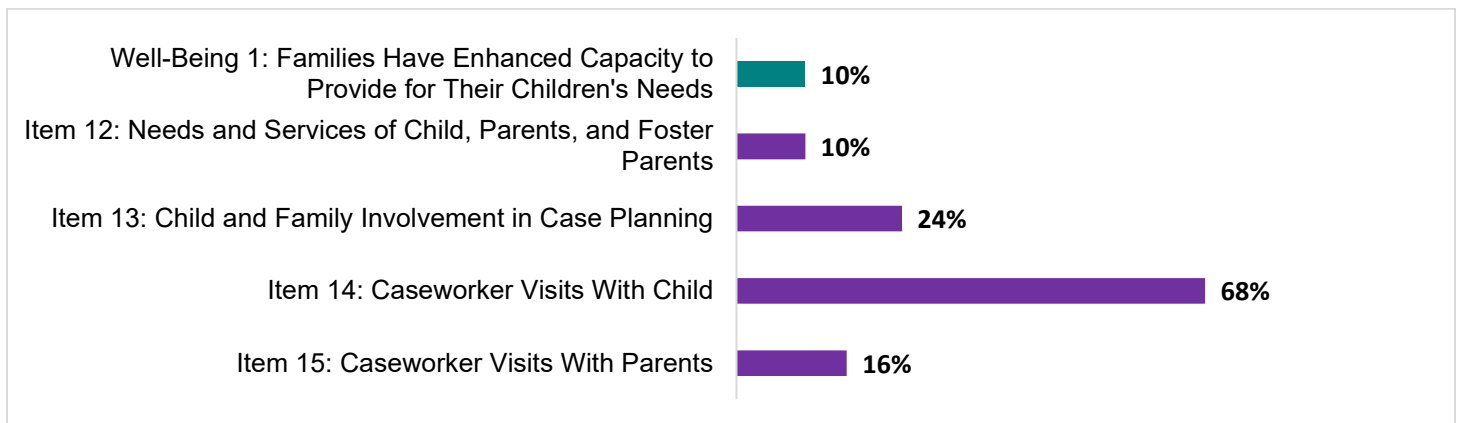
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 10.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 11.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Case Review

Figure 7. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 1:

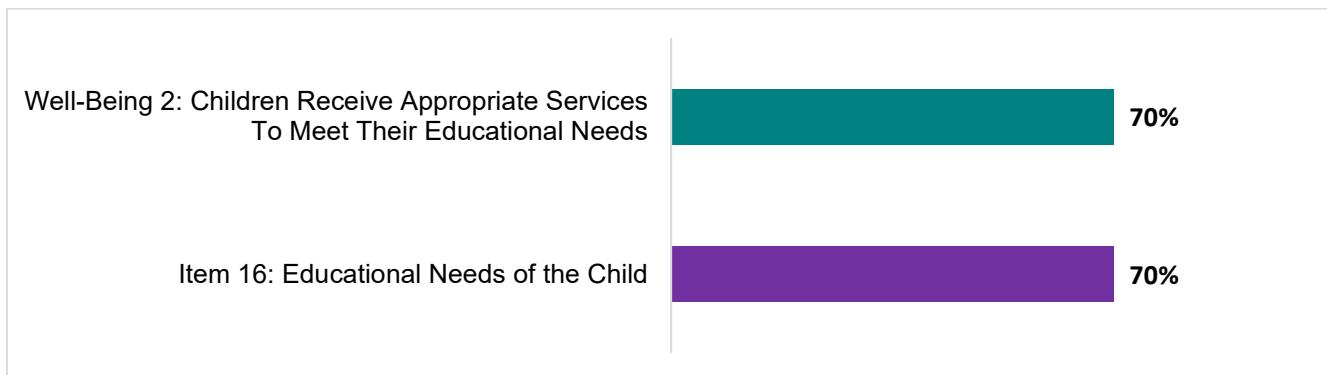
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 13.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 14.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 15.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 16.

Case Review

Figure 8. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 2:

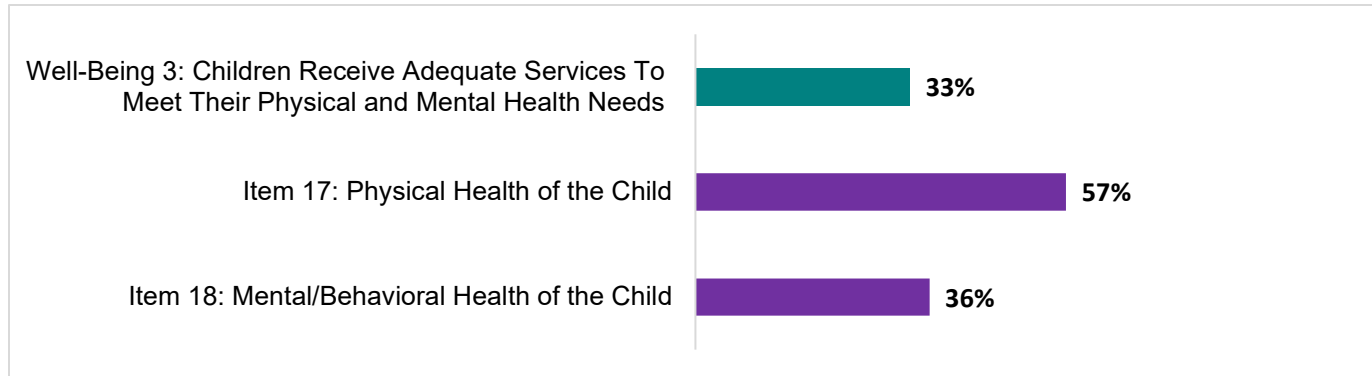
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 17 and 18.

Case Review

Figure 9. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 3 and Supporting Items



South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 3:

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 17.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 18.

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The CB determines substantial conformity with the systemic factors based on ratings for the item or items within each factor. Performance on 5 of the 7 systemic factors is determined based on ratings for multiple items or plan requirements. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with these systemic factors, the CB must find that no more than 1 of the required items for that systemic factor fails to function as required. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with the 2 systemic factors that are determined based on the rating of a single item, the CB must find that the item is functioning as required. For each systemic factor below, we provide performance summaries and a determination of whether the state is in substantial conformity with that systemic factor. In addition, we provide ratings for each item.

Statewide Information System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 19.

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Strength

South Carolina was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Statewide Information System.

Item 19: Statewide Information System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The statewide information system is functioning statewide to ensure that, at a minimum, the state can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or, within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state indicate that it operates a statewide information system that can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for every child who is in foster care. The state utilizes the Child and Adult Protective Services System (CAPSS), Safe Measures, and reports generated by the agency's Office of Accountability, Data, and Research to monitor the timeliness of data entry related to placement and legal status information.

Case Review System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Items	Rating
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Strength
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Area Needing Improvement

South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Case Review System.

Item 20: Written Case Plan

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parent(s) and includes the required provisions.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- South Carolina uses Family Team Meetings as its primary method of engaging parents in the development of their children's case plans. The data and information provided by the state does not demonstrate that each child in foster care has a written case plan that was developed jointly with their parents.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that a periodic review for each child occurs no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided by South Carolina does not demonstrate that initial and subsequent periodic reviews are held for each child in foster care every 6 months. South Carolina data reflect that a notable percentage of children do not receive timely periodic reviews at 6-month intervals.

Item 22: Permanency Hearings

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body that occurs no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Strength for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information received demonstrates that initial and subsequent permanency hearings are routinely being held within 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and every 12 months thereafter.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that the filing of termination of parental rights proceedings occurs in accordance with required provisions.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were filed in accordance with federal timeframes. South Carolina lacks a process to track and monitor whether TPR petitions are filed in accordance with federal law or to track applicable federal exceptions to filing.

Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning to ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are notified of, and have a right to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- While South Carolina statutes require that hearing notices include information regarding the right to be heard, the data and information provided do not indicate that the state routinely provides such notices to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers for periodic reviews and permanency hearings.

Quality Assurance System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 25.

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Strength

South Carolina was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Quality Assurance System.

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The quality assurance system is functioning statewide to ensure that it (1) is operating in the jurisdictions where the services included in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) are provided, (2) has standards to evaluate the quality of services (including standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect their health and safety), (3) identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, (4) provides relevant reports, and (5) evaluates implemented program improvement measures.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information showed that South Carolina uses a comprehensive QA system operating in all jurisdictions represented in the CFSP (statewide) that includes standards to evaluate the quality of services, means to identify strengths and needs of the service delivery system, relevant reports, and evaluation of implemented program improvement measures. The state uses various case review processes to gather relevant data and information and can report the data through a robust data analysis system. The state uses live dashboards to display data. The QA team works within the regional offices to share current trends, areas of practice improvement, and status of reviews. The QA team partners with regions to support and evaluate existing practice improvement.

Staff and Provider Training

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 26, 27, and 28.

Items	Rating
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Area Needing Improvement

South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Staff and Provider Training.

Item 26: Initial Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that initial training is provided to all staff who deliver services pursuant to the CFSP that includes the basic skills and knowledge required for their positions.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- South Carolina launched the Child Welfare Academy in 2021, incorporating a certification process and an on-the-job training component. However, information provided by the state does not demonstrate that new agency staff complete initial training in a timely manner. In addition, there is no evidence to show that the initial training addresses the basic skills and knowledge needed by staff to perform their duties. The state also has a graduated case assignment process, but there is no evidence that staff complete the required training before receiving full case assignments.

Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that ongoing training is provided for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided by the state indicates that while there are ongoing training requirements for staff, and initial/ongoing training is available for supervisors, there is no evidence demonstrating that staff complete ongoing training hours or that the supervisors complete their required training. Additionally, no data were available to show that the trainings address the basic skills and knowledge needed to perform their job duties.

Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that training is occurring statewide for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities (that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E) that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided by the state did not demonstrate that foster and adoptive caregivers or facility staff completed initial and ongoing training in a timely manner. Additionally, no information showed that the trainings provided the skills and knowledge needed to care for the children in their care.

Service Array and Resource Development

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 29 and 30.

Items	Rating
Item 29: Array of Services	Area Needing Improvement
Item 30: Individualizing Services	Area Needing Improvement

South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Service Array and Resource Development.

Item 29: Array of Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning to ensure that the following array of services is accessible in all political jurisdictions covered by the CFSP: (1) services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, (2) services that address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, (3) services that enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and (4) services that help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided demonstrate that South Carolina has made progress in expanding evidence-based, family-centered services, particularly those focused on prevention. However, service availability is not consistent statewide, with greater service gaps in rural communities and with non-English-speaking families. There are delays in assessments being completed and there is an inconsistent referral process. There are waitlists for critical services such as substance use treatment; mental health, particularly in-person therapy; autism-spectrum youth needs; and housing. Transportation, especially for families in rural communities who must travel significant distances to access services, is also a barrier. The availability of appropriate placements is also challenging, resulting in frequent overnight stays for children in foster care in offices, especially for children and youth with high-acuity mental and behavioral health needs, and teens.

Item 30: Individualizing Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning statewide to ensure that the services in Item 29 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information indicate that South Carolina faces challenges in meeting the individualized needs of families and youth involved with the child welfare system. While South Carolina has the framework and tools needed to individualize services, implementation is inconsistent, and capacity varies widely across the state. Although flexible funding options exist, approval processes differ by region and the types of services. By contrast, tribal programs supplement state funds with their own funding mechanisms allowing for faster and more culturally responsive support for tribal kinship caregivers.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 31 and 32.

Items	Rating
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Strength
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Strength

South Carolina was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that, in implementing the provisions of the CFSP and developing related Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSRs), the state engages in ongoing consultation with Tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and

family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- In the Statewide Assessment and CFSP, South Carolina described ongoing collaborative efforts with a variety of community partners, including the judiciary, child and family service providers, families, youth, and the Catawba Tribe in its CFSP and APSR processes. South Carolina routinely incorporates feedback from stakeholders into its CFSP, APSR, and policy decisions. South Carolina uses workgroups to complete the work on major practice changes in the change management process. The workgroups comprise staff members and external stakeholders, including current and former recipients of agency services.

Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state's services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided by the state demonstrated that the agency coordinates services with other federally assisted programs, such as Medicaid, Housing and Urban Development, HeadStart, and child support, serving the same population. South Carolina provided information regarding the braiding of funds and coordination of services through memoranda of understanding and agreement, and data-sharing agreements to guide these collaborations, ensuring integrated service delivery and accountability.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 33, 34, 35, and 36.

Items	Rating
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Area Needing Improvement
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Area Needing Improvement
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Area Needing Improvement
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Area Needing Improvement

South Carolina was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that state standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or childcare institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided do not demonstrate that state standards are applied equally. While CAPSS provides the state with the ability to pull reports on homes licensed by SCDSS, there is no centralized method of tracking and monitoring homes licensed by providers. In addition, waivers that

are due or are expiring cannot be monitored centrally to determine if standards are being applied uniformly. Temporary waivers are issued for specific unmet requirements, typically lasting 90 days, and are monitored regionally rather than through a centralized process.

Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state complies with federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided show that there are systemic challenges in South Carolina's ability to track criminal background checks statewide, particularly for child-placing agencies. There was insufficient evidence to confirm that background checks are consistently completed before licensing prospective foster and adoptive parents. However, South Carolina has a case planning process in place that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed is occurring statewide.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- South Carolina has data reports that identify characteristics of children currently in foster care, including race and ethnicity. However, the information provided by the state does not demonstrate how race and ethnicity data are used to recruit or support the development of a caregiver pool that reflects the diversity of children in care.

Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide.

- South Carolina received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided indicates that South Carolina engages in a variety of efforts to support interstate cross-jurisdictional placements for children in care, including the use of AdoptUSKids, a statewide adoption exchange list, the SC Heart Gallery, public service announcements, targeted advertising along state borders, and recruitment events. However, the state was unable to demonstrate that home studies for children from other states under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children were completed in a timely manner.

APPENDIX A

Summary of South Carolina 2025 Child and Family Services Review Performance

I. Ratings for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes and Items and Performance on Statewide Data Indicators

Outcome Achievement: Outcomes may be rated as in substantial conformity or not in substantial conformity. 95% of the applicable cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome for the state to be in substantial conformity with the outcome.

Item Achievement: Items may be rated as a Strength or as an Area Needing Improvement. For an overall rating of Strength, 90% of the cases reviewed for the item (with the exception of Item 1 and Item 16) must be rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies.

Statewide Data Indicators: For Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's performance is also considered against the national performance for each statewide data indicator. State performance may be statistically better, worse, or no different than the national performance. If a state did not provide the required data or did not meet the applicable item data quality limits, the CB did not calculate the state's performance for the statewide data indicator.

RSP (Risk-Standardized Performance) is derived from a multi-level statistical model, reflects the state's performance relative to states with similar children, and takes into account the number of children the state served, the age distribution of these children and, for some indicators, the state's entry rate. It uses risk adjustment to minimize differences in outcomes due to factors over which the state has little control and provides a fairer comparison of state performance against national performance.

RSP Interval is the 95% confidence interval estimate for the state's RSP. The values shown are the lower RSP and upper RSP of the interval estimate. The interval accounts for the amount of uncertainty associated with the RSP. For example, the CB is 95% confident that the true value of the RSP is between the lower and upper limit of the interval.

Data Period(s) Used refers to the initial 12-month period and the period(s) of data needed to follow the children to observe their outcomes. The FY or federal fiscal year refers to NCANDS data, which spans the 12-month period October 1-September 30. All other periods refer to AFCARS data. "A" refers to the 6-month period October 1-March 31. "B" refers to the 6-month period April 1-September 30. The 2-digit year refers to the calendar year in which the period ends.

SAFETY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PROTECTED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Not in Substantial Conformity	70% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.07	Worse	Lower	15.17	13.05–17.62	22A–22B, FY22–23
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Worse	Lower	12.8%	12.2%–13.4%	FY22–23

SAFETY OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	29% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	31% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	33% Strength

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	Not in Substantial Conformity	10% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	53% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	58% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	30% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care	35.2%	Better	Higher	53.8 %	51.8%–55.7%	22A–24B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months	43.8%	No Different	Higher	43.6 %	40.3%–47%	23B–24A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Better	Higher	42.5 %	39.8%–45.2%	23B–24A
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	Better	Lower	7.3 %	6.2%–8.5%	22B–24A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse	Lower	12.32	11.97–12.68	23B–24A

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2: THE CONTINUITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS IS PRESERVED FOR CHILDREN.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Not in Substantial Conformity	36% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	67% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	50% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	34% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	54% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	5% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1: FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	10% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	10% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	51% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	7% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	49% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	24% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	16% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	70% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	33% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	57% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	36% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The CB determines substantial conformity with the

systemic factors based on ratings for the item or items within each factor. Performance on 5 of the 7 systemic factors is determined on the basis of ratings for multiple items or plan requirements. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with these systemic factors, the CB must find that no more than 1 of the required items for that systemic factor fails to function as required. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with the 2 systemic factors that are determined based on the rating of a single item, the CB must find that the item is functioning as required.

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Case Review System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Service Array and Resource Development	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 29: Array of Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 30: Individualizing Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

South Carolina CFSR (State-Led) 2025

The Practice Performance Report provides an aggregated summary of practice performance for all 18 items in the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) for all approved and final cases from all the sites in the South Carolina CFSR (State-Led) and includes a breakdown of performance by case type. Please refer to the Rating Criteria section at the end of each item in the OSRI to identify which responses to questions will result in a Strength rating. For more information on the OSRI, see <https://www.cfsportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-instruments-tools-and-guides>

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment

Practice Description	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	93.75% (60 of 64)
(Question 1B) Face-to-face contact with the child(ren) who is (are) the subject of the report were made in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	68.75% (44 of 64)
(Question 1C) Reasons for delays in initiation of investigations or assessments and/or face-to-face contact were due to circumstances beyond the control of the agency.	5% (1 of 20)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	70.31% (45 of 64)

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Item 2: Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care.	5% (1 of 20)	17.78% (8 of 45)	13.85% (9 of 65)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Although the agency did not make concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry into foster care, the child(ren) was removed from the home because this action was necessary to ensure the child's safety.	45% (9 of 20)	Not Applicable	45% (9 of 20)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	40% (8 of 20)	Not Applicable	40% (8 of 20)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Concerted efforts were not made to provide appropriate services to address safety/risk issues and the child(ren) remained in the home.	0% (0 of 20)	82.22% (37 of 45)	56.92% (37 of 65)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	60% (12 of 20)	17.78% (8 of 45)	30.77% (20 of 65)

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/assessed.	100% (40 of 40)	98.33% (59 of 60)	99% (99 of 100)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	95% (38 of 40)	91.67% (55 of 60)	93% (93 of 100)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	76.92% (10 of 13)	33.33% (13 of 39)	44.23% (23 of 52)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	50% (20 of 40)	30% (18 of 60)	38% (38 of 100)
(Question 3C) When safety concerns were present, the agency developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continually monitored the safety plan as needed, including monitoring family engagement in safety-related services.	60% (6 of 10)	44.9% (22 of 49)	47.46% (28 of 59)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	72.73% (16 of 22)	78.57% (33 of 42)	76.56% (49 of 64)
(Question 3E) There were no concerns related to the safety of the target child in foster care during visitation with parent(s)/caregiver(s) or other family members that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	92.59% (25 of 27)	Not Applicable	92.59% (25 of 27)
(Question 3F) There were no concerns for the target child's safety in the foster home or placement facility that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	95% (38 of 40)	Not Applicable	95% (38 of 40)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	47.5% (19 of 40)	23.33% (14 of 60)	33% (33 of 100)

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4B) Placement changes for the child were planned by the agency in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child.	5.56% (1 of 18)	5.56% (1 of 18)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	85% (34 of 40)	85% (34 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	52.5% (21 of 40)	52.5% (21 of 40)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	97.5% (39 of 40)	97.5% (39 of 40)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	70% (28 of 40)	70% (28 of 40)
(Question 5C) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were appropriate to the child's needs for permanency and to the circumstances of the case.	72.5% (29 of 40)	72.5% (29 of 40)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	47.5% (19 of 40)	47.5% (19 of 40)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	4.76% (1 of 21)	4.76% (1 of 21)
(Questions 5F and 5G) The agency filed or joined a TPR petition before the period under review (PUR) or in a timely manner during the PUR or an exception applied.	85% (17 of 20)	85% (17 of 20)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	57.5% (23 of 40)	57.5% (23 of 40)

Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner.	36.36% (4 of 11)	36.36% (4 of 11)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	25% (1 of 4)	25% (1 of 4)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	20% (3 of 15)	20% (3 of 15)
(Questions 6A4 and 6C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to place a child with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) in a living arrangement that can be considered permanent until discharge from foster care.	75% (3 of 4)	75% (3 of 4)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and B or 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved.	16.67% (1 of 6)	16.67% (1 of 6)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	30% (12 of 40)	30% (12 of 40)

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Item 7: Placement With Siblings

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 7A) The child was placed with all siblings who also were in foster care.	33.33% (6 of 18)	33.33% (6 of 18)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	50% (6 of 12)	50% (6 of 12)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	66.67% (12 of 18)	66.67% (12 of 18)

Item 8: Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was more than once a week.	5.26% (1 of 19)	5.26% (1 of 19)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	5.26% (1 of 19)	5.26% (1 of 19)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	36.84% (7 of 19)	36.84% (7 of 19)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	15.79% (3 of 19)	15.79% (3 of 19)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	36.84% (7 of 19)	36.84% (7 of 19)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 19)
(Question 8A) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	73.68% (14 of 19)	73.68% (14 of 19)
(Question 8C) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	68.42% (13 of 19)	68.42% (13 of 19)
(Questions 8A and 8C) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and mother was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	52.63% (10 of 19)	52.63% (10 of 19)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 11)	0% (0 of 11)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	18.18% (2 of 11)	18.18% (2 of 11)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	27.27% (3 of 11)	27.27% (3 of 11)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	9.09% (1 of 11)	9.09% (1 of 11)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	36.36% (4 of 11)	36.36% (4 of 11)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	9.09% (1 of 11)	9.09% (1 of 11)
(Question 8B) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	72.73% (8 of 11)	72.73% (8 of 11)
(Question 8D) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	40% (4 of 10)	40% (4 of 10)
(Questions 8B and 8D) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and father was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	36.36% (4 of 11)	36.36% (4 of 11)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 12)	0% (0 of 12)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	0% (0 of 12)	0% (0 of 12)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	50% (6 of 12)	50% (6 of 12)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	25% (3 of 12)	25% (3 of 12)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	16.67% (2 of 12)	16.67% (2 of 12)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	8.33% (1 of 12)	8.33% (1 of 12)
(Question 8E) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	91.67% (11 of 12)	91.67% (11 of 12)
(Question 8F) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	75% (9 of 12)	75% (9 of 12)
(Questions 8E and 8F) The frequency and quality of visitation with siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	66.67% (8 of 12)	66.67% (8 of 12)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	50% (11 of 22)	50% (11 of 22)

Item 9: Preserving Connections

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 9A) Concerted efforts were made to maintain the child's important connections (for example, neighborhood, community, faith, language, extended family members including siblings who are not in foster care, Tribe, school, and/or friends).	34.21% (13 of 38)	34.21% (13 of 38)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	34.21% (13 of 38)	34.21% (13 of 38)

Item 10: Relative Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative.	17.95% (7 of 39)	17.95% (7 of 39)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (7 of 7)	100% (7 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	100% (13 of 13)	100% (13 of 13)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	100% (13 of 13)	100% (13 of 13)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	100% (13 of 13)	100% (13 of 13)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	100% (13 of 13)	100% (13 of 13)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives.	80% (12 of 15)	80% (12 of 15)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives.	80% (12 of 15)	80% (12 of 15)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives.	80% (12 of 15)	80% (12 of 15)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives.	100% (15 of 15)	100% (15 of 15)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	53.85% (21 of 39)	53.85% (21 of 39)

Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 11A) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.	10.53% (2 of 19)	10.53% (2 of 19)
(Question 11B) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.	0% (0 of 11)	0% (0 of 11)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	5% (1 of 20)	5% (1 of 20)

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Item 12: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 12 Strength Ratings	12.5% (5 of 40)	8.33% (5 of 60)	10% (10 of 100)

Sub-Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12A1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the children's needs.	65% (26 of 40)	56.67% (34 of 60)	60% (60 of 100)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	26.92% (7 of 26)	27.5% (11 of 40)	27.27% (18 of 66)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	50% (20 of 40)	51.67% (31 of 60)	51% (51 of 100)

Sub-Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the mother's needs	32% (8 of 25)	38.98% (23 of 59)	36.9% (31 of 84)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	8.33% (2 of 24)	8.77% (5 of 57)	8.64% (7 of 81)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	12% (3 of 25)	11.86% (7 of 59)	11.9% (10 of 84)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	21.05% (4 of 19)	23.53% (12 of 51)	22.86% (16 of 70)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	5.56% (1 of 18)	6.12% (3 of 49)	5.97% (4 of 67)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	10.53% (2 of 19)	7.84% (4 of 51)	8.57% (6 of 70)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	3.85% (1 of 26)	8.33% (5 of 60)	6.98% (6 of 86)

Sub-Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12C1) The agency adequately assessed the needs of the foster or pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care on an ongoing basis.	69.23% (27 of 39)	69.23% (27 of 39)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	23.08% (6 of 26)	23.08% (6 of 26)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	48.72% (19 of 39)	48.72% (19 of 39)

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 13A) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the child in the case planning process.	67.86% (19 of 28)	62.86% (22 of 35)	65.08% (41 of 63)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	20.83% (5 of 24)	25.42% (15 of 59)	24.1% (20 of 83)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	16.67% (3 of 18)	20% (10 of 50)	19.12% (13 of 68)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	34.29% (12 of 35)	18.33% (11 of 60)	24.21% (23 of 95)

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 60)	0% (0 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	2.5% (1 of 40)	0% (0 of 60)	1% (1 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	7.5% (3 of 40)	3.33% (2 of 60)	5% (5 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	90% (36 of 40)	86.67% (52 of 60)	88% (88 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	0% (0 of 40)	10% (6 of 60)	6% (6 of 100)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 60)	0% (0 of 100)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	97.5% (39 of 40)	86.67% (52 of 60)	91% (91 of 100)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	67.5% (27 of 40)	71.67% (43 of 60)	70% (70 of 100)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	67.5% (27 of 40)	68.33% (41 of 60)	68% (68 of 100)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 24)	0% (0 of 59)	0% (0 of 83)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	4.17% (1 of 24)	0% (0 of 59)	1.2% (1 of 83)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	12.5% (3 of 24)	0% (0 of 59)	3.61% (3 of 83)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	45.83% (11 of 24)	72.88% (43 of 59)	65.06% (54 of 83)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	37.5% (9 of 24)	23.73% (14 of 59)	27.71% (23 of 83)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	0% (0 of 24)	3.39% (2 of 59)	2.41% (2 of 83)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	58.33% (14 of 24)	76.27% (45 of 59)	71.08% (59 of 83)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	20.83% (5 of 24)	28.07% (16 of 57)	25.93% (21 of 81)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	20.83% (5 of 24)	23.73% (14 of 59)	22.89% (19 of 83)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 50)	0% (0 of 68)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	5.56% (1 of 18)	0% (0 of 50)	1.47% (1 of 68)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	5.56% (1 of 18)	2% (1 of 50)	2.94% (2 of 68)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	11.11% (2 of 18)	36% (18 of 50)	29.41% (20 of 68)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	44.44% (8 of 18)	46% (23 of 50)	45.59% (31 of 68)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	33.33% (6 of 18)	16% (8 of 50)	20.59% (14 of 68)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	27.78% (5 of 18)	46% (23 of 50)	41.18% (28 of 68)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	25% (3 of 12)	30.95% (13 of 42)	29.63% (16 of 54)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	16.67% (3 of 18)	22% (11 of 50)	20.59% (14 of 68)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	16% (4 of 25)	16.67% (10 of 60)	16.47% (14 of 85)

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	85.71% (30 of 35)	80% (4 of 5)	85% (34 of 40)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	58.33% (14 of 24)	60% (3 of 5)	58.62% (17 of 29)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	71.43% (25 of 35)	60% (3 of 5)	70% (28 of 40)

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	80% (32 of 40)	71.88% (23 of 32)	76.39% (55 of 72)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (13 of 13)	Not Applicable	100% (13 of 13)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	69.23% (27 of 39)	56.67% (17 of 30)	63.77% (44 of 69)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	84.62% (33 of 39)	100% (2 of 2)	85.37% (35 of 41)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	75% (27 of 36)	100% (2 of 2)	76.32% (29 of 38)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	57.5% (23 of 40)	56.25% (18 of 32)	56.94% (41 of 72)

Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs.	72.73% (24 of 33)	56.52% (13 of 23)	66.07% (37 of 56)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	72.22% (13 of 18)	Not Applicable	72.22% (13 of 18)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	42.42% (14 of 33)	26.09% (6 of 23)	35.71% (20 of 56)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	42.42% (14 of 33)	26.09% (6 of 23)	35.71% (20 of 56)