Child & Family SERVICES REVIEWS

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

New Jersey

FINAL REPORT

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES · USA
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

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Final Report: New Jersey Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) and submitted to the CB on July 18, 2025, and a revised version on August 5, 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 and 25 in-home), conducted via a CB-Led Review process in Atlantic, Essex, and Middlesex counties conducted September 15–19, 2025, examining case practices occurring September 2024 through September 2025.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Attorneys for the agency
  - Attorneys for parents
  - Guardians ad Litem
  - Youth
  - Parents
  - Foster and adoptive parent staff
  - Judges
  - Foster and adoptive parents
  - Foster/adoptive licensing staff and facilities licensing staff
  - Child welfare supervisors and caseworkers
  - Child welfare senior leadership, program managers, and regional managers
  - Service providers

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

New Jersey 2025 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

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

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

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

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

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
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

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

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

The following 5 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Statewide Information System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

CB Comments on State Performance

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) is the state's first Cabinet-level agency dedicated exclusively to serving and supporting at-risk children and families. DCF comprises 14 offices, including the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, Division of Children's System of Care, Division of Family and Community Partnerships, Division of Women, Office of Central Administration, Office of Family Voice, Office of Communications, Legislative and Public Affairs, Office of Education, Office of Licensing, Office of Performance Management and Accountability, Office of Resilience, Office of Staff Health and Wellness, Office of Training and Professional Development, and Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit. The agency is committed to assisting and empowering residents to be safe, healthy, and connected, and it is responsible for administering the federal title IV-B and title IV-E programs.

In 2017, during CFSR Round 3, DCF participated in a Traditional (CB-Led) Review. The review found that the state's child welfare system was not in substantial conformity with federal requirements in all 7 outcome areas and 2 of the 7 systemic factors. New Jersey's Round 3 CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on June 24, 2019, with a 2-year implementation period beginning June 1, 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey requested and received a 6-month extension to complete all PIP activities. The CB determined that the state successfully completed all required PIP strategies and achieved the associated measurement goals for all 7 outcomes on November 30, 2021.

The CB recognizes New Jersey's demonstrated strengths in key areas of child welfare practice and notes that the Round 4 CFSR findings related to placement stability, permanency, and service array capacity present a timely opportunity for the state to leverage the flexibilities outlined in CFSR Technical Bulletin (TB) #14.

Consistent with TB #14, the CB encourages New Jersey to opt into the flexibilities offered in TB# 14 and orient its program improvement efforts around the overarching goal of *A Home for Every Child*, with a specific focus on achieving, sustaining or exceeding a 1:1 ratio of licensed foster homes to children in foster care.

New Jersey's Round 4 CB-Led Review was conducted September 15–19, 2025, with stakeholder interviews held on site throughout the review week. The CB found that New Jersey was not in substantial conformity with 6 out of the 7 outcomes: Safety Outcome 2, Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate; Permanency Outcome 1, Children have permanency and stability in their living situations; Permanency Outcome 2, The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children; Well-Being Outcome 1, Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs; Well-Being Outcome 2, Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; and Well-Being Outcome 3, Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs; and 2 of the 7 systemic factors: Case Review System; and Service Array and Resource Development.

The highest performing outcome during the Round 4 CFSR was Safety Outcome 1, Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. This outcome includes case review performance and performance on statewide data indicators. This item was substantially achieved in 96% of applicable cases reviewed. The agency consistently initiated reports of abuse and neglect within the required timeframes and made face-to-face contact with the children who were the subject of those reports. On the February 2025 data profile used for the CFSR, New Jersey performed better than national performance on each the 2 statewide data indicator measures included in Safety Outcome 1, Maltreatment in Care and Recurrence of Maltreatment.

The next highest performing outcome was Well-Being Outcome 2, with 87% of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. Well-Being Outcome 2 states that children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs. The agency consistently used both formal and informal methods to assess educational needs, demonstrated strong collaboration with school systems, and provided appropriate services to address the identified needs.

Safety Outcome 2 evaluates how effectively children are maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate. The strongest performing item was Item 3, Risk Assessment and Safety Assessment and Management. In 80% of the cases, thorough assessments of safety led to timely provision of services.

Permanency Outcome 1 evaluates the stability and permanence of living arrangements for children in foster care. In New Jersey, this was lowest performing outcome in the review. Of the 40 foster care cases reviewed, half had been in care for 3 years or more, with an average stay of nearly 8 years. The paths toward permanency varied across all cases. Twenty-one children had adoption as either their primary or concurrent goal. Fourteen children had reunification as their primary goal, and of those, 10 also had a concurrent plan in place. Additionally, 10 children had Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement as either their primary or concurrent goal. These children had been in care for an average of just over 4 years. In 12 cases, appropriate permanency goals were established timely and supported by concerted efforts, contributing to more successful outcomes, whereas 18 cases showed delays or lacked alignment between goals and the child's needs, which impeded progress toward permanency. These differences in goals and time in care underscore the importance of timely and appropriate permanency planning.

While permanency is the ultimate goal, placement stability plays a critical role in a child's experience in care. Encouragingly, 65% of children had either one stable placement or one planned move during the review period (Item 4). Those who experienced unplanned moves were frequently placed in temporary settings such as hospitals, detention facilities, or shelters due to the child's behavioral or mental health needs or the lack of available appropriate placements.

Effective permanency planning relies on setting timely and appropriate goals. In half of the cases, permanency and concurrent goals were established in a timely manner and aligned with the child's needs and circumstances, which is positive (Item 5). Nearly one-third of cases experienced delays in goal setting. In some instances, adoption or guardianship was not pursued until an average of 36 months, and in others, reunification remained the goal for an average of 24 months despite signs that it may no longer have been appropriate. The review did not identify any policy or practice barriers, suggesting an opportunity to explore what supports or hinders timely permanency planning.

The review identified promising practices and ongoing challenges in achieving timely permanency. In 33% of the cases, strong collaboration between the agency and legal and judicial professionals supported timely permanency through reunification, guardianship, or adoption. Effective concurrent planning contributed to these outcomes by allowing cases to pivot more quickly when reunification was no longer viable. However, several adoption cases experienced delays related to the termination of parental rights (TPR) process. These delays occurred at multiple stages, including late goal changes, delays in filing TPR petitions, prolonged scheduling of TPR hearings, and delays in trial court and appellate decisions. Even when TPR petitions were filed on time, court delays often extended the timeline. Children in these cases remained in care for an average of 8 years.

Court hearings play an important role in supporting progress toward permanency. Half of the cases noted frequent and timely court hearings, which in some instances helped move cases forward. In others, key barriers to permanency were not addressed during hearings. For example, two children eventually exited care

through reunification and adoption after 40 months and 9 years, respectively. The remaining children in these cases have been in care for an average of 49 months. While timely hearings are essential, their effectiveness depends on whether they meaningfully address the issues that affect permanency. DCF may consider building on its strong partnerships with judges and attorneys to identify strategies that address policies and practices contributing to delays. Although New Jersey is not required to address the permanency statewide data indicators in its Program Improvement Plan (PIP), examining differences across counties and sub-populations may help identify effective practices and inform permanency strategies to include in the PIP.

Permanency Outcome 2, which measures how well children in foster care are able to maintain family and other important connections, was substantially achieved in 73% of cases. Among the 5 items assessed, Preserving Connections (Item 9) was the highest performing item. In 85% of applicable cases, efforts were made to maintain children's ties to extended family, friends, school, extracurricular activities, and their broader community. New Jersey also performed well in keeping siblings together in placement when appropriate and facilitating frequent, quality visits between children and their parents and siblings—earning 76% and 75% on Items 7 and 8, respectively. For Item 10, Relative Placement, 68% of cases were rated as a Strength, with 9 children placed with relatives. In most other cases, efforts were made to locate maternal and paternal relatives as potential placement resources. Strength ratings for Item 11, which measures support for parent-child relationships beyond visitation, was a weaker area, with 58% of applicable cases rated positively. The review found that parents were not consistently included in key aspects of their children's lives, such as medical appointments, school meetings, and other important activities, limiting opportunities to strengthen parent-child relationships beyond visitation.

Well-Being Outcome 1 was rated as substantially achieved in 42% of applicable cases. For Item 12, the agency's performance on Sub-Item 12B, Needs Assessments and Services to Parents, affected the rating for the outcome and showed that concerted efforts to assess and address parental needs were inconsistent. Overall, the agency demonstrated stronger performance in working with mothers than with fathers. Case reviews found that the agency's performance regarding assessing the needs of and providing services to fathers was rated as a Strength in 45% of the applicable cases in contrast to 67% for mothers. In 74% of the cases, a Strength rating was given for effectively assessing the needs of foster and pre-adoptive parents and providing them with appropriate services. Practice was also strong in Sub-Item 12A, Needs Assessment and Services to Children, which received a 78% Strength rating. Additionally, 60% of applicable cases received a Strength rating for child and family involvement in case planning. For Item 14, Caseworker Visits With Children, the frequency and quality of visits were found to be strong, resulting in 86% of cases reviewed receiving Strength ratings. Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, was rated as a Strength in 51% of applicable cases. Findings indicated a need to identify and implement strategies for improving practices related to the frequency and quality of visits with parents.

Well-Being Outcome 3 includes Item 17, Physical Health of the Child, and Item 18, Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child. Seventy-five percent of applicable cases were rated as substantially achieved for this outcome. Performance was higher in foster care cases, with 80% of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved compared to 60% for in-home cases. For Item 17, foster care cases received a 90% Strength rating, compared to 57% for in-home cases. For Item 18, practice for foster care cases was also stronger, with 83% of the cases reviewed rated as a Strength compared to 58% of in-home cases. Factors that negatively affected this outcome included a lack of thorough and accurate assessment of the physical, dental, and mental/behavioral needs of children who remained in the home as well as service provision to address those needs.

Service Array and Resource Development is a systemic factor that directly influences safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families. Findings from interviews and case reviews revealed ongoing barriers to service access and follow-through, particularly in the availability of services and the ability to meet families' individualized needs in some areas of the state. While New Jersey has made tremendous progress in expanding service options, continued efforts are needed to ensure that services are not only available but also consistently timely, accessible, and responsive across all regions of the state. Addressing these challenges through data-informed strategies, strong quality assurance practices such as data analysis, performance monitoring and feedback loops, and intentional ongoing collaboration with agency and community partners will be critical to improving outcomes for children and families throughout New Jersey.

As New Jersey works to address the concerns highlighted in the CFSR, the state can build on the strengths identified in the case reviews. Statewide, New Jersey demonstrated strong collaboration with educational systems, successful engagement with foster and pre-adoptive parents, and legal/judicial system partners/CIP, and a commitment to cross-system partnerships through engagement efforts like the DCF Commissioner's Listening Tour. These strengths offer a strong foundation for New Jersey's PIP to drive targeted, sustainable improvements. The CB encourages New Jersey to leverage the flexibilities afforded under Technical Bulletin #14 to frame its program improvement efforts around a cohesive, outcome-driven strategy centered on achieving and sustaining a 1:1 ratio of licensed foster homes to children in foster care. This approach is consistent with the intent of TB #14 to reduce administrative burden, strengthen continuous quality improvement, and focus state and federal partnerships on building and sustaining the capacity necessary to ensure that every child in New Jersey has 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. The statewide data indicators are aggregate measures calculated using information that states report to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). For general information on the statewide data indicators and their use, see the National Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement page, https://ncwcia.childwelfare.gov/. For a detailed description of the statewide data indicators, see CFSR Technical Bulletin #13A, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/training-technical-assistance/cfsr-technical-bulletin-13a. Results have been rounded to the nearest whole number. A summary of the state's performance for all outcomes and systemic factors is in Appendix A. Additional information on case review findings, including the state's performance on case review item rating questions, is in the state's practice performance report in Appendix B.

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

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

The state's policy requires the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) to respond according to how calls are classified by the State Central Registry (SCR), which operates 24/7 as the statewide hotline. Calls are designated either as a Child Protective Services (CPS) report—allegations of abuse or neglect requiring an investigation—or as a Child Welfare Services (CWS) referral, which indicates service needs requiring an assessment.

CPS Response Timeframes

- **Immediate Response:** In-person contact with the child victim no later than the end of the workday, or sooner when certain criteria are identified.
- **24-Hour Response:** In-person contact with child victim required within 24 hours of SCR assignment.
- **Supervisor-Directed Timeframes:** May assign a more urgent timeframe based on case specifics.

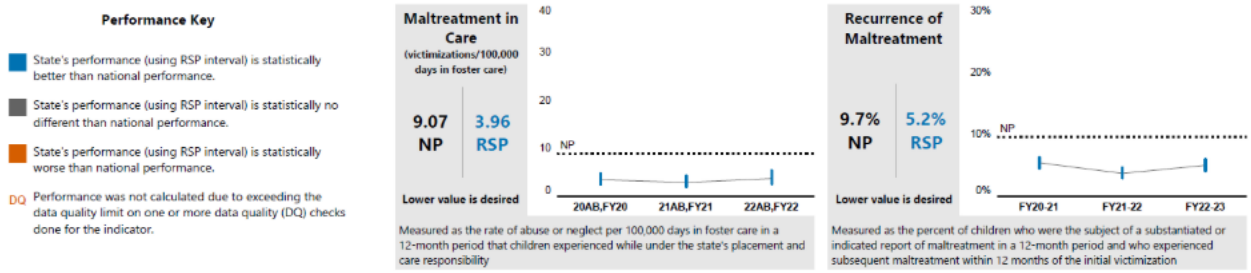
CWS Response Timeframes

- **Within 72 hours:** In-person contact with the child victim or good-faith effort (includes home visit).
- **Within 5 workdays:** In-person contact with the child victim for certain referral types (e.g., parole exchanges, home studies).
- Supervisors may adjust timeframes as needed.

Statewide Data Indicators

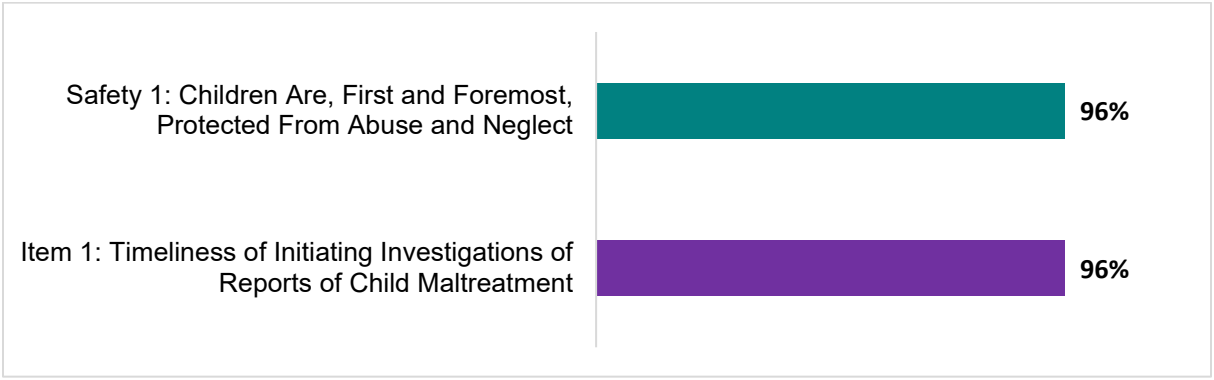
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



New Jersey was found to be in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1:

- The state's performance on the "maltreatment in foster care" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "recurrence of maltreatment" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- More 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	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	Better	Better	No
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	Better	Better	No

All results reported here are based on the August 2025 data profile and supplementary context data and may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 2, which shows performance as of the February 2025 data profile, was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment, and whose latest reporting periods were used to determine substantial conformity.

New Jersey's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) on both the Maltreatment in Foster Care and Recurrence of Maltreatment indicators continues to be better than national performance. However, performance has slowly worsened over the last 3 reporting years and may be an area for the state to continue to monitor.

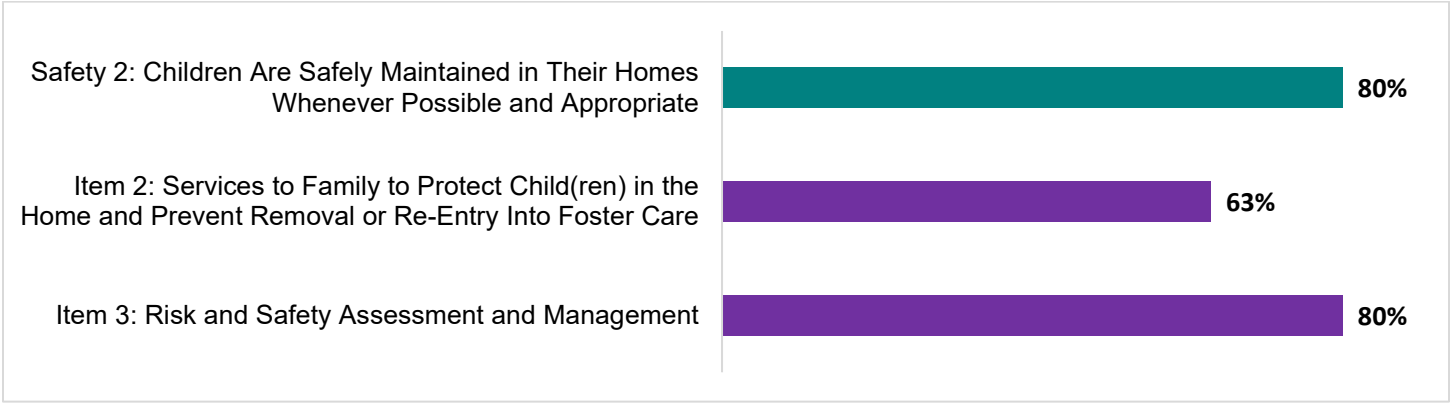
- While performing better than national performance, New Jersey's rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days in foster care has increased 13% since the start of its statewide assessment process, and 46% since FY 2021. While the overall number of days children spend in care has dropped each year, the number of victimizations has increased, resulting in an overall increase in the rate of maltreatment while in foster care.
- This increase appears to be driven largely by children ages 11 to 16 years, who accounted for nearly half of all victimizations in the state in FY 2023 despite accounting for only one-quarter of the total days children spent in care.
- Similarly to Maltreatment in Care, the percentage of children experiencing maltreatment within 12 months of an initial report of maltreatment increased 16% from the start of New Jersey's statewide assessment process and 57% overall since FY 2021–22.
- Over the last 3 reporting years, the number of initial victims decreased by 8% while the number of subsequent victimizations increased by 44%. Children ages 1–5 years accounted for 26% of initial victimizations in the latest reporting period but 39% of all recurring victimizations; this group also experienced the largest increase over the last 3 reporting years—a 74% increase in the percentage of recurrent victimization.

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



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

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 2.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 3.

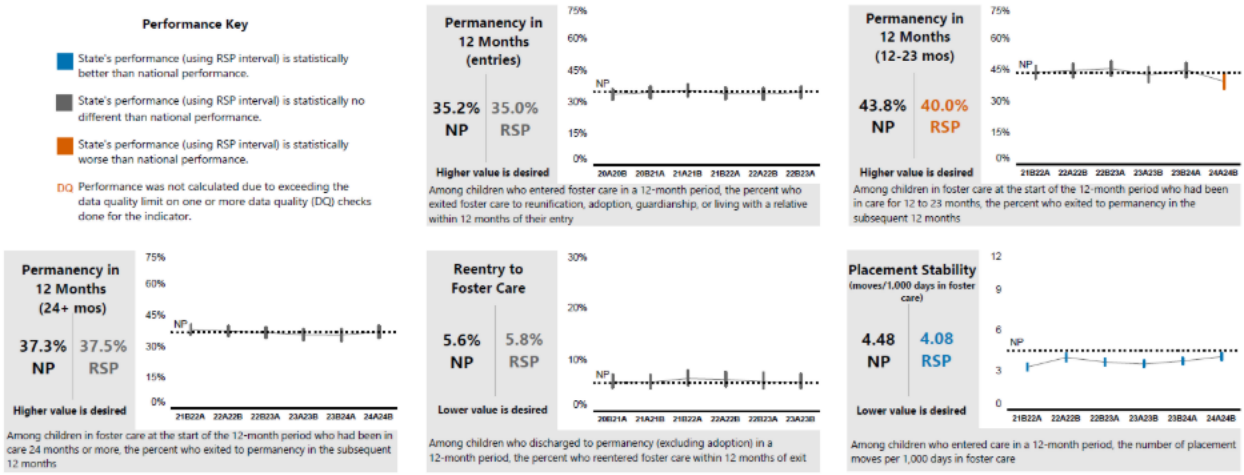
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

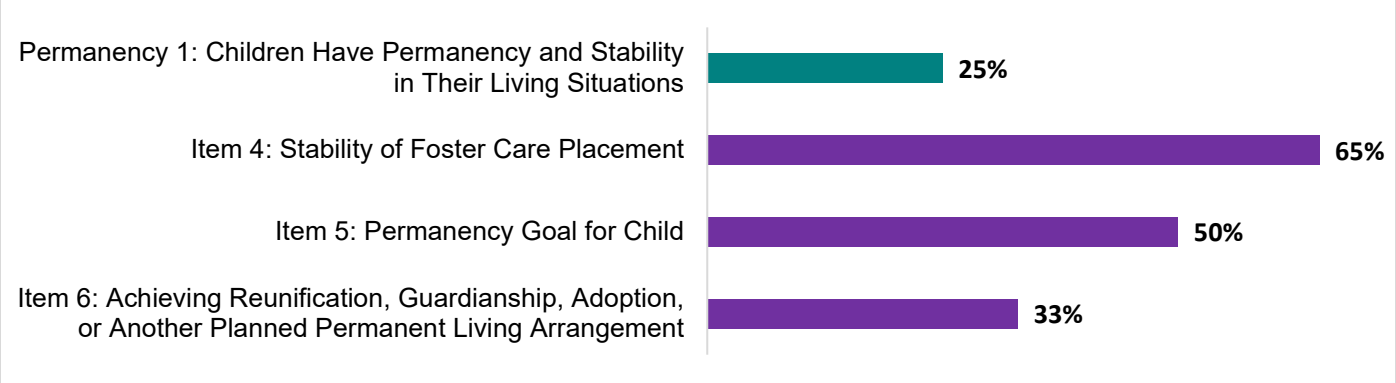
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



New Jersey 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 no different 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 no different 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 better than national performance.
- 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	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	No Different	No Different	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Worse	No Different	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	No Different	No Different	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	No Different	No Different	No
Placement stability	Better	No Different	Yes

All results reported here are based on the August 2025 data profile and supplementary context data and may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 3, which shows performance as of the February 2025 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and whose latest reporting periods were used to determine substantial conformity.

At the start of the statewide assessment process, the only indicator in which the state's RSP was worse than national performance was Permanency in 12 Months (12–23 Months). The latest available data indicates that New Jersey's RSP is no different than national performance across all 5 permanency indicators.

- Overall, New Jersey's performance on all three Permanency in 12 Months indicators has been steady over the last 6 reporting periods. However, there are some notable differences in subgroup performance that the state may want to monitor for continued improvement in achieving permanency for children in care.
- Among children entering care, the state's overall observed performance has remained consistent, fluctuating between 31.1% to 32.7% over the last 6 reporting periods—a range of only 1.6%. During this period, there were minimal changes across age groups. Across race/ethnicity groups, the state reported a 24% decrease in achieving permanency among Black children along with a 21% and 23% increase in performance among Hispanic and White children, respectively, during the same period.
- Camden and Essex are the top two counties in the state by numbers of children entering care/in care, accounting for about a quarter of the state's total number of children in care. Despite the steady performance on the 3 Permanency in 12 Months indicator overall, performance has declined over the

last 3 reporting years—especially among children entering care (by 16% in each county) and children in care 24 months or longer (by more than 20% in each county).

New Jersey's performance on Reentry to Foster Care has remained fairly stable over the last 6 reporting periods—fluctuating between 5.4% and 6.2% of the number of children discharged to permanency (excluding adoption) and reentering care within 12 months of their exit—but differing subgroup performance may warrant monitoring by the state for opportunities to improve.

- However, reentry among children less than 1 year of age and 6 to 10 years of age has doubled over the last 3 reporting years, while all other age groups reported a decrease in reentry. Similarly, the state reported a 46% increase in reentry among Black children along with a 49% decrease among Hispanic children and 24% decrease among White children.

Historically, New Jersey's RSP on Placement Stability has been better than national performance but shifted to no different than national performance in the most recent data profile period.

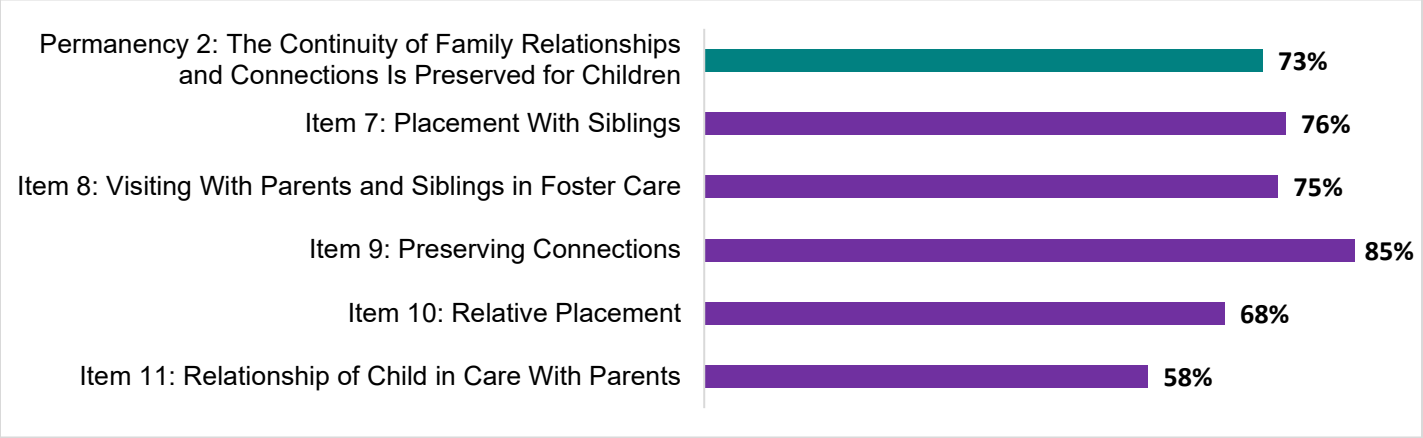
- The rate of moves per 1,000 days in care has slowly crept up over the last 4 reporting periods. Over this time, the total number of days in foster care has steadily decreased, but the total number of placement moves has increased—with an overall increase in state performance of 27%. This increase in the rate of placement moves is reflected across all age groups and race/ethnicity groups.

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



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

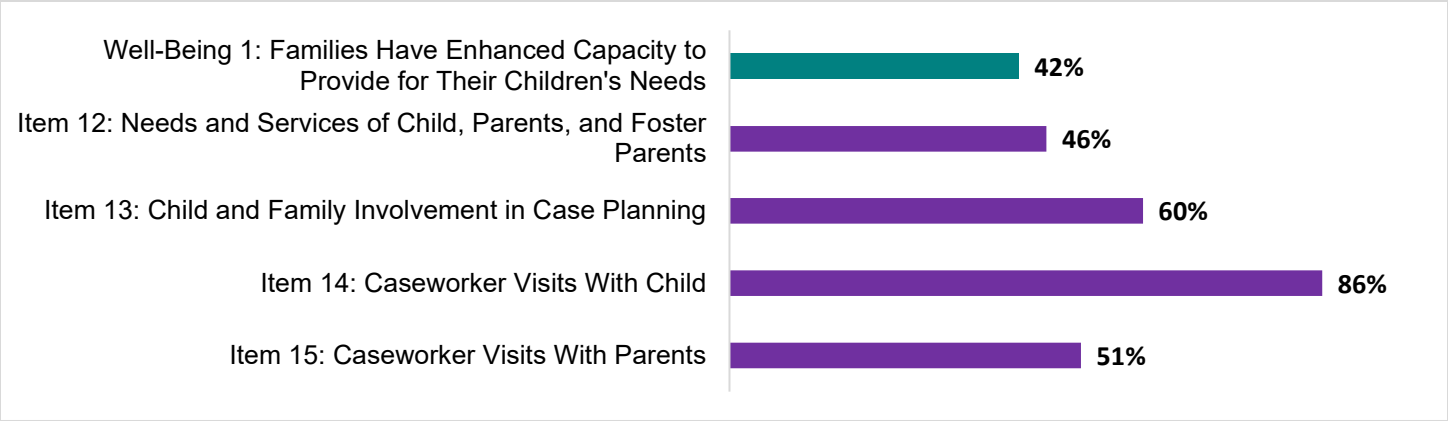
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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



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

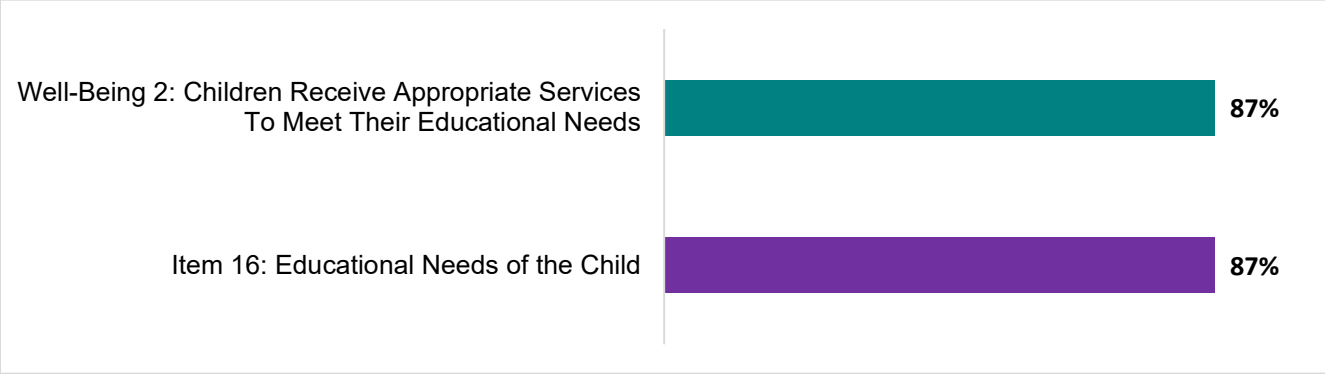
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
  - Less than 90% of the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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

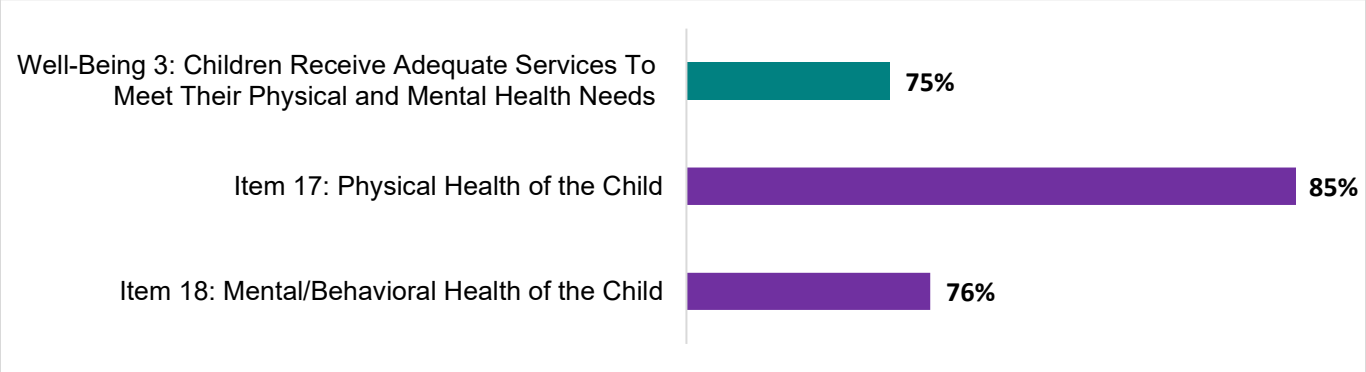
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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

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

Case Review

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



New Jersey was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 3:

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

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Strength

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

Item 19: Statewide Information System

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

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New Jersey has a child welfare information system that is used uniformly statewide as intended. The state has processes to assess the accuracy of the data entered. New Jersey's system can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is/has been in foster care within the last preceding 12 months.

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	Strength
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Strength
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Area Needing Improvement

New Jersey 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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that case plans were jointly developed with parents. New Jersey's policies and practices support children in foster care having case plans that are jointly developed with parents, but stakeholders reported that although parents were aware of case plans, they were not routinely involved in the joint development of those plans.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided demonstrated that initial and subsequent periodic reviews are routinely occurring within 6 months of entry into foster care and every 6 months thereafter.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information collected demonstrated that permanency hearings are routinely held within 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and at least 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.

- New Jersey 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. New Jersey does not have a reliable way to track TPR filing or whether there were exceptions to the requirement to seek TPR. NJ acknowledges challenges in this area.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.

- New Jersey has a statewide process in place to notify foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of periodic reviews and permanency hearings, which includes notice of the right to be heard. However, the data and information provided do not demonstrate that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers are routinely receiving notices. New Jersey also lacks a routine process to track whether foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are receiving notification of periodic reviews and permanency hearings.

Quality Assurance System

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

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Strength

New Jersey 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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information collected demonstrated that New Jersey's quality assurance system is functioning statewide, has standards in place to evaluate the quality of services, identifies strengths and needs, provides relevant reports, and evaluates implemented improvement measures.

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

New Jersey was found 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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New Jersey has standardized training for staff that provides the basic skills and knowledge needed by child welfare staff to carry out their duties. The state has a tracking system as well as an evaluation system regarding the timely completion and effectiveness of training provided. New Jersey also has

policies and procedures specifying requirements for assigning cases to new staff and what training must be completed before being assigned cases.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New Jersey has ongoing training requirements for staff and supervisors and initial training of supervisors. The training provides the knowledge and skills needed. New Jersey has a system to track compliance with ongoing training requirements for workers, and data regarding compliance and evaluation of the effectiveness of CPS training was available.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- While New Jersey has made commendable improvements, including high initial training compliance, curriculum enhancements, and feedback mechanisms, the data and information provided does not demonstrate tracking of ongoing training completion for caregivers and Child Caring Institution (CCI) staff or evaluation of how well the training addresses the basic skills and knowledge needed.

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

New Jersey 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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.

- Data and information provided indicates that the availability of and accessibility to services varies statewide, with rural areas of the state having greater barriers to accessing services, including challenges around fewer local providers and limited evening and weekend hours. Traveling to those service providers is also a challenge due to transportation barriers. There is a lack of available and accessible services in mental health, therapeutic visitation, and specialized care for high-need children, as well as a lack of housing and transportation.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- New Jersey has policies and flexible funding available to address the specific needs of children and families. However, individualized services for children and parents are not routinely provided. The services provided are standardized and do not routinely address the unique needs of each family, and this approach is one of the obstacles to tailoring services. There are also gaps in services for non-English-speaking families and those with developmental delays.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

New Jersey 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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- New Jersey has several methods and modalities for engaging and collecting information from stakeholders, including listening sessions and/or focus groups, and has ongoing consultation with many groups in the development of the CFSP and APSR. These groups include courts, Tribes, consumers, service providers, foster parents, and child- and family-serving agencies. Feedback regarding stakeholders' major concerns from these consultations is included in the CFSP and APSRs. New Jersey engages stakeholders in ongoing consultation through various councils, committees, and advisory boards on an ongoing basis.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided demonstrated that New Jersey collaborates with many federal and federally assisted programs throughout the state to ensure delivery of CFSP services for shared populations. New Jersey coordinates services with sister agencies and external programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, housing, education, substance use treatment services, childcare/Head Start, and domestic violence services. Coordination is supported by system interfaces and data-sharing agreements, allowing for seamless information exchange and service delivery.

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

New Jersey was found 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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- New Jersey has regulations, policies, and practices to ensure that foster homes and CCIs maintain consistent licensing standards. Information obtained showed that licensing standards are applied equally across the state. The state has an internal audit system in place to monitor and ensure requirements are in place and applied equally. A feedback loop is in place to ensure missing information is obtained. New Jersey has a process for waivers of regulatory requirements and exceptions.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and evidence support that New Jersey has a statewide system in place 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.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided in the Statewide Assessment shows that data are being used to ensure that the recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families reflects the ethnic and racial diversity of the children in the state.

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.

- New Jersey received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and evidence do not demonstrate compliance with the required timeframes for completing home studies, and the state did not provide evidence to support that there is effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children statewide.

APPENDIX A

Summary of New Jersey 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.	In Substantial Conformity	96% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Strength	96% 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	Better Than National Performance	Lower	3.96	2.82–5.5	22A–22B, FY22–23
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Better Than National Performance	Lower	5.2%	4.3%–6.2%	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	80% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	63% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	80% 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	25% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	65% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	50% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	33% 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%	No Different Than National Performance	Higher	35.0%	32.4%–37.6%	22B–24B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Worse Than National Performance	Higher	40.0%	36.5%–43.6%	24A–24B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	No Different Than National Performance	Higher	37.5%	34.7%–40.3%	24A–24B
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	5.8%	4.6%–7.4%	23A–24B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Better Than National Performance	Lower	4.08	3.83–4.34	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	73% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	76% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	75% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	85% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	58% 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	42% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	46% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	47% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	74% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	60% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	51% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	87% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	87% 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	75% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	85% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	76% 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	Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	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
New Jersey CFSR (CB-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 New Jersey CFSR (CB-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.	95.83% (23 of 24)
(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.	91.67% (22 of 24)
(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.	50% (1 of 2)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	95.83% (23 of 24)

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.	33.33% (3 of 9)	40% (4 of 10)	36.84% (7 of 19)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Although the agency did not make concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry into foster care, the child(ren) was removed from the home because this action was necessary to ensure the child's safety.	55.56% (5 of 9)	Not Applicable	55.56% (5 of 9)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	11.11% (1 of 9)	Not Applicable	11.11% (1 of 9)

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 9)	60% (6 of 10)	31.58% (6 of 19)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	88.89% (8 of 9)	40% (4 of 10)	63.16% (12 of 19)

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)	92% (23 of 25)	96.92% (63 of 65)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (40 of 40)	88% (22 of 25)	95.38% (62 of 65)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	83.33% (5 of 6)	83.33% (5 of 6)	83.33% (10 of 12)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	100% (40 of 40)	56% (14 of 25)	83.08% (54 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% (4 of 4)	36.36% (4 of 11)	53.33% (8 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.	100% (10 of 10)	50% (5 of 10)	75% (15 of 20)
(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% (26 of 26)	Not Applicable	100% (26 of 26)
(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	97.5% (39 of 40)	52% (13 of 25)	80% (52 of 65)

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.	18.75% (3 of 16)	18.75% (3 of 16)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	77.5% (31 of 40)	77.5% (31 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	65% (26 of 40)	65% (26 of 40)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	97.5% (39 of 40)	97.5% (39 of 40)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	67.5% (27 of 40)	67.5% (27 of 40)
(Question 5C) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were appropriate to the child's needs for permanency and to the circumstances of the case.	72.5% (29 of 40)	72.5% (29 of 40)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	72.5% (29 of 40)	72.5% (29 of 40)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 11)	0% (0 of 11)
(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.	82.14% (23 of 28)	82.14% (23 of 28)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	50% (20 of 40)	50% (20 of 40)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner.	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 2)	0% (0 of 2)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	21.43% (3 of 14)	21.43% (3 of 14)
(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.	50% (3 of 6)	50% (3 of 6)

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.	35.71% (5 of 14)	35.71% (5 of 14)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	32.5% (13 of 40)	32.5% (13 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.	23.53% (4 of 17)	23.53% (4 of 17)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	69.23% (9 of 13)	69.23% (9 of 13)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	76.47% (13 of 17)	76.47% (13 of 17)

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.	17.65% (3 of 17)	17.65% (3 of 17)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	29.41% (5 of 17)	29.41% (5 of 17)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	5.88% (1 of 17)	5.88% (1 of 17)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	5.88% (1 of 17)	5.88% (1 of 17)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	23.53% (4 of 17)	23.53% (4 of 17)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	17.65% (3 of 17)	17.65% (3 of 17)
(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.	82.35% (14 of 17)	82.35% (14 of 17)
(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.	92.86% (13 of 14)	92.86% (13 of 14)
(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.	82.35% (14 of 17)	82.35% (14 of 17)

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.	42.86% (3 of 7)	42.86% (3 of 7)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	14.29% (1 of 7)	14.29% (1 of 7)
(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 7)	0% (0 of 7)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	0% (0 of 7)	0% (0 of 7)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	28.57% (2 of 7)	28.57% (2 of 7)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	14.29% (1 of 7)	14.29% (1 of 7)
(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.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(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.	66.67% (4 of 6)	66.67% (4 of 6)
(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.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 14)	0% (0 of 14)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	28.57% (4 of 14)	28.57% (4 of 14)
(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.	14.29% (2 of 14)	14.29% (2 of 14)
(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.	35.71% (5 of 14)	35.71% (5 of 14)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	14.29% (2 of 14)	14.29% (2 of 14)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	7.14% (1 of 14)	7.14% (1 of 14)
(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.	85.71% (12 of 14)	85.71% (12 of 14)
(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.	92.31% (12 of 13)	92.31% (12 of 13)
(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.	85.71% (12 of 14)	85.71% (12 of 14)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	75% (18 of 24)	75% (18 of 24)

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).	85% (34 of 40)	85% (34 of 40)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	85% (34 of 40)	85% (34 of 40)

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.	24.32% (9 of 37)	24.32% (9 of 37)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (9 of 9)	100% (9 of 9)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** maternal relatives.	60% (6 of 10)	60% (6 of 10)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** maternal relatives.	90% (9 of 10)	90% (9 of 10)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** maternal relatives.	80% (8 of 10)	80% (8 of 10)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** maternal relatives.	80% (8 of 10)	80% (8 of 10)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** paternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** paternal relatives.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (8 of 8)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	67.57% (25 of 37)	67.57% (25 of 37)

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.	58.82% (10 of 17)	58.82% (10 of 17)
(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.	42.86% (3 of 7)	42.86% (3 of 7)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	57.89% (11 of 19)	57.89% (11 of 19)

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)	32% (8 of 25)	46.15% (30 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.	92.5% (37 of 40)	72% (18 of 25)	84.62% (55 of 65)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	84.21% (32 of 38)	52.94% (9 of 17)	74.55% (41 of 55)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	85% (34 of 40)	68% (17 of 25)	78.46% (51 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	85.71% (18 of 21)	66.67% (16 of 24)	75.56% (34 of 45)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	76.19% (16 of 21)	59.09% (13 of 22)	67.44% (29 of 43)

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.	76.19% (16 of 21)	58.33% (14 of 24)	66.67% (30 of 45)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	58.33% (7 of 12)	42.86% (9 of 21)	48.48% (16 of 33)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	60% (6 of 10)	35% (7 of 20)	43.33% (13 of 30)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	58.33% (7 of 12)	38.1% (8 of 21)	45.45% (15 of 33)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	62.5% (15 of 24)	32% (8 of 25)	46.94% (23 of 49)

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.	83.87% (26 of 31)	83.87% (26 of 31)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	73.08% (19 of 26)	73.08% (19 of 26)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	74.19% (23 of 31)	74.19% (23 of 31)

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.	86.67% (26 of 30)	70% (14 of 20)	80% (40 of 50)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	85% (17 of 20)	58.33% (14 of 24)	70.45% (31 of 44)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	50% (6 of 12)	40% (8 of 20)	43.75% (14 of 32)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	71.43% (25 of 35)	44% (11 of 25)	60% (36 of 60)

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.	2.5% (1 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	1.54% (1 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	5% (2 of 40)	12% (3 of 25)	7.69% (5 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.	17.5% (7 of 40)	12% (3 of 25)	15.38% (10 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.	75% (30 of 40)	76% (19 of 25)	75.38% (49 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 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)	92% (23 of 25)	96.92% (63 of 65)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	92.5% (37 of 40)	76% (19 of 25)	86.15% (56 of 65)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	92.5% (37 of 40)	76% (19 of 25)	86.15% (56 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 19)	4.17% (1 of 24)	2.33% (1 of 43)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	5.26% (1 of 19)	4.17% (1 of 24)	4.65% (2 of 43)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	15.79% (3 of 19)	16.67% (4 of 24)	16.28% (7 of 43)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	63.16% (12 of 19)	66.67% (16 of 24)	65.12% (28 of 43)

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.	10.53% (2 of 19)	8.33% (2 of 24)	9.3% (4 of 43)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	5.26% (1 of 19)	0% (0 of 24)	2.33% (1 of 43)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	89.47% (17 of 19)	83.33% (20 of 24)	86.05% (37 of 43)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	94.44% (17 of 18)	58.33% (14 of 24)	73.81% (31 of 42)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	84.21% (16 of 19)	54.17% (13 of 24)	67.44% (29 of 43)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 12)	5% (1 of 20)	3.13% (1 of 32)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	8.33% (1 of 12)	0% (0 of 20)	3.13% (1 of 32)
(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% (2 of 12)	5% (1 of 20)	9.38% (3 of 32)
(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% (3 of 12)	45% (9 of 20)	37.5% (12 of 32)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	33.33% (4 of 12)	35% (7 of 20)	34.38% (11 of 32)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	16.67% (2 of 12)	10% (2 of 20)	12.5% (4 of 32)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	58.33% (7 of 12)	65% (13 of 20)	62.5% (20 of 32)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	40% (4 of 10)	55.56% (10 of 18)	50% (14 of 28)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	41.67% (5 of 12)	40% (8 of 20)	40.63% (13 of 32)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	59.09% (13 of 22)	44% (11 of 25)	51.06% (24 of 47)

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.	92.11% (35 of 38)	87.5% (7 of 8)	91.3% (42 of 46)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	93.55% (29 of 31)	62.5% (5 of 8)	87.18% (34 of 39)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	92.11% (35 of 38)	62.5% (5 of 8)	86.96% (40 of 46)

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.	97.5% (39 of 40)	71.43% (5 of 7)	93.62% (44 of 47)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (21 of 21)	Not Applicable	100% (21 of 21)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	94.87% (37 of 39)	40% (2 of 5)	88.64% (39 of 44)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	95% (38 of 40)	50% (1 of 2)	92.86% (39 of 42)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	92.31% (36 of 39)	0% (0 of 1)	90% (36 of 40)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	90% (36 of 40)	57.14% (4 of 7)	85.11% (40 of 47)

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.	93.33% (28 of 30)	58.33% (7 of 12)	83.33% (35 of 42)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	90% (18 of 20)	Not Applicable	90% (18 of 20)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	82.76% (24 of 29)	58.33% (7 of 12)	75.61% (31 of 41)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	83.33% (25 of 30)	58.33% (7 of 12)	76.19% (32 of 42)