CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Maryland

FINAL REPORT

2025

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

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Final Report: Maryland Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (DHS SSA) and submitted to the CB on July 28, 2025. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The February 2025 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 65 cases, (40 foster care, 24 in-home services, and 1 in-home-differential/alternative response), conducted via a State-Led Review process in Maryland October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, examining case practices occurring during October 2024 through March 2026.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Attorneys for agency
  - Attorneys for children and youth
  - Attorneys for parents
  - Child welfare agency statewide leadership
  - Child welfare agency caseworkers and supervisors
  - Child welfare service providers
  - Foster and adoptive parents
  - Foster/adoptive licensing staff
  - State office of licensing and monitoring
  - State licensed/approved child care institution facility staff
  - State agency and court data staff
  - State agency training staff and agency training partners
  - Judges and judicial officers
  - Parents
  - Youth

Background Information

The Round 4 CFSR assesses state performance with regard to substantial conformity with 7 child and family outcomes and 7 systemic factors. Each outcome incorporates 1 or more of the 18 items included in the case review, and each item is rated as a Strength or Area Needing Improvement based on an evaluation of certain child welfare practices and processes in the cases reviewed in the state. With two exceptions, an item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90% or more of the applicable cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies to 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

Maryland 2025 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

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

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

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

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Safety Outcome 1	Item 1	Maltreatment in foster care Recurrence of maltreatment
Safety Outcome 2	Items 2 and 3	N/A
Permanency Outcome 1	Items 4, 5, and 6	Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
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

Maryland was found in substantial conformity with 1 of the 7 outcomes:

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

The following 2 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Quality Assurance System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

CB Comments on State Performance

The Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration, is the state authority designated to serve children, youth, and families in need of social services. The social services programs include, but are not limited to, child protection, foster care, and adoption services.

In 2018, during its Round 3 CFSR, Maryland was not in substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes and was in substantial conformity with 1 of the 7 systemic factors: Agency Responsiveness to the Community. Maryland's PIP was approved on July 22, 2019, with an effective date of August 1, 2019. The 2-year and 8-month PIP implementation period ended on March 31, 2022. Following the implementation period, Maryland entered a non-overlapping evaluation period that ended on September 30, 2023. The CB determined that Maryland did not achieve the required level of improvement for the CFSR PIP measures related to Permanency Outcome 1, Children have permanency and stability in their living situations, and therefore remained out of substantial conformity with this outcome.

The Round 4 CFSR, conducted by Maryland with support from the CB between October 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, and stakeholder interviews conducted January 12–16, 2026, found that Maryland is not in substantial conformity with 6 of the 7 outcomes, meeting the performance outcome for Well-Being Outcome 2, Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs. Maryland was also not in substantial conformity with 5 of the 7 systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Case Review System, Staff and Provider Training, Service Array and Resource Development, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. Maryland was found to be in substantial conformity with 2 systemic factors: Quality Assurance System and Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

For Safety Outcome 1, Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect, 82% of applicable cases were rated as substantially achieved. In the remaining cases that did not meet substantial conformity, findings indicated that Maryland did not respond to reports of child maltreatment within the timeframe required by state policy, and these delays were not attributable to factors beyond the agency's control.

Case review ratings for the two items that comprise Safety Outcome 2, Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, showed that 82% of applicable cases were rated as substantially achieved. For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, 91% of applicable cases were rated as a Strength. In cases not rated as a Strength, the primary contributing factors included insufficient or inconsistent efforts to provide services aimed at preventing

initial entry into foster care and gaps in services intended to reduce the likelihood of re-entry following reunification.

For Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, 85% of applicable cases were rated as a Strength. Findings identified areas for improvement in ongoing assessment practices, particularly in evaluating the safety of children who remain in the home when sibling(s) have been placed in foster care. Ensuring child safety remains a core priority. The CB recognizes Maryland's ongoing efforts in this area and encourages the state to continue strengthening its approach by identifying strategies that support caseworkers in conducting accurate and comprehensive assessments of risk and safety.

Permanency Outcome 1 evaluates the stability and permanence of living arrangements for children in foster care. This outcome reflected the lowest performance area in the review, with 28% of foster care cases rated as Substantially Achieved. Overall, performance on Item 4, Stability of Foster Care Placement, was relatively strong, with 78% of children experiencing either one stable placement or one planned move during the review period. Unplanned moves generally involved temporary placements while awaiting long-term arrangements, placement changes to address children's mental health or behavioral needs, or episodes in which children ran away.

Item 5, Permanency Goal for Child, assesses the timeliness and appropriateness of permanency goals. In most cases, permanency and concurrent goals were established in a timely manner and aligned with the child's needs. However, nearly one-quarter of cases experienced delays in goal setting. For example, goals of adoption or guardianship were often not pursued in a timely manner after children had been in care for approximately 30 months. In a few cases, reunification remained the goal for an average of 38 months, even when case circumstances—such as limited parental progress or statements indicating a lack of interest in reunification—suggested the goal warranted reassessment. The case review did not identify systemic policy or practice barriers contributing to these delays, which may indicate a need for more consistent permanency planning practices.

Timely achievement of permanency is as important as establishing appropriate permanency goals, and insufficient efforts to achieve timely permanency contributed to the overall rating for this outcome. Slightly more than one-quarter of foster care cases received positive ratings for agency and court efforts to support timely permanency (Item 6). Among the 10 children who exited to permanency during the review period, timelines varied considerably. Six children achieved permanency through reunification or guardianship within 10 months or less, while 4 children remained in care significantly longer, exiting to guardianship or adoption after an average of 63 months. For children who had not yet exited care, the average time in care was 31 months. These findings indicate inconsistent progress toward achieving timely permanency across cases.

In most positively rated cases, reunification was either the primary goal or paired with a concurrent goal of guardianship. Parents in these cases were engaged in services and made progress in addressing the reasons for removal, supporting more timely outcomes. Slightly more than half of all children had concurrent goals of reunification paired with guardianship or adoption, and most goals were established on the day of removal or shortly thereafter, reflecting timely goal-setting practices.

In several cases, however, efforts to advance the concurrent goal were limited to identifying a potential caregiver, with relatively few subsequent steps documented. This contributed to challenges in fully leveraging concurrent planning as a tool to support timely permanency. In addition, reunification efforts were sometimes prioritized for extended periods, resulting in longer stays in foster care. Children in this group were in care for an average of 39 months, highlighting the importance of consistently pursuing concurrent plans. Continued collaboration with legal and judicial partners may help further explore factors affecting timely permanency and identify strategies for improvement.

Permanency Outcome 2, The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children, was substantially achieved in 83% of the cases reviewed. Maryland performed strongly on Item 7, Placement With

Siblings. In 89% of applicable cases, siblings were either placed together or there was a valid reason for separation.

The case reviews identified additional opportunities to support family connections more broadly. Item 8, Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, was rated as a Strength in 77% of cases. When assessing whether children's connections were maintained (Item 9) and whether relationships with parents were supported beyond visitation (Item 11), Strength ratings were 84% and 77%, respectively. One promising practice identified in Item 9 was that the agency made concerted efforts to maintain children in their original schools following entry into foster care in most cases, unless remaining in the school was not in the child's best interests.

Item 10, Relative Placement, also reflected relatively strong performance. Of the cases applicable for assessment of this item, 79% were rated as a Strength. Children were either placed with relatives or, if not, the agency made concerted efforts to identify, locate, inform, and evaluate maternal and paternal relatives.

Well-Being Outcome 1, which addresses families' capacity to provide for their children's needs, was substantially achieved in 62% of cases, indicating a need for improvement. Findings for Item 12, Needs Assessment and Services to Child, Parents, and Foster Parents, identified opportunities to improve the consistency of needs assessments and ensure timely delivery of appropriate services. Across case types, although children were more consistently engaged, findings suggest opportunities to strengthen engagement and service provision for parents, particularly fathers. Performance on Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, and Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, also identified opportunities to enhance meaningful engagement and collaboration with parents throughout the case process.

Well-Being Outcome 2, which focuses on children receiving appropriate services to meet their educational needs (Item 16), was the highest performing outcome, with 100% of cases rated as Substantially Achieved. The agency assessed and addressed educational needs in both foster care and in-home services cases.

Well-Being Outcome 3 addresses the agency's efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's physical and dental health needs (Item 17) and mental and behavioral health needs (Item 18). For this outcome, 80% of cases were rated as substantially achieved. Across both foster care and in-home services cases, findings reflected stronger performance in assessing and addressing mental and behavioral health needs, with comparatively lower performance related to dental health needs.

The CB acknowledges Maryland's strong performance in several critical areas of child welfare practice and views the Round 4 CFSR as a valuable opportunity for the state to take full advantage of the flexibilities provided in CFSR Technical Bulletin (TB) #14. In alignment with TB #14, Maryland has chosen to apply these flexibilities to center its program improvement efforts on the overarching goal of *A Home for Every Child*, including achieving a target ratio of at least one licensed foster home for every child who needs foster care. The identified permanency and placement challenges underscore the importance of Maryland's focus on expanding placement capacity and strengthening timely permanency planning practices.

As the state addresses the improvement areas identified through the CFSR, Maryland is encouraged to continue strengthening partnerships with community stakeholders who participated in the statewide assessment. The CB also encourages the state to maximize the use of TB #14 flexibilities to advance a coordinated, results-oriented approach that enhances system capacity, minimizes administrative burden, and supports ongoing quality improvement and strong state-federal collaboration. Together, these efforts will help ensure that every child in Maryland has timely access to a safe, stable, and appropriate family home.

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

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

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

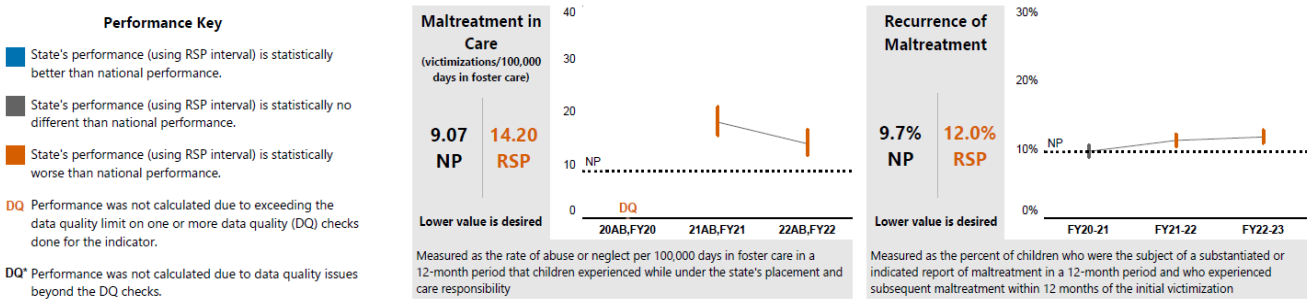
The state's policy establishes response timeframes based on the type of child maltreatment report and the assigned response track. For reports alleging physical or sexual abuse, the agency is required to initiate the case and conduct face-to-face contact with all children in the household within 24 hours of report receipt. For reports alleging neglect or mental injury, initiation and face-to-face contact with all children must occur within five days of receipt. In Substance-Exposed Newborn cases, the agency must respond within 48 hours of case acceptance to assess the newborn and mother.

Maryland uses alternative response (AR) for eligible screened-in reports. When AR is selected, the agency does not conduct a formal investigation or identify an alleged perpetrator for inclusion in the central registry. Instead, after meeting with the family, the caseworker completes a comprehensive family assessment and collaborates with the family to identify and connect them with services that address their needs.

Statewide Data Indicators

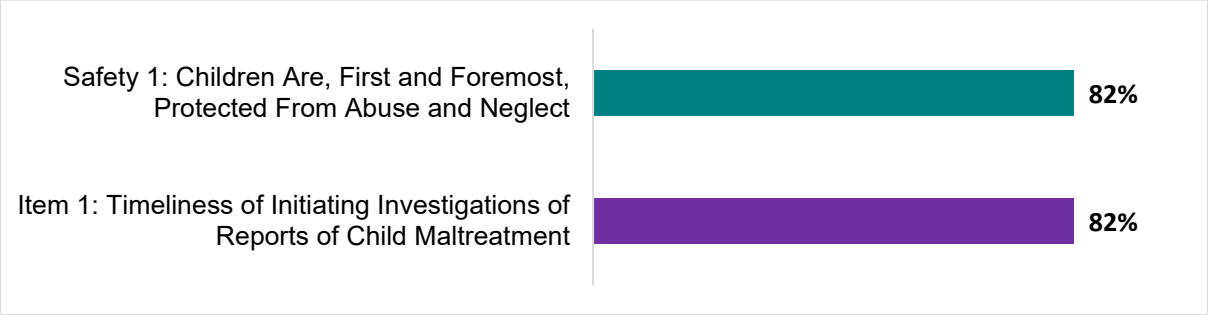
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

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

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

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

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

All results reported here are based on the February 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the February 2025 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

For maltreatment in foster care, Maryland's performance was statistically worse than national performance during FY 2021 to FY 2023. The calculation of maltreatment in care uses a ratio of total victimizations per 100,000 days children were in care during a 12-month period (cumulative days across all children). The following are notable observations for Maryland's maltreatment in foster care observed performance:

- The number of days children were in care (denominator) decreased by 7.2% from FY 2021 to FY 2023, and the number of victimizations in care (numerator) decreased by more than 30% during this same time period. Although Maryland's performance on this indicator remains statistically worse than national performance, the state has seen an overall improvement from a rate of 13.94 victimizations per 100,000 days in care in FY 2021 down to 10.46 in FY 2023.
- Children ages 11–16 years-old experience the highest rate (14.12) of maltreatment in foster care compared to other age groups, and they account for a disproportionately high percentage of

victimizations. Children ages 11–16 account for 34.7% of total days in foster care but 46.8% of victimizations.

Maryland's performance on recurrence of maltreatment has remained statistically worse than national performance for each of the last three reporting periods. The following are notable observations for Maryland's recurrence of maltreatment observed performance:

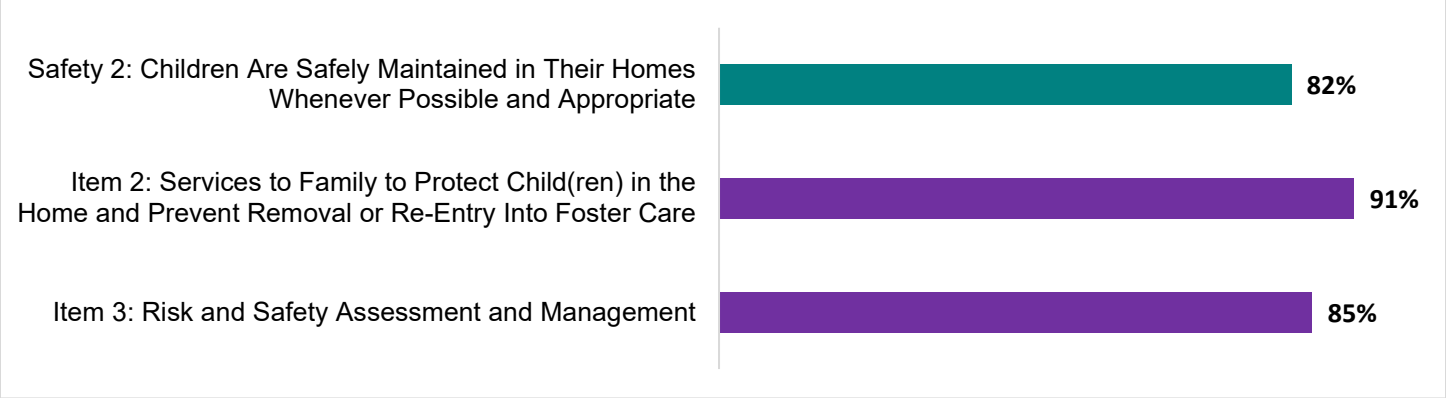
- Children ages 11–16 comprise the greatest proportion of both initial victims (37%) and recurring victims (36.3%), compared to other age groups.
- Washington and Harford Counties had a disproportionately high frequency of recurrence. Washington County had 5% of the state's initial victims but 12.6% of the state's recurring victims, and Harford County had 7.4% of initial victims and 11.7% of recurring victims.
- Baltimore City and Prince George's County had lower frequencies of recurrence. Baltimore City accounted for 19% of the state's initial victims and 14.8% of recurring victims, and Prince George's County had 11.5% of initial victims and 6.6% of the state's recurring victims.

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



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

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- More 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.

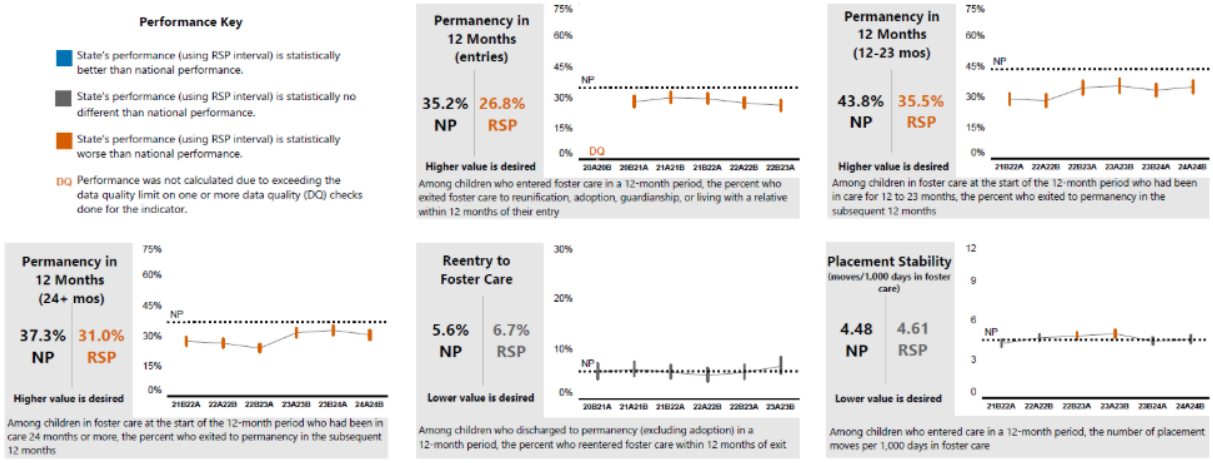
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

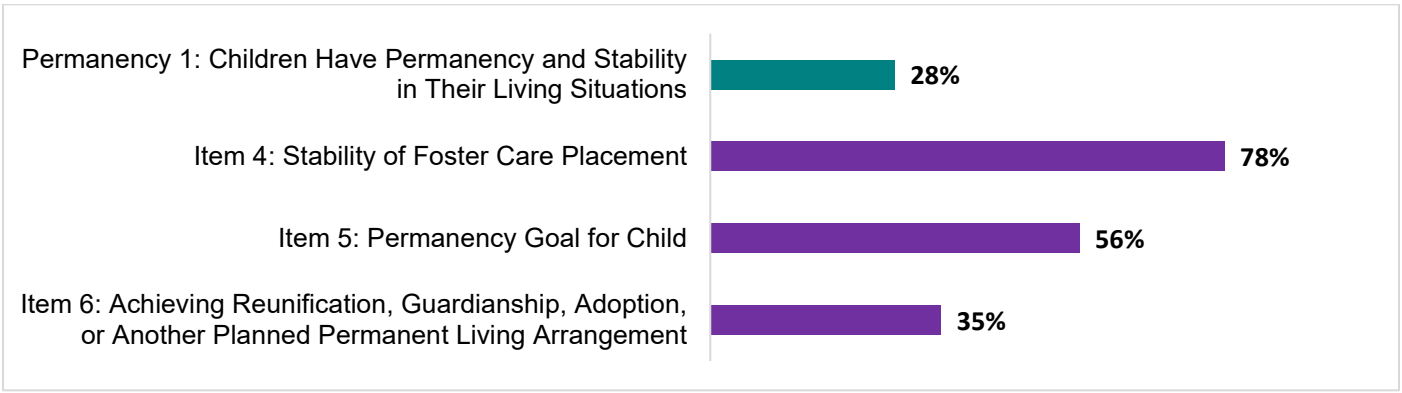
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Maryland 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 no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "placement stability" data indicator was statistically no different 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 2025 Profile	February 2026 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	No Different	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	No Different	No Different	No Different	No
Placement stability	No Different	Worse	Worse	No

All results reported here are based on the February 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 4 because that is from the February 2025 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

Maryland's performance on the statewide data indicator for permanency in 12 months for children entering care is statistically worse than national performance. The following are notable observations regarding Maryland's performance on this indicator, beginning with observations regarding the foster care entry rate, which is a component of measuring and understanding permanency in 12 months for children entering care.

- Maryland's entry rate (1.07 entries per 1,000 children in the population) in FY 2025 is lower than the national entry rate (2.28 entries per 1,000 children in the population).
- Statewide children under age 1 have the highest entry rate at 4.85 entries per 1,000 children in the population. Children under age 1 at entry also have a lower frequency of exits to permanency within 12 months of entry. Children under age 1 account for 20.3% of foster care entries, but only 17.5% of the exits to permanency within 12 months of entry.
- Baltimore City has both a higher entry rate than the state at 4.29 entries per 1,000 children in the population and a disproportionately low frequency of exits to permanency within 12 months of entry. Baltimore City accounts for 33.5% of the foster care entries but 28.2% of the exits to permanency within 12 months of entry.

Maryland's performance on the statewide data indicator permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months has improved in recent reporting periods, and for the most recent reporting period (25A25B) was statistically no different than national performance. The following are notable observations for Maryland's performance on this indicator:

- Performance on this indicator improved overall from 34.3% in FY 2023 to 39.4% in FY 2025.
- Performance improved across all age groups during this time period, except for children age 17, with the most significant improvement for children ages 1–5 years.

- Baltimore County has the second highest number of children in care for this indicator and has made gains from performing worse than statewide performance in FY 2023 (31.2%) to better than overall statewide performance in FY 2025 (44.5%).
- Harford County has a higher frequency of exits to permanency for this cohort of children, with 5.9% of the state's children in care for 12–23 months and 9.6% of the state's exits to permanency for this group.
- Baltimore City has the most children in care for this indicator, and performance on this indicator is worse than overall statewide performance.

Maryland's performance for the later-term permanency indicator, permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 or more months, is statistically worse than national performance. The following are notable observations for Maryland's observed performance:

- Baltimore City has the most children in care for this indicator, followed by Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. Collectively, these four localities comprise 79.6% of the state's children in care for 24 or more months (FY 2025), and performance for each of these counties is worse than the overall statewide performance for this indicator.
- Prince George's County has a disproportionately low frequency of exits to permanency for children in this cohort with 11.1% of the state's children in care for 24 or more months and 7.4% of the state's exits to permanency.

Maryland's performance on the statewide data indicator for reentry to foster care is statistically no different than national performance in each reporting period. The following are notable observations for Maryland's reentry to foster care observed performance:

- Performance on this indicator improved from 6.4% in FY 2023 to 3.7% in FY 2024 (a lower percentage is desired on this outcome).
- The highest proportion of the reentries for the state occurred among three localities. Baltimore City accounted for 36.8% of exits but 48.4% of reentries. Baltimore County was the next highest at 14.7% of exits and 22.6% of reentries, followed by Prince George's County with 9.5% of exits and 12.9% of reentries for the state.

Performance on the statewide data indicator for placement stability has varied, but in the most recent two reporting periods, performance has been statistically worse than national performance. The following are notable observations for Maryland's placement stability observed performance:

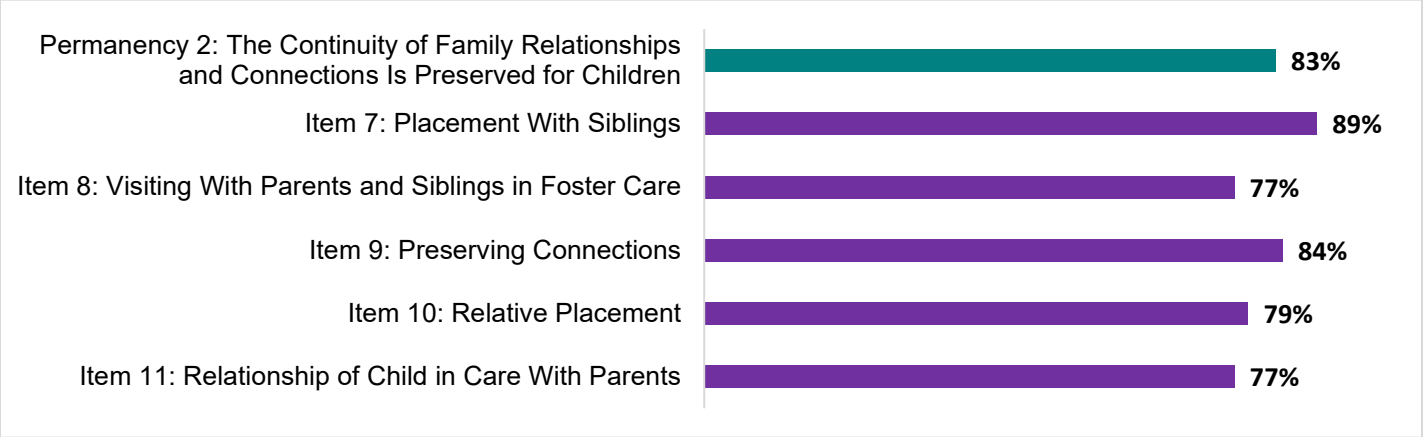
- Of all age groups, children under age 1 at entry had the best placement stability rate (4.09), and children age 17 at entry had the worst placement stability rate (7.66), followed by those ages 11–16 at entry (6.02).
- Baltimore City had the highest number of days in care and performed better than the state's overall performance on this indicator for two of the three most recent reporting periods.
- Although Montgomery County's performance improved from FY 2023 (8.16) to FY 2025 (6.82), Montgomery County had a disproportionately higher frequency of moves, accounting for 10.3% of all moves for the state but 7.8% of the total days in care.

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



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

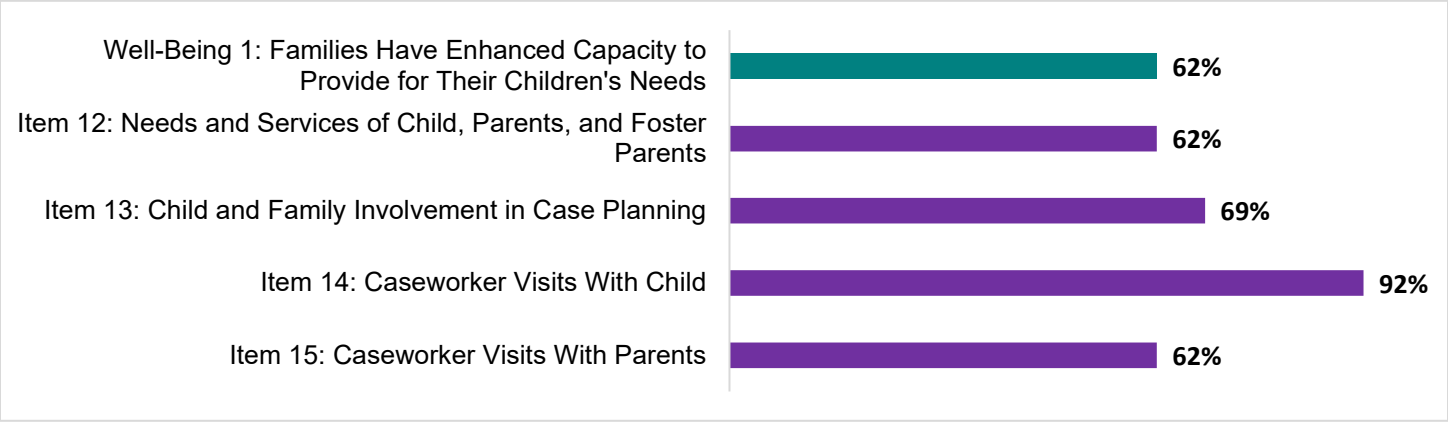
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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



Maryland 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.

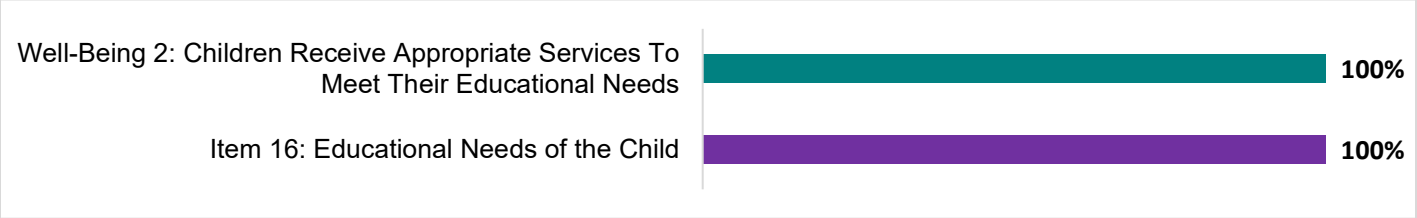
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 13.
- More than 90% of 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



Maryland was found to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 2:

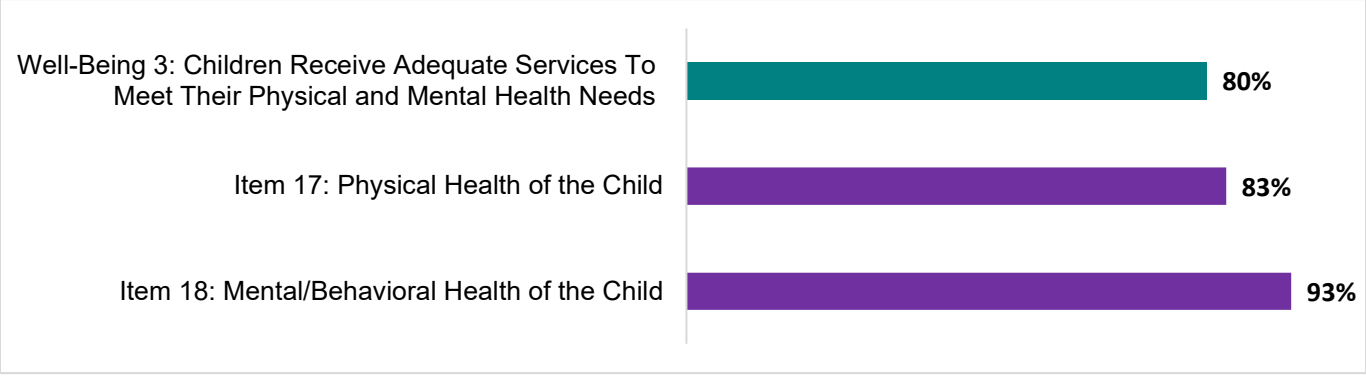
- More than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



Maryland 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.
- More 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

Maryland 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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided indicates that Maryland implemented a comprehensive child welfare information system, the Child, Juvenile and Adult Management System (CJAMS) designed to capture required child-level data. Although the state has processes in place to support timely data entry, it cannot demonstrate consistent data accuracy statewide. Data quality concerns were identified, including missing or inaccurate permanency goal information and potential system mapping issues. The state also lacks a comprehensive process for monitoring and addressing data accuracy. These issues limit the reliability of the data and the state's ability to consistently identify key information for all children in foster care

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

Maryland 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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information submitted did not demonstrate that each child had a written case plan that was jointly developed with the child's parents. Maryland's policies and practices support children in foster care having case plans that are jointly developed with parents, but joint development with parents is inconsistent, particularly for fathers.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information collected did not demonstrate that for each child a periodic review occurred no less frequently than every 6 months.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that for each child a permanency hearing occurred within 12 months of entry into foster care and every 12 months thereafter.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

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

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were filed in accordance with federal timeframes. Additionally, Maryland does not have processes to ensure that TPR petitions are filed in accordance with federal law or a process to track exceptions, including documentation of compelling reasons not to file.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.

- Data and information showed that Maryland did not routinely provide notices to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers as required. There is no process to ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers are notified of periodic reviews or permanency hearings related to the children in their care or information about whether any notice includes information about their 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	Strength

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

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

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

- Maryland received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided in the Statewide Assessment indicates that Maryland has a comprehensive quality assurance system that is operating statewide and includes mechanisms to evaluate service quality, identify strengths and needs, and support program improvement. The system includes the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) cycle, CQI Focus Groups, Quality Assurance Review Tool, Milestone Reports, CQI Network Meetings, and other regular reporting processes. These components function across all jurisdictions and provide data used to inform practice and monitor improvement efforts through Continuous Improvement Plans and Corrective Action Plans. These findings demonstrate that the state's quality assurance system is functioning statewide as required.

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	Strength
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Area Needing Improvement

Maryland 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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Strength for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided indicates that Maryland has a structured and comprehensive initial staff training program. Pre-service training is mandatory for all case-carrying staff and is delivered through an 8-week curriculum covering core child welfare competencies, including assessment, engagement, planning, and court processes. Training completion is supported by competency testing, with high pass rates across reporting periods. Evaluation data indicates that participants feel prepared to perform their job responsibilities. The state also supplements training with system-specific instruction and local shadowing opportunities. These elements demonstrate that initial training is provided consistently and addresses the foundational skills and knowledge needed for staff to carry out their duties.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information gathered indicate that although Maryland offers numerous ongoing training opportunities, the system lacks formal requirements and consistent tracking mechanisms, particularly for supervisors. Training is largely driven by identified needs rather than a standardized curriculum, and the state cannot consistently track participation or completion by role. Although there is high satisfaction with training quality, concerns were identified regarding the relevance and practical application of training content and that training does not always provide the skills necessary to perform job duties effectively. Additionally, there is limited evaluation data to assess training effectiveness, and gaps exist in tracking supervisory training compliance. These issues indicate that the ongoing training system is not fully functioning statewide as required.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information gathered indicate that while training requirements exist for foster and adoptive parents, there are inconsistencies in standards, tracking, and effectiveness across the state. Training requirements vary between local departments and private agencies, and there is insufficient data to assess completion of pre-service training statewide. Although mechanisms are in place to track training and monitor compliance, gaps remain in clearly defining requirements and enforcing standards. Kinship caregivers are not required to complete training, which further contributes to inconsistencies in preparedness. These factors indicate that the training system is not functioning consistently statewide.

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

Maryland 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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information collected showed that although the state has services available in many areas of the state to meet the needs of children and families, many services are not readily accessible in rural areas or for specific types of service needs. There is a lack of available and accessible mental/behavioral health services, and substance use treatment services. There are also waitlists due to the limited pool of available providers in parts of the state. Limited transportation and housing options, and limited Medicaid providers in many areas also present barriers for families and children. A shortage of licensed foster homes has resulted in temporary placements and children staying/sleeping in offices, and there is a need for more placements along the placement continuum to address the needs of youth with high-acuity mental and behavioral health needs.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information gathered indicate that although Maryland has processes and tools in place to assess and identify individual needs and offers a variety of services and supports, the system does not consistently ensure that services are sufficiently individualized to meet those needs statewide. There are challenges in identifying linguistically appropriate services. Additional concerns include insufficient services for parents with developmental disabilities and children with autism.

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	Area Needing Improvement
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Strength

Maryland 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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information gathered indicate that Maryland engages a wide range of stakeholders through numerous committees, workgroups, and advisory bodies, including tribal representatives, service providers, courts, and individuals with lived experience. However, the connection between stakeholder input and the development and implementation of CFSP and APSR is not consistently demonstrated. The state does not consistently collect or assess feedback from stakeholders regarding how their input is incorporated into decision-making.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information reported indicate that Maryland routinely coordinates services and benefits with other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population through regular, ongoing communication, interagency workgroups, and joint initiatives. Specific examples demonstrated how the state coordinates services or benefits with other federal or federally assisted programs, including Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Head Start, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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	Strength

Items	Rating
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Strength
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Area Needing Improvement

Maryland 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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information gathered indicate that although Maryland has established standards for foster, adoptive, and kinship homes through the Code of Maryland Regulations and conducts monitoring activities, the state lacks the ability to consistently track and ensure that these standards are applied equally across all jurisdictions. Responsibility for ensuring compliance primarily rests with local departments, and monitoring practices vary significantly statewide. Limitations in data extraction prevent the state from comprehensively tracking compliance, including the use of waivers and exceptions. These inconsistencies and data limitations indicate that standards are not applied and monitored uniformly across the state.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information gathered indicate that Maryland has clear policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with federal requirements for criminal background checks for foster and adoptive placements. All required clearances, including fingerprint-based checks, child abuse and neglect registry checks, and sex offender registry searches, must be completed prior to licensure or approval. Monitoring processes, including reviews conducted by the Office of Licensing and Monitoring, demonstrate high levels of compliance across foster homes and residential care facilities. Additionally, systems are in place to track and respond to safety concerns, including incident reporting and timely follow-up. These practices demonstrate that the state is consistently meeting federal requirements related to background checks and ensuring the safety of placements.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.

- Data and information gathered indicate that Maryland engages in ongoing and targeted recruitment efforts to identify foster and adoptive families that reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of children in care. The state uses data from its information system to inform recruitment strategies and updates its statewide recruitment and retention plan annually. Local jurisdictions conduct targeted recruitment activities based on community demographics and identified needs, supported by state funding and coordination. Efforts include community outreach events, targeted campaigns, and incentives for resource parent referrals. Data demonstrates alignment between the demographics of children in care and available placement providers, reflecting effective recruitment practices statewide.

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.

- Maryland received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information gathered indicate that Maryland uses several tools and resources, including AdoptUSKids, the Heart Gallery, and ICPC processes through the NEICE system, to facilitate cross-jurisdictional placements. Data shows improvement in the timeliness of ICPC request processing over recent years. However, the state lacks the ability to track the overall effectiveness of these efforts, including data on how many children are matched through these resources and the time required to achieve permanency. Additionally, key systems are not fully integrated, limiting coordination and data sharing. These limitations indicate that although resources are in place, the state cannot demonstrate that cross-jurisdictional processes are consistently effective in achieving timely permanent placements.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Maryland 2025 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Not in Substantial Conformity	82% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	82% 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 Than National Performance	Lower	14.20	12–16.81	22A–22B, FY22–23
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	12.0%	11.1%–13.0%	FY22–23

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	82% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Strength	91% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	85% 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	28% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	78% 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	35% 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 Than National Performance	Higher	26.8%	24.3%–29.3%	22B–24B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Worse Than National Performance	Higher	35.5%	32.5%–38.6%	24A–24B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Worse Than National Performance	Higher	31%	28.7%–33.3%	24A–24B
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	6.7%	5.3%–8.5%	23A–24B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	4.61	4.33–4.9	24A–24B

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	83% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	89% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	77% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	84% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	79% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	77% 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	62% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	88% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	67% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	87% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	69% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Strength	92% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	62% 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.	In Substantial Conformity	100% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Strength	100% 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	80% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	83% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Strength	93% 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	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment	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	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	Substantial Conformity
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Strength

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	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	Substantial Conformity
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Statewide Assessment	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	Strength
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT
Maryland CFSR (State-Led) 2025

The Practice Performance Report provides an aggregated summary of practice performance for all 18 items in the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) for all approved and final cases from all the sites in the Maryland 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.	96.43% (27 of 28)
(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.	82.14% (23 of 28)
(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.	0% (0 of 5)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	82.14% (23 of 28)

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.	46.15% (6 of 13)	100% (10 of 10)	69.57% (16 of 23)
(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.	30.77% (4 of 13)	Not Applicable	30.77% (4 of 13)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	15.38% (2 of 13)	Not Applicable	15.38% (2 of 13)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Concerted efforts were not made to provide appropriate services to address safety/risk issues and the child(ren) remained in the home.	0% (0 of 13)	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 23)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	84.62% (11 of 13)	100% (10 of 10)	91.3% (21 of 23)

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases*	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/ assessed.	100% (40 of 40)	100% (25 of 25)	100% (65 of 65)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (40 of 40)	100% (25 of 25)	100% (65 of 65)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	100% (9 of 9)	92.31% (12 of 13)	95.45% (21 of 22)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	87.5% (35 of 40)	88% (22 of 25)	87.69% (57 of 65)
(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.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (7 of 7)	100% (15 of 15)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	90.91% (10 of 11)	100% (5 of 5)	93.75% (15 of 16)
(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.	100% (32 of 32)	Not Applicable	100% (32 of 32)
(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.	100% (40 of 40)	Not Applicable	100% (40 of 40)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	85% (34 of 40)	84% (21 of 25)	84.62% (55 of 65)

* Because only one differential response/alternative response case was reviewed, those results were added to the in-home services cases for Items 3, 12 (including Sub-Items 12A and 12B), 13, 14, and 15.

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.	25% (2 of 8)	25% (2 of 8)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	92.5% (37 of 40)	92.5% (37 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	77.5% (31 of 40)	77.5% (31 of 40)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	100% (39 of 39)	100% (39 of 39)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	76.92% (30 of 39)	76.92% (30 of 39)
(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.	79.49% (31 of 39)	79.49% (31 of 39)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	58.97% (23 of 39)	58.97% (23 of 39)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 16)	0% (0 of 16)
(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.	73.91% (17 of 23)	73.91% (17 of 23)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	56.41% (22 of 39)	56.41% (22 of 39)

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.	50% (2 of 4)	50% (2 of 4)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	0% (0 of 5)	0% (0 of 5)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	33.33% (1 of 3)	33.33% (1 of 3)
(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.	33.33% (1 of 3)	33.33% (1 of 3)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and B **or** 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved.	40% (10 of 25)	40% (10 of 25)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	35% (14 of 40)	35% (14 of 40)

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

Item 7: Placement With Siblings

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 7A) The child was placed with all siblings who also were in foster care.	55.56% (10 of 18)	55.56% (10 of 18)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	88.89% (16 of 18)	88.89% (16 of 18)

Item 8: Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was more than once a week.	9.52% (2 of 21)	9.52% (2 of 21)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	42.86% (9 of 21)	42.86% (9 of 21)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	14.29% (3 of 21)	14.29% (3 of 21)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	19.05% (4 of 21)	19.05% (4 of 21)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	14.29% (3 of 21)	14.29% (3 of 21)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	0% (0 of 21)	0% (0 of 21)
(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.	80.95% (17 of 21)	80.95% (17 of 21)
(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.	90.48% (19 of 21)	90.48% (19 of 21)
(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.	80.95% (17 of 21)	80.95% (17 of 21)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	15.38% (2 of 13)	15.38% (2 of 13)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	46.15% (6 of 13)	46.15% (6 of 13)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 13)	0% (0 of 13)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	15.38% (2 of 13)	15.38% (2 of 13)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	15.38% (2 of 13)	15.38% (2 of 13)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	7.69% (1 of 13)	7.69% (1 of 13)
(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.	92.31% (12 of 13)	92.31% (12 of 13)
(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.	100% (12 of 12)	100% (12 of 12)
(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.	92.31% (12 of 13)	92.31% (12 of 13)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 7)	0% (0 of 7)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	0% (0 of 7)	0% (0 of 7)
(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.	28.57% (2 of 7)	28.57% (2 of 7)
(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.	42.86% (3 of 7)	42.86% (3 of 7)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	14.29% (1 of 7)	14.29% (1 of 7)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	14.29% (1 of 7)	14.29% (1 of 7)
(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.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(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.	85.71% (6 of 7)	85.71% (6 of 7)
(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.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	76.92% (20 of 26)	76.92% (20 of 26)

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).	84.21% (32 of 38)	84.21% (32 of 38)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	84.21% (32 of 38)	84.21% (32 of 38)

Item 10: Relative Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative.	32.35% (11 of 34)	32.35% (11 of 34)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (11 of 11)	100% (11 of 11)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** maternal relatives.	25% (1 of 4)	25% (1 of 4)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** maternal relatives.	50% (2 of 4)	50% (2 of 4)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** maternal relatives.	50% (2 of 4)	50% (2 of 4)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** maternal relatives.	100% (4 of 4)	100% (4 of 4)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** paternal relatives.	66.67% (2 of 3)	66.67% (2 of 3)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** paternal relatives.	66.67% (2 of 3)	66.67% (2 of 3)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** paternal relatives.	66.67% (2 of 3)	66.67% (2 of 3)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** paternal relatives.	100% (3 of 3)	100% (3 of 3)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	79.41% (27 of 34)	79.41% (27 of 34)

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.	81.82% (18 of 22)	81.82% (18 of 22)
(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.	76.92% (10 of 13)	76.92% (10 of 13)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	76.92% (20 of 26)	76.92% (20 of 26)

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	55% (22 of 40)	72% (18 of 25)	61.54% (40 of 65)

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.	95% (38 of 40)	80% (20 of 25)	89.23% (58 of 65)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	84.62% (11 of 13)	61.54% (8 of 13)	73.08% (19 of 26)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	95% (38 of 40)	76% (19 of 25)	87.69% (57 of 65)

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	74.19% (23 of 31)	90.90% (20 of 22)	81.13% (43 of 53)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	68.97% (20 of 29)	90.48% (19 of 21)	78% (39 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 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	70.97% (22 of 31)	90.91% (20 of 22)	79.25% (42 of 53)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	64% (16 of 25)	78.57% (11 of 14)	69.23% (27 of 39)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	59.09% (13 of 22)	60% (6 of 10)	59.38% (19 of 32)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	64% (16 of 25)	71.43% (10 of 14)	66.67% (26 of 39)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	58.33% (21 of 36)	80% (20 of 25)	67.21% (41 of 61)

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.	96.67% (29 of 30)	96.67% (29 of 30)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	81.82% (18 of 22)	81.82% (18 of 22)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	86.67% (26 of 30)	86.67% (26 of 30)

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.	100% (27 of 27)	76.19% (16 of 21)	89.58% (43 of 48)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	77.42% (24 of 31)	86.36% (19 of 22)	81.13% (43 of 53)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	66.67% (16 of 24)	71.43% (10 of 14)	68.42% (26 of 38)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	64.1% (25 of 39)	76% (19 of 25)	68.75% (44 of 64)

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.	5% (2 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	3.08% (2 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	5% (2 of 40)	24% (6 of 25)	12.31% (8 of 65)
(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.	5% (2 of 40)	44% (11 of 25)	20% (13 of 65)
(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.	82.5% (33 of 40)	12% (3 of 25)	55.38% (36 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	2.5% (1 of 40)	20% (5 of 25)	9.23% (6 of 65)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 of 65)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	100% (40 of 40)	80% (20 of 25)	92.31% (60 of 65)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	100% (40 of 40)	92% (23 of 25)	96.92% (63 of 65)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	100% (40 of 40)	80% (20 of 25)	92.31% (60 of 65)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases*	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 31)	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 53)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	6.45% (2 of 31)	13.64% (3 of 22)	9.43% (5 of 53)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	19.35% (6 of 31)	54.55% (12 of 22)	33.96% (18 of 53)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	35.48% (11 of 31)	13.64% (3 of 22)	26.42% (14 of 53)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases*	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	12.9% (4 of 31)	18.18% (4 of 22)	15.09% (8 of 53)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	25.81% (8 of 31)	0% (0 of 22)	15.09% (8 of 53)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	58.06% (18 of 31)	81.82% (18 of 22)	67.92% (36 of 53)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	95.65% (22 of 23)	90.91% (20 of 22)	93.33% (42 of 45)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	58.06% (18 of 31)	81.82% (18 of 22)	67.92% (36 of 53)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	4.17% (1 of 24)	0% (0 of 14)	2.63% (1 of 38)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	4.17% (1 of 24)	14.29% (2 of 14)	7.89% (3 of 38)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	16.67% (4 of 24)	35.71% (5 of 14)	23.68% (9 of 38)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	25% (6 of 24)	21.43% (3 of 14)	23.68% (9 of 38)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	12.5% (3 of 24)	14.29% (2 of 14)	13.16% (5 of 38)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	37.5% (9 of 24)	14.29% (2 of 14)	28.95% (11 of 38)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	58.33% (14 of 24)	78.57% (11 of 14)	65.79% (25 of 38)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	93.33% (14 of 15)	100% (12 of 12)	96.3% (26 of 27)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	58.33% (14 of 24)	78.57% (11 of 14)	65.79% (25 of 38)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	50% (18 of 36)	80% (20 of 25)	62.3% (38 of 61)

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.	100% (33 of 33)	100% (5 of 5)	100% (38 of 38)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	100% (24 of 24)	100% (5 of 5)	100% (29 of 29)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	100% (33 of 33)	100% (5 of 5)	100% (38 of 38)

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.	100% (40 of 40)	100% (6 of 6)	100% (46 of 46)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (11 of 11)	Not Applicable	100% (11 of 11)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	94.12% (32 of 34)	100% (3 of 3)	94.59% (35 of 37)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	100% (39 of 39)	0	100% (39 of 39)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	79.41% (27 of 34)	0	79.41% (27 of 34)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	80% (32 of 40)	100% (6 of 6)	82.61% (38 of 46)

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.	100% (30 of 30)	100% (13 of 13)	100% (43 of 43)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	94.44% (17 of 18)	Not Applicable	94.44% (17 of 18)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	100% (30 of 30)	84.62% (11 of 13)	95.35% (41 of 43)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	96.67% (29 of 30)	84.62% (11 of 13)	93.02% (40 of 43)