

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

California

FINAL REPORT

2024

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Final Report: California Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the state of California. 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 California are based on:

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and submitted to the CB on July 28, 2023. 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 February 2023 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 163 cases [138 foster care and 25 in-home], conducted via a State-Led Review process statewide in California during October 1, 2023–March 31, 2024, which examined case practices occurring in October 2022 through March 2024.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys Representing the Agency, Parents, and Children/Youth
 - Child Welfare Agency Statewide Leadership
 - Child Welfare Caseworkers
 - Child Welfare Contractors/Service Providers
 - Child Welfare Program Managers
 - Child Welfare Regional Management
 - Child Welfare Supervisors
 - County Alcohol and Other Drug Managers, Outpatient and County Behavioral Health
 - Court Appointed Special Advocates
 - Court System/CIP
 - Foster/Adoptive Parents
 - Information System Staff
 - Judges/Judicial Officers
 - Juvenile Justice Department/Probation Staff
 - Parents
 - Relative Caregivers
 - Tribal Child Welfare Staff
 - Tribal Representatives/Leaders
 - Youth Advocates

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 those 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

California 2024 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

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

California was found in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes:

The following 1 of the 7 systemic factors was found to be in substantial conformity:

- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

CB Comments on State Performance

The following are the CB's observations about cross-cutting systemic and practice themes for the California CDSS in its Round 4 CFSR:

In its Round 3 CFSR in 2016, California was not in substantial conformity with any of the CFSR outcomes and was in substantial conformity with two systemic factors: Statewide Information System and Agency Responsiveness to the Community. California entered into a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address the areas of nonconformity and then successfully completed implementation of its PIP. All penalties were rescinded. In Round 4, California conducted a State-Led Review in October 2023 through March 2024. In Round 4, California is not in substantial conformity with any of the outcomes and is in substantial conformity with one systemic factor: Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

The Round 4 CFSR case review results identified practices that California put into place during its Round 3 PIP that can continue to be built upon in its Round 4 PIP to move toward achievement of substantial conformity with the CFSR outcomes and systemic factors. During CFSR Round 3, California improved access to core services for children and families, expanded its Quality Parenting Initiative, increased use of parent partners and cultural brokers, clarified access and support to relative/non-relative extended family, and educated staff and legal partners on termination of parental rights (TPR) and compelling reason parameters.

California's case reviews consistently reveal strong performance on placement stability, as well as placement with siblings, and the state shows similar strength in performance for the placement stability statewide data indicator, which is better than the national Observed Performance. While data from both case reviews and the statewide data indicators demonstrate strong placement stability practices overall, the results of case reviews and stakeholder interviews indicate operational and practice concerns that could impact performance. For example, findings indicate that although there are ongoing training requirements for Resource Family Approval applicants, the process is administered by counties and, consequently, collecting accurate statewide data is a challenge. This impedes efforts to determine the effectiveness of the training and approval process, which is necessary for a well-functioning system. Further, there are challenges in determining the effectiveness of diligent recruitment efforts of foster and adoptive homes and in understanding whether efforts are targeted to caregivers who represent the racial and ethnic diversity of children in foster care.

California also demonstrated solid performance in assessing and meeting the educational needs of children. Both of the areas of assessing and addressing educational needs were rated highly, although foster care cases were rated higher than in-home cases. Case reviews also indicated that the state collaborated

effectively with schools, supported the development of Individualized Education Plans, and monitored school performance.

In the areas of Safety Outcomes 1 and 2, the state struggled with making face-to-face contact with children in accepted child maltreatment reports within the timeframes established by agency policy. Improving timely initiation of responses to maltreatment reports categorized with a 10-day response time and improving efforts to locate all family members may improve performance. Although use of the Structured Decision-Making tool was associated with Strength ratings, improving the thoroughness of ongoing risk and safety assessments and developing accurate safety plans with a focus on domestic violence and substance use will set the foundation for addressing needs through the provision of appropriate services. Additionally, the current safety statewide data indicator measuring maltreatment in foster care indicates that the state is performing statistically worse than national performance.

Family engagement will be a key practice area to address in California's PIP. Parental engagement is foundational for improving safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families involved in the California child welfare system. Improving caseworker engagement with parents is a cross-cutting concern that can affect a variety of practices assessed in specific case review items, such as Item 8: Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care; Item 10: Relative Placement; Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents; Sub-Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents; Item 13: Case Planning; and Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents; as well as Systemic Factor Item 20: Written Case Plan, which looks at whether each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parent(s) and includes the required provisions. Together, these items share low performance and lower performance with fathers than mothers. Improving how caseworkers assess parents' needs, ensuring that they are provided necessary services, and engaging them in case planning are critical to achieving better outcomes. Requiring and strengthening the capacity of caseworkers to build relationships with parents through regular quality visits is also a cornerstone of child welfare practice that impacts safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. Improving both quantity and quality of caseworker visits with children and parents will need to be reinforced through inclusion in the state's PIP.

Strong collaboration between the agency and legal and judicial system partners is essential for moving children and families toward timely and appropriate permanency. The three statewide data indicators for Permanency in 12 months (for children entering foster care, for those in care 12–23 months, and for those in care for 24+ months) show that California's performance is statistically worse than national performance. The case review also revealed challenges in all types of permanency goals but most often regarding the goals of adoption, reunification, and Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). Most cases where adoption was rated as a Strength noted that the goal of adoption was established at the onset or close to the onset of the removal. However, even in some of those cases, there were delays in processing the paperwork necessary to finalize adoptions, due in part to staff vacancies in adoption units. For cases with goals of adoption and reunification, there were delays in achieving permanency due to failure to explore and notify Tribes in accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act as well as untimely pursuit of TPR. California has a strong practice of placing children with relatives, which is noted as an exception to filing TPR petitions, although CA does not have a practice of filing these petitions timely. Compelling reasons not to file were articulated in very few cases.

For cases with a goal of reunification, the case review found that most such goals were appropriate to the circumstances of the case and were established timely. However, children are not achieving permanency by reunification within the federal guidelines of 12 months. As noted, insufficient engagement with families was observed as contributing to the delays in achieving the goal of reunification, including supporting families with needed services, notably housing.

Regarding the goal of APPLA, although the Social Security Act indicates that establishment of such a goal can only occur for children and youth over age 16, in many cases APPLA was the sole goal in place for children younger than age 16, with the youngest being age 11.

The role of legal and judicial professionals in achieving positive outcomes for children and youth is paramount. Agency attorneys are expected to request, and judges are expected to approve, permanency goals that are

appropriate to case circumstances. They also are expected to ensure that the agency makes efforts toward those goals to assist in the timely achievement of permanency. In the cases reviewed, it appeared that although the courts monitor the timeliness of hearings, the agency is the driver of the case plan, meaning that the timing of hearings is not synchronized to the timing of progress on the case plan. It is evident from the case reviews and stakeholder interviews that CA experiences delays in periodic reviews and permanency hearings due largely to contested hearings and congested dockets. For periodic reviews, the disposition dates often exceeded statutory timeframes, causing delays in completing initial periodic reviews (6-month reviews). Permanency hearings (12-month reviews) often are continued due to contested hearings. Further, when multiple days are needed to hear contested cases, the hearings can span across months. Clearly identifying legal and judicial strategies in the PIP that target the key factors that support or impede the achievement of timely and appropriate permanency for children and families, and developing strategies that will effectively address barriers, are critical in improving the permanency-in-12-months performance measures.

The PIP should also identify strategies to provide thorough and accurate assessments and associated services to support the children and families in the system and move cases to permanency. This set of strategies could encompass improvements in the capacity of the workforce to conduct accurate assessments of the needs of children and families as well as improvements in the service array available across the state. California was not in substantial conformity with the Service Array systemic factor. The Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews identified waitlists, lack of available and accessible behavioral health services such as psychological evaluations, inpatient/residential alcohol and drug treatment facilities, placement homes, transportation, and visitation services, as primary areas of concern. Consequently, children and youth are sometimes placed outside of their county or in short-term shelters, delaying reunification. Sub-Item 12B, measuring needs assessment and services to parents, was one of the lowest-performing items. Items 17 and 18, measuring meeting the physical, dental, and mental/behavioral health needs of the child, also demonstrated lower performance. Improving staff's ability to complete accurate and thorough assessments is a building block to creating solid case plans and establishing services that are individualized and targeted to meet the needs of the children and family. All three items under the systemic factor of Staff and Provider Training were rated as an Area Needing Improvement. Not all new caseworkers completed core training in their first year, and the state was unable to demonstrate that probation agency staff complete training. In addition, data showed that new caseworkers are not prepared for their duties after initial training. Ongoing caseworker training is not tracked; the state is only partially able to meet the ongoing training needs of staff, and probation agency staff have no training requirements. Staff identified a need for specific training in secondary trauma, father engagement, mental health factors, substance use disorders, intimate partner violence, and impactful conversations. Without effective training, staff are unable to conduct accurate and thorough assessments that lead to the provision of targeted services to address critical needs that assist families in reaching permanency.

The Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews revealed that the state lacks complete, accurate, and reliable data, affecting continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts throughout the child welfare system. California's PIP will need to focus on data system capacity and quality assurance (QA) so the state can identify opportunities for improvement and track improvements over time. Data system challenges were noted as follows: accuracy of the required elements in the statewide information system, specifically ethnicity; location of child and permanency goals; accurate identification of foster care placements and placement episodes; tracking parent participation in case plans; tracking the timeliness of initial and ongoing periodic reviews, permanency hearings, and TPR filings; tracking the provision of notices to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents and relative caregivers of periodic reviews and permanency hearings; tracking of initial and ongoing staff and foster parent training; tracking of the consistent application of licensing standards; tracking criminal background checks; and tracking the efficacy of diligent recruitment efforts.

As California begins its work to develop a PIP and to identify root causes for some of the challenges the system is confronting, it will be important to identify, consider, and critically analyze any evidence of disparities in services and/or outcomes among those served by the state child welfare system. Following that analysis, the state may propose solutions to decision-making processes, programs, and policies that may contribute to inequities in services and outcomes. California's QA system and processes will have an important role in

collecting and analyzing data needed to examine contributing factors and underlying causes of practice and systemic concerns, and to identify strengths to build upon in making improvements.

As California develops PIP strategies to address the concerns that have been highlighted in the CFSR, the state is encouraged to engage its counties, legal/judicial partners, Tribes, parents, youth, service providers, and other community partners. Engaging collaboratively with system partners will inform strategic planning, sets a foundation for CQI efforts, and has been shown to contribute to authentic and lasting change for those encountering the child welfare system.

Equity Observations and Considerations

Ensuring that child welfare is serving all people equitably and with respect for all individuals is essential to the work in child welfare and is a focused priority at the Children's Bureau. To create a system that is effective and equitable for all, states must pay particular attention to variation in performance metrics because disparity in outcomes could signal inequity that should be explored and addressed. During Round 4 of the CFSR, there is a focus on using data and evidence to identify disparities in services and outcomes; to understand the role that child welfare programs, policies, and practices may play in contributing to those disparities; and to inform and develop system improvements to address them.

- Black or African American children are disproportionately represented in foster care entries and maltreatment victimizations in foster care relative to their representation in the general child population. Black or African American children are 5% of the California child population but more than 15% of foster care entries and nearly a quarter of all maltreatment victims.
- Compared to White and Hispanic children, the overall proportion of Black children in care increased the longer the children were in care—from entries (15%), to children in care 12 to 23 months (16%), to children in care at least 24 months (21%).
- Black children also achieved permanency at lower rates than White and Hispanic children—and as compared to the state overall—across all three Permanency in 12 Months indicators.
- Hispanic children comprise approximately 52% of California's child population but 57% of all entries into foster care. However, this group of children exits to permanency with a higher proportion of exits compared to their population, and proportionately experiences fewer reentries, placement moves, and victimizations in foster care (including recurrent victimizations) than any other race/ethnic group.

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 Capacity Building Center for States page, <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/topics/cfsr/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit>. 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.

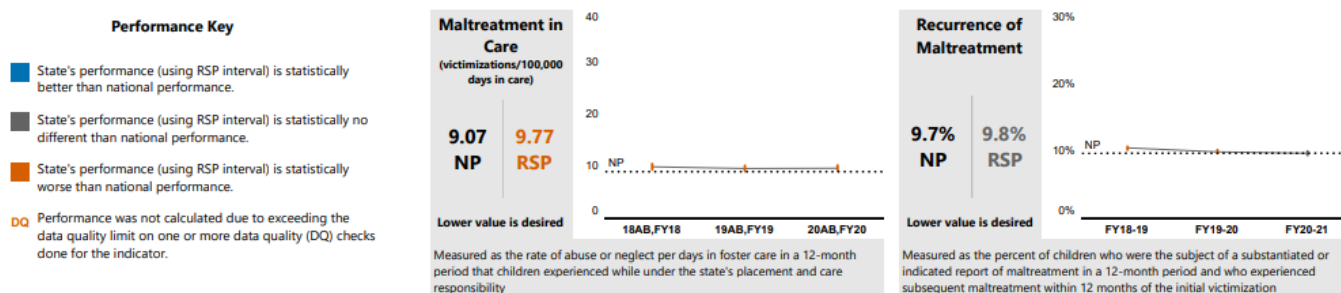
The state's policy requires that CDSS initiate investigations within the timeframes below by having face-to-face contact:

- Within 24 hours for reports assigned an immediate response.
- Within 10 days for reports assigned a 10-day response.
 - Note: Some counties may have varying response times (greater than 24 hours and sooner than 10 days). For the purposes of the CFSRs, any response times greater than 24 hours are captured as 10-day response times.

Statewide Data Indicators

The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2023 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



California 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 no different 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	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2023 Profile	February 2024 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	No Different	No Different	No Different	No

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 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 February 2023 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

California's performance on the Maltreatment in Foster Care data indicator has been worse than national performance over the last 3 reporting years and is trending in an undesirable direction. During this time period, the number of victimizations has increased each year, and 10% overall, while the number of days children spent in care has decreased by 3% overall.

- Black children consistently experienced higher rates of maltreatment in care compared with Hispanic and White children over the last 3 reporting years. While the rates of maltreatment for Hispanic and White children increased, their rates in FY 2021 were still lower than the rate of maltreatment for Black children in FY 2019.
- Hispanic children accounted for more than half of total days in care; however, over the last 3 reporting periods, Hispanic children experienced a 6% increase in the rate of maltreatment—compared with a 24% increase experienced by Black children and a 23% increase experienced by White children.
- Five counties accounted for nearly two-thirds of all days children spend in care. Among them, San Bernardino and Orange Counties together accounted for 16% of all days but a quarter of all victimizations, with rates of maltreatment among the worst in the state.

Performance on Recurrence of Maltreatment improved in each of the last 3 reporting years, with a 13% decrease in the number of initial maltreatment victims and an 18% drop in the number of recurring maltreatment victims.

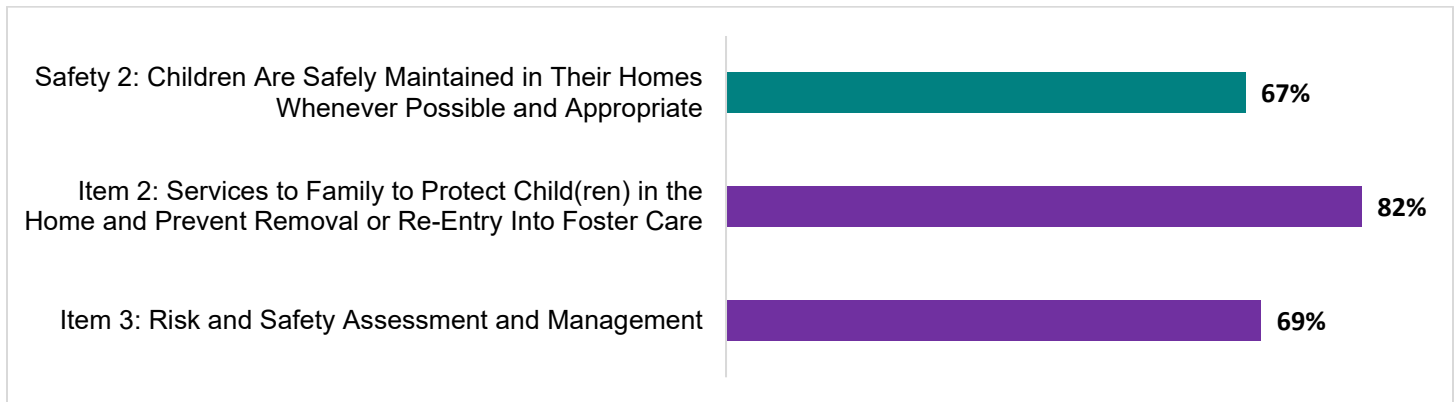
- The decrease in recurrence was observed across all age groups except youth aged 17 years and across all race and ethnicity groups except children of two or more races or with missing race/ethnicity data.
- Los Angeles and Riverside Counties were the top two counties by number of initial victims, but they reported proportionately fewer recurring victims, with lower revictimization rates than the state overall.

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



California 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.

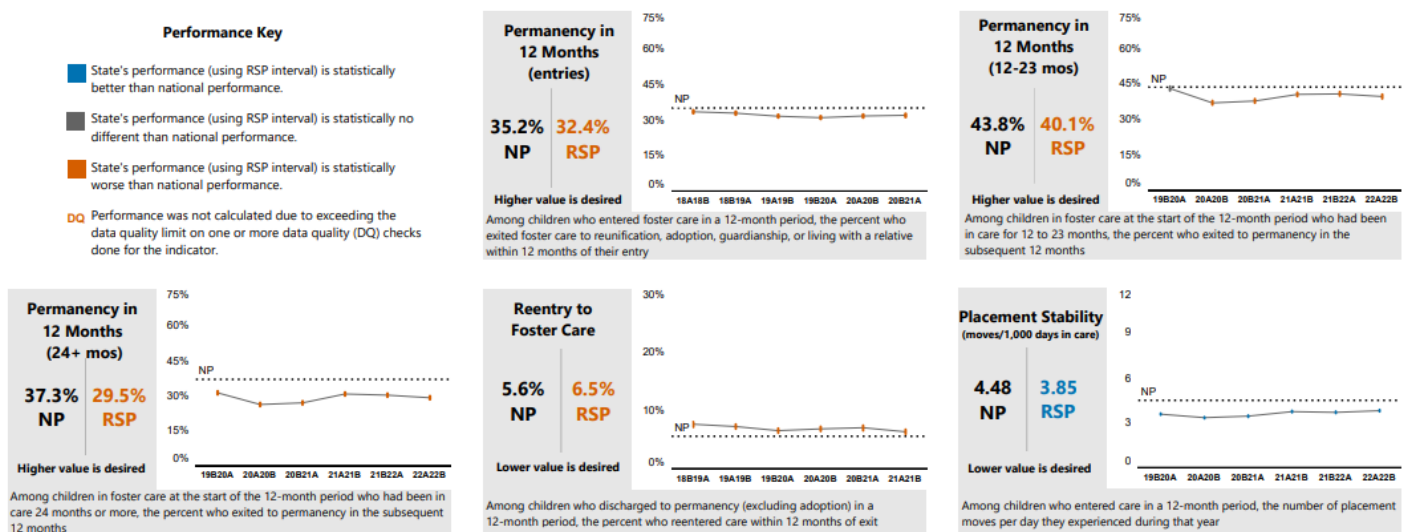
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

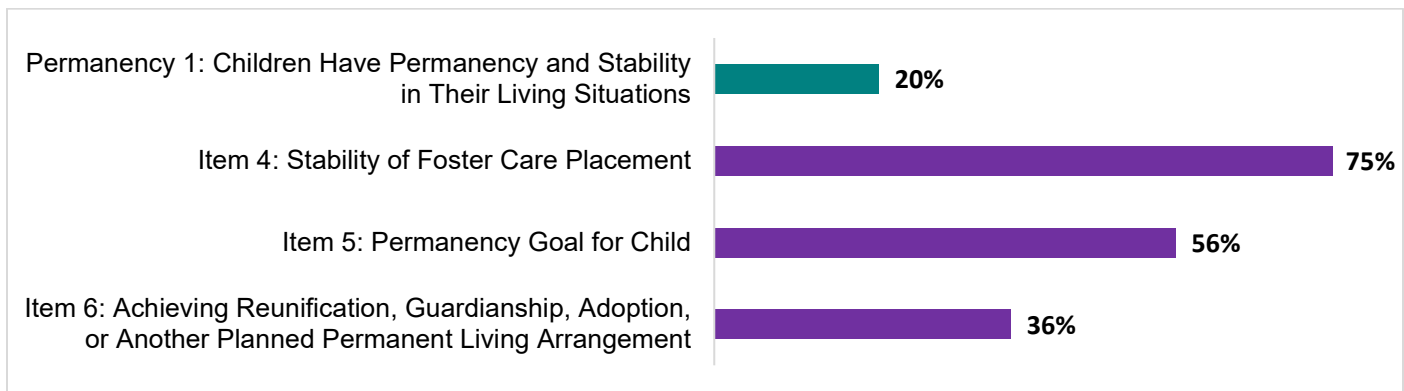
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2023 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



California 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 worse 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 worse 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 worse 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 better 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	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2023 Profile	February 2024 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2023 Profile	February 2024 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	Worse	No Different	No Different	No
Placement stability	Better	Better	Better	No

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 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 February 2023 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

California consistently performed statistically worse than national performance for all three Permanency in 12 Months indicators. Over the last 3 reporting years, performance on all three indicators improved less than 1% overall. However, this slight improvement was not shared across all sub-populations equally.

- For the most recent reporting period, Hispanic and White children achieved permanency within 12 months at the same or higher rates as their respective rates of entry into foster care. However, Black children comprised 15% of all entries but only 14% of all exits to permanency within 12 months of entry.
- This discrepancy for Black children compared to Hispanic and White children was increasingly more pronounced the longer they were in care. Among children in care 12 to 23 months, Black children comprised 16% of children in care and 13% of exits, and among children in care at least 24 months, Black children made up 21% of the population but less than 18% of exits.
- Hispanic children were the only race and ethnicity population that showed improvement across all three indicators. White children experienced a 2.8% decrease in achieving permanency for children entering care and Black children experienced a 6.4% decrease for children in care 12 to 23 months.
- Children aged 1–5 years were the only age group that consistently demonstrated improvement across these indicators, with a 4% increase in performance for achieving permanency among children entering care and in care 12 to 23 months, and the only age group that improved in performance for children in care at least 24 months.
- In contrast, children aged 6–10 years experienced a decrease in performance across these three indicators, including a 5.5% decrease in performance in achieving permanency for children in care 12 to 23 months.

California's performance on Reentry to Foster Care improved from statistically worse than national performance from the time of the state's Statewide Assessment to statistically no different than national performance, reversing a trend in performance in the undesired direction.

- The decrease in reentries over the last three reporting years was observed across all age and race/ethnicity groups, except for children aged 17 years.
- Children aged 1–5 years make up over a third of all exits in the state, but account for over 40% of all reentries within 12 months of exits to permanency; performance on reentries to foster care was consistently worse for this group of children than for all other age groups except children younger than 1 year and showed the least amount of improvement during this timeframe.
- Hispanic children, who made up 58% of all exits to permanency, experienced a 16% decrease in reentries (compared with 6% and 5% for Black and White children, respectively).

California's performance on Placement Stability was consistently better than national performance. Over the last 3 reporting years, the number of days in care dropped by 18% while the number of placement moves dropped by 20%.

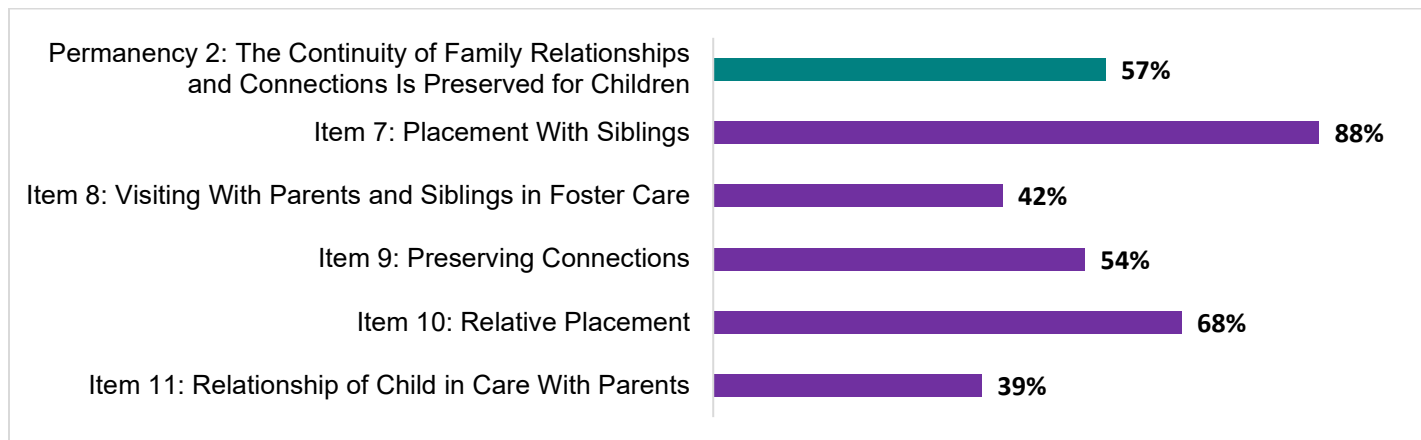
- Despite the overall decrease in the rate of placement moves over the past 3 reporting periods, children aged 11 years and older, who accounted for more than a quarter of all days in care, experienced a 5% increase in the rate of placement moves.
- Black children consistently had a higher rate of placement moves compared to the state's overall performance, which only worsened, increasing by 10%. In contrast, the rate of placement moves among White children in the state decreased by 10% over the same timeframe.
- While Los Angeles County comprised 29% of all days children spent in care, it accounted for only 21% of all moves. Kern County accounted for the sixth most days in care (4.0% of the entire state), but for more than 10% of all placement moves—resulting in a higher rate of moves (9.59 moves per 1,000 days in care) than any other county in the state in the last reporting year.

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



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

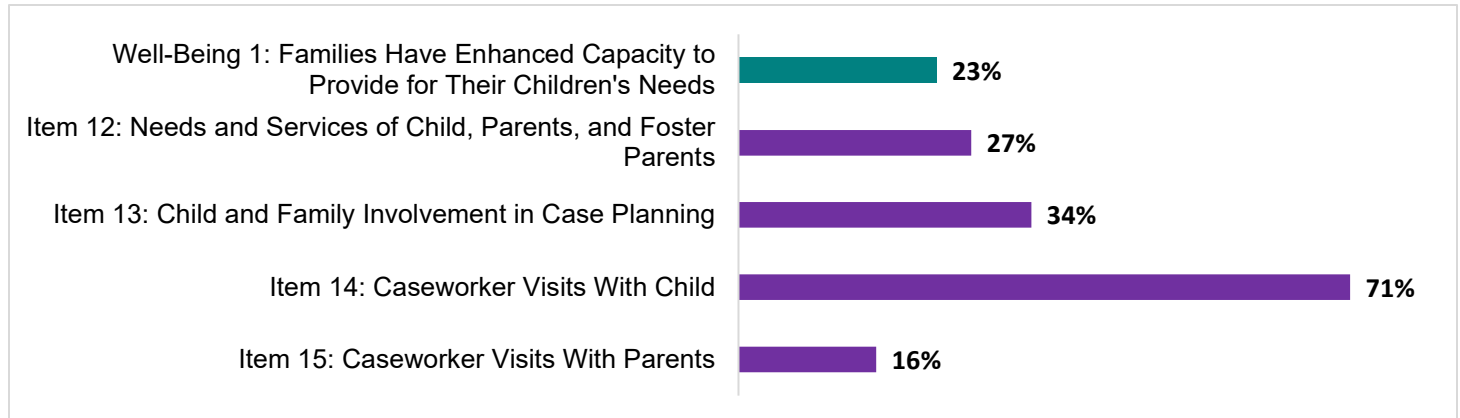
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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



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

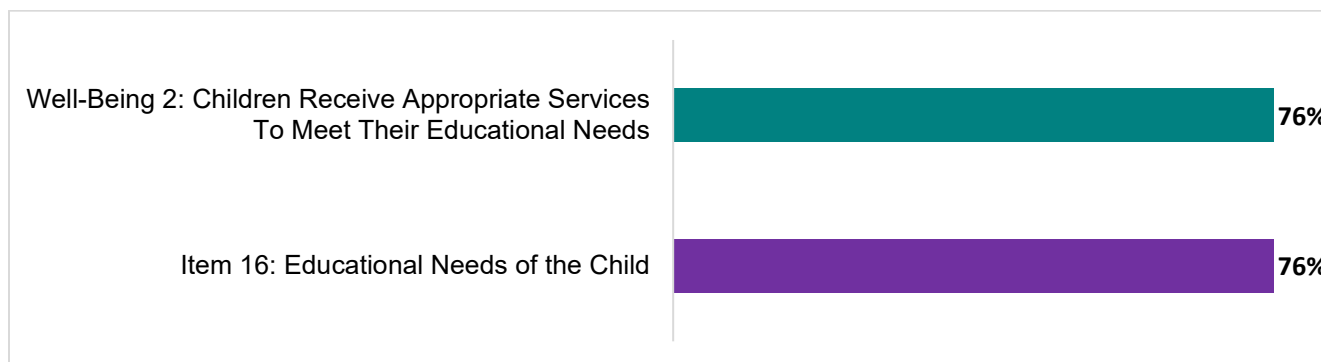
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
 - Less than 90% of the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



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

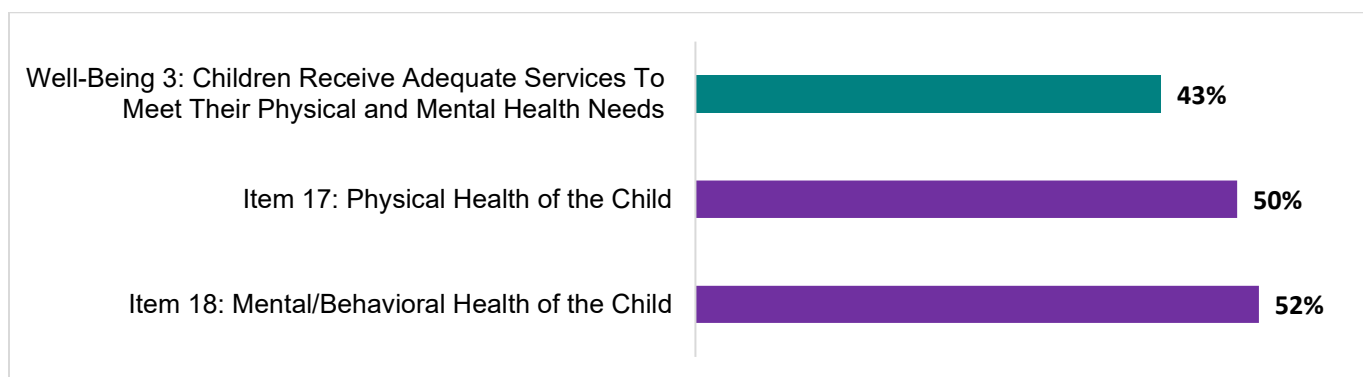
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



California 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	Area Needing Improvement

California was found not 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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data provided by California indicated that although the state's information system, the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), can identify the status, demographics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care, there are data accuracy issues for all the required elements; specific areas needing improvement are ethnicity, location of child, and permanency goals.

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	Area Needing Improvement
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Area Needing Improvement

California 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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- Information provided by California indicated that most written case plans are not developed jointly with parents statewide. The state did not provide data or evidence that case plans are written jointly with parents statewide.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided by California indicated that there are no data showing that periodic reviews are being held at least once every 6 months consistently statewide. Although the Statewide Assessment reported data showing that most children in foster care 6 months or more have a periodic review, there are no data to show that these initial and ongoing periodic reviews were routinely held timely statewide.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Although California presented administrative data showing that subsequent permanency hearings occur for most children who are in foster care for more than 12 months, the data did not show that initial permanency hearings occur timely.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- Information and data provided demonstrated that California does not routinely file TPR petitions in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). Further, the state asserted that data regarding TPR are not collected statewide due to limitations of the CWS/CMS.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- The state does not have statewide data to demonstrate whether foster parents, pre-adoptive parents and relative caregivers are receiving notifications of periodic reviews or permanency hearings held with respect to the child and that notifications include a right to be heard.

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	Area Needing Improvement

California was found not 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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- Information provided by California showed that the QA system is not fully implemented and functioning statewide. The QA system, although operational statewide, does not ensure the routine utilization of case review results and relevant reports to improve service delivery and the quality of services statewide. California has made significant improvements to ensure that its CQI system is operational statewide, but California noted that the state has not yet built an effective process for using evidence collected through case reviews and county self-assessments to inform, implement, or assess program implementation activities or program 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

California 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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- Information and data provided by California showed that not all social workers completed common core training required in their first year, and there were no data to show whether juvenile probation placement workers completed training. In addition, data showed that new workers are reportedly not prepared for their duties after completing initial training.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- California has ongoing annual training requirements for child welfare workers and supervisors, but there are no state requirements for probation placement staff. The state noted that the new Learning Management System could not be used to track compliance with ongoing training requirements for caseworkers and supervisors; the state is only partially able to meet the ongoing training needs of county workers; and the state is limited in its ability to assess the effectiveness of ongoing trainings.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- California provided information that described its initial and ongoing training requirements for Resource Family Approval (RFA) applicants, licensed temporary shelters, and short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) staff. RFA program training is provided to prospective foster families, adoptive families, guardians, and relative placement homes. California acknowledges that because the RFA process is administered by counties, collecting accurate statewide data is a challenge. Licensed shelters and STRTP staff are required to complete initial and annual trainings, but the state does have data to show that these trainings are completed and the effectiveness of the trainings.

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

California 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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided by California indicates varying availability and accessibility to services statewide. There is a lack of available and accessible behavioral health services, particularly psychological evaluations, and inpatient/residential alcohol and other drug treatment facilities for both adults and youth, resulting in youth being placed out of county to access these services. In addition, there is a lack of placement homes, resulting in children/youth being placed out of county and an increased usage of short-term shelters. Lack of transportation and visitation services, and waitlists for affordable housing, create barriers to service engagement and reunification efforts. Statewide, rural areas lack service availability, and many families must travel to urban areas to access services. In addition, service accessibility is affected by waitlists for low/no-cost services for children and families, and limitations to what Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) covers.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided by California indicates that the ability to individualize services varies statewide. While there is collaboration with Tribes, there is an overdependency on Tribes to recommend and connect families to culturally relevant services, including providing transportation. There are long waitlists to access regional center assessments, and a lack of services available for youth with complex needs and trauma-informed services such as behavioral health, interpreter services, housing, specialized/therapeutic placement homes, and teen residential treatment centers. These gaps in the ability to provide individualized services cause an overutilization of congregate care and placements of children/youth out of county.

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

California 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.

- California received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- California provided information showing that formal consultation and additional engagement efforts with Tribes are incorporated into the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). Stakeholders are engaged at the local level with child welfare policy and procedures review/development, the California–Child and Family Services Review (C–CFSR), and the System Improvement Plan, which feed into the state’s CFSP and APSR. Engagement and consultation are ongoing through meetings with the state child welfare, state probation, and CIP programs, and feedback on how stakeholder input is utilized is provided.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- California described state legislation, AB 2083 (2018), that established the Children and Youth System of Care Team (CYSOCT), a joint interagency resolution team comprising the CDSS, Department of Healthcare Services, Department of Developmental Services, Office of Youth and Community Restoration, and Department of Education. CYSOCT ensures that the state’s services are coordinated with the services and benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same populations. Interagency Leadership Teams (ILT) coordinate services with health care, probation, and education. The Child Welfare Council (CWC), which serves as the advisory body responsible for improving collaboration and processes of multiple agencies and the courts, serves children and youth in the child welfare system. The Linkages project, a collaboration between CalWORKs and child welfare agencies, creates a continuum of services and supports to promote child and family well-being. The Division of Housing and Childcare is under the umbrella of the Department of Health and Human Services, increasing coordination between these services through Housing Navigators and Head Start.

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

California 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 child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- Information provided by California shows that although the state has procedures in place to govern the approval of standards for all licensed or approved foster family homes and child care institutions, the state lacks data to demonstrate whether licensing standards are applied equally across child care institutions and foster homes. The Community Care Licensing Division governs licensing standards for foster family homes licensed/approved by Foster Family Agencies and collaborates with the state. The state and CCLD do not utilize waivers or exceptions, but they allow for documented alternative plans that are reviewed to ensure consistency.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- Information provided by California showed that although the state has a policy that aligns with federal requirements for criminal background clearances on all foster homes, there are limitations in data collection for criminal background checks and, while the state's system allows for recording of some details, a lack of accurate and consistent data entry from counties prevents counties from using the system to ensure criminal background clearances are conducted appropriately. Data and information provided did not include a description of how the state's case planning process confirms that provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children are in place.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- California reported that its foster family home recruitment process is administered at the county level through its RFA Program. However, the state noted that there are no statewide data collected regarding these efforts or whether they are targeted to caregivers that represent the racial and ethnic diversity of children in foster care or are responsive to state recruitment needs.

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.

- California received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with California.
- California indicated that the state utilizes the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise system to track Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) requests; however, the system is not operational statewide, and the data collected by the system are not reliable. The state identified several challenges in meeting the timelines for home study requests from other states such as delays in Child Abuse Central Index background checks, processing of exemptions related to criminal background checks, compliance/cooperation by prospective caregivers, and differences in the state's RFA process and timelines compared with what is expected through ICPC. The state did not provide evidence that cross-jurisdictional resources within the state were being used to facilitate permanent placements.

IV. APPENDIX A

Summary of California 2024 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	74% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	74% 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	9.77	9.25–10.33	20A–20B, FY20–21
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	No Different	Lower	9.8%	9.5%–10.1%	FY20–21

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	67% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	82% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	69% 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	20% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	75% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	56% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	36% 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%	Worse	Higher	32.4%	31.7%–33.0%	20B–22B

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Worse	Higher	40.1%	39.2%–41.0%	22A–22B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Worse	Higher	29.5%	28.8%–30.2%	22A–22B
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	Worse	Lower	6.5%	6.1%–6.9%	21A–22B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Better	Lower	3.85	3.79–3.92	22A–22B

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	57% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	88% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	42% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	54% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	39% 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	23% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	27% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	24% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	65% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	34% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	71% 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	76% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	76% 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	43% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	50% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	52% 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	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

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 and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Statewide Assessment	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	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment	Not in Substantial Conformity

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
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 and Stakeholder Interviews	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	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

California CFSR (State-Led) 2024

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 California 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.cfsrportal.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.	90.91% (60 of 66)
(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.	71.21% (47 of 66)
(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.	5.56% (1 of 18)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	74.24% (49 of 66)

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.	26.32% (10 of 38)	75% (9 of 12)	38% (19 of 50)

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) 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.	55.26% (21 of 38)	Not Applicable	55.26% (21 of 38)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	7.89% (3 of 38)	Not Applicable	7.89% (3 of 38)
(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.	7.89% (3 of 38)	25% (3 of 12)	12% (6 of 50)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	84.21% (32 of 38)	75% (9 of 12)	82% (41 of 50)

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.	97.83% (135 of 138)	100% (25 of 25)	98.16% (160 of 163)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	97.83% (135 of 138)	100% (25 of 25)	98.16% (160 of 163)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	76.19% (16 of 21)	76.92% (10 of 13)	76.47% (26 of 34)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	73.91% (102 of 138)	68% (17 of 25)	73.01% (119 of 163)
(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% (9 of 15)	64.29% (9 of 14)	62.07% (18 of 29)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	79.55% (35 of 44)	81.25% (13 of 16)	80% (48 of 60)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	94.39% (101 of 107)	Not Applicable	94.39% (101 of 107)
(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.	95.65% (132 of 138)	Not Applicable	95.65% (132 of 138)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	68.84% (95 of 138)	68% (17 of 25)	68.71% (112 of 163)

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.	34.29% (12 of 35)	34.29% (12 of 35)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	88.41% (122 of 138)	88.41% (122 of 138)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	74.64% (103 of 138)	74.64% (103 of 138)

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.	98.54% (135 of 137)	98.54% (135 of 137)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	67.88% (93 of 137)	67.88% (93 of 137)
(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.	82.48% (113 of 137)	82.48% (113 of 137)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	65.69% (90 of 137)	65.69% (90 of 137)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 47)	0% (0 of 47)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	79.78% (71 of 89)	79.78% (71 of 89)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	56.2% (77 of 137)	56.2% (77 of 137)

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.	54.84% (17 of 31)	54.84% (17 of 31)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	20% (2 of 10)	20% (2 of 10)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	20% (11 of 55)	20% (11 of 55)
(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.	68.42% (13 of 19)	68.42% (13 of 19)
(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.	30.43% (7 of 23)	30.43% (7 of 23)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	36.23% (50 of 138)	36.23% (50 of 138)

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.	64.04% (57 of 89)	64.04% (57 of 89)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	65.63% (21 of 32)	65.63% (21 of 32)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	87.64% (78 of 89)	87.64% (78 of 89)

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.	52.38% (33 of 63)	52.38% (33 of 63)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	12.7% (8 of 63)	12.7% (8 of 63)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	6.35% (4 of 63)	6.35% (4 of 63)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	7.94% (5 of 63)	7.94% (5 of 63)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	11.11% (7 of 63)	11.11% (7 of 63)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	9.52% (6 of 63)	9.52% (6 of 63)
(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.	52.38% (33 of 63)	52.38% (33 of 63)
(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.	73.02% (46 of 63)	73.02% (46 of 63)
(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.	75.44% (43 of 57)	75.44% (43 of 57)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	65.08% (41 of 63)	65.08% (41 of 63)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	27.91% (12 of 43)	27.91% (12 of 43)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	16.28% (7 of 43)	16.28% (7 of 43)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	6.98% (3 of 43)	6.98% (3 of 43)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	11.63% (5 of 43)	11.63% (5 of 43)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	30.23% (13 of 43)	30.23% (13 of 43)
(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.	55.81% (24 of 43)	55.81% (24 of 43)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	70% (21 of 30)	70% (21 of 30)
(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.	46.51% (20 of 43)	46.51% (20 of 43)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 29)	0% (0 of 29)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	13.79% (4 of 29)	13.79% (4 of 29)
(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.	10.34% (3 of 29)	10.34% (3 of 29)
(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.	13.79% (4 of 29)	13.79% (4 of 29)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	34.48% (10 of 29)	34.48% (10 of 29)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	27.59% (8 of 29)	27.59% (8 of 29)
(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.	44.83% (13 of 29)	44.83% (13 of 29)
(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.	62.5% (15 of 24)	62.5% (15 of 24)
(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.	41.38% (12 of 29)	41.38% (12 of 29)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	42.31% (33 of 78)	42.31% (33 of 78)

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).	54.41% (74 of 136)	54.41% (74 of 136)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 9 Strength Ratings	54.41% (74 of 136)	54.41% (74 of 136)

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.	52.55% (72 of 137)	52.55% (72 of 137)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (72 of 72)	100% (72 of 72)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	64.1% (25 of 39)	64.1% (25 of 39)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	69.23% (27 of 39)	69.23% (27 of 39)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	76.92% (30 of 39)	76.92% (30 of 39)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	89.74% (35 of 39)	89.74% (35 of 39)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives.	69.23% (27 of 39)	69.23% (27 of 39)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives.	76.92% (30 of 39)	76.92% (30 of 39)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives.	84.62% (33 of 39)	84.62% (33 of 39)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives.	92.31% (36 of 39)	92.31% (36 of 39)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	67.88% (93 of 137)	67.88% (93 of 137)

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.	49.21% (31 of 63)	49.21% (31 of 63)
(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.	30.23% (13 of 43)	30.23% (13 of 43)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	39.39% (26 of 66)	39.39% (26 of 66)

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	26.09% (36 of 138)	32% (8 of 25)	26.99% (44 of 163)

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.	76.81% (106 of 138)	68% (17 of 25)	75.46% (123 of 163)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	57.83% (48 of 83)	42.86% (6 of 14)	55.67% (54 of 97)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	73.19% (101 of 138)	64% (16 of 25)	71.78% (117 of 163)

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	36.36% (36 of 99)	66.67% (16 of 24)	42.28% (52 of 123)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	38.46% (35 of 91)	66.67% (14 of 21)	43.75% (49 of 112)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	33.33% (33 of 99)	66.67% (16 of 24)	39.84% (49 of 123)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	23.6% (21 of 89)	50% (9 of 18)	28.04% (30 of 107)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	24.69% (20 of 81)	44.44% (8 of 18)	28.28% (28 of 99)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	21.35% (19 of 89)	38.89% (7 of 18)	24.3% (26 of 107)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	20.19% (21 of 104)	40% (10 of 25)	24.03% (31 of 129)

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.	67.67% (90 of 133)	67.67% (90 of 133)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	45.78% (38 of 83)	45.78% (38 of 83)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	64.66% (86 of 133)	64.66% (86 of 133)

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.	72.22% (65 of 90)	55.56% (10 of 18)	69.44% (75 of 108)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	42.11% (40 of 95)	66.67% (16 of 24)	47.06% (56 of 119)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	28% (21 of 75)	27.78% (5 of 18)	27.96% (26 of 93)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	34.43% (42 of 122)	32% (8 of 25)	34.01% (50 of 147)

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 138)	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 of 163)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0.72% (1 of 138)	4% (1 of 25)	1.23% (2 of 163)
(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.	4.35% (6 of 138)	28% (7 of 25)	7.98% (13 of 163)
(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.	85.51% (118 of 138)	60% (15 of 25)	81.6% (133 of 163)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	8.7% (12 of 138)	8% (2 of 25)	8.59% (14 of 163)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0.72% (1 of 138)	0% (0 of 25)	0.61% (1 of 163)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	81.88% (113 of 138)	84% (21 of 25)	82.21% (134 of 163)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	77.37% (106 of 137)	68% (17 of 25)	75.93% (123 of 162)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	71.74% (99 of 138)	68% (17 of 25)	71.17% (116 of 163)

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.	1.05% (1 of 95)	0% (0 of 24)	0.84% (1 of 119)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	0% (0 of 95)	4.17% (1 of 24)	0.84% (1 of 119)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 95)	29.17% (7 of 24)	5.88% (7 of 119)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	30.53% (29 of 95)	41.67% (10 of 24)	32.77% (39 of 119)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	42.11% (40 of 95)	20.83% (5 of 24)	37.82% (45 of 119)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	26.32% (25 of 95)	4.17% (1 of 24)	21.85% (26 of 119)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	33.68% (32 of 95)	70.83% (17 of 24)	41.18% (49 of 119)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	50% (35 of 70)	56.52% (13 of 23)	51.61% (48 of 93)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	27.37% (26 of 95)	54.17% (13 of 24)	32.77% (39 of 119)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 75)	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 93)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	1.33% (1 of 75)	0% (0 of 18)	1.08% (1 of 93)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	4% (3 of 75)	11.11% (2 of 18)	5.38% (5 of 93)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	14.67% (11 of 75)	22.22% (4 of 18)	16.13% (15 of 93)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	44% (33 of 75)	38.89% (7 of 18)	43.01% (40 of 93)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	36% (27 of 75)	27.78% (5 of 18)	34.41% (32 of 93)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	20% (15 of 75)	33.33% (6 of 18)	22.58% (21 of 93)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	35.42% (17 of 48)	61.54% (8 of 13)	40.98% (25 of 61)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	16% (12 of 75)	33.33% (6 of 18)	19.35% (18 of 93)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	13.13% (13 of 99)	28% (7 of 25)	16.13% (20 of 124)

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.	82.61% (95 of 115)	50% (2 of 4)	81.51% (97 of 119)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	68.42% (52 of 76)	50% (2 of 4)	67.5% (54 of 80)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	77.39% (89 of 115)	50% (2 of 4)	76.47% (91 of 119)

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.	78.26% (108 of 138)	33.33% (1 of 3)	77.3% (109 of 141)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	61.11% (22 of 36)	Not Applicable	61.11% (22 of 36)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	73.17% (90 of 123)	33.33% (1 of 3)	72.22% (91 of 126)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	64.96% (89 of 137)	0% (0 of 1)	64.49% (89 of 138)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	56.45% (70 of 124)	0% (0 of 1)	56% (70 of 125)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	50.72% (70 of 138)	0% (0 of 3)	49.65% (70 of 141)

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.	64.04% (57 of 89)	56.25% (9 of 16)	62.86% (66 of 105)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	61.9% (13 of 21)	Not Applicable	61.9% (13 of 21)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	59.77% (52 of 87)	57.14% (8 of 14)	59.41% (60 of 101)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	51.69% (46 of 89)	56.25% (9 of 16)	52.38% (55 of 105)