

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Oklahoma

FINAL REPORT

2024

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Final Report: Oklahoma Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) and submitted to the CB on July 31, 2023. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The February 2024 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 65 cases [40 foster care and 25 in-home], conducted via a State-Led Review process statewide in Oklahoma during October 1, 2023–March 31, 2024, examining case practices occurring during October 2022 through March 2024.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys and Guardian(s) ad Litem for children and youth
 - Attorneys for the agency and District Attorneys
 - Attorneys for parents
 - Court Appointed Special Advocates
 - Child welfare agency statewide leadership
 - Child welfare caseworkers
 - Child welfare contractors and service providers
 - Child welfare program managers
 - Child welfare regional managers
 - Child welfare supervisors
 - Foster and adoptive licensing staff
 - Foster and adoptive parents and resource parents
 - Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) staff
 - Judges and judicial officers
 - Child-placing agency licensing and recruitment staff
 - Foster care and adoption program administrators and managers
 - Parents
 - State licensed or approved child care facility staff
 - Tribal child welfare staff and Tribal representatives and leaders
 - Tribal Liaisons
 - Youth

Background Information

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

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

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

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

Oklahoma 2024 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

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

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

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

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Safety Outcome 1	Item 1	Maltreatment in foster care Recurrence of maltreatment
Safety Outcome 2	Items 2 and 3	N/A
Permanency Outcome 1	Items 4, 5, and 6	Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability
Permanency Outcome 2	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 1	Items 12, 13, 14, and 15	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 2	Item 16	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 3	Items 17 and 18	N/A

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

The following 4 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

CB Comments on State Performance

OKDHS is the state agency designated to administer title IV-B and IV-E programs, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, as well as federal safety net programs. OKDHS, an umbrella agency, was established by the state legislature in 1936. Child welfare services' purpose is to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families involved in the child welfare system through collaboration with families and their communities.

In 2016, OKDHS completed a State-Led Review for Round 3 of the CFSR. Oklahoma was in substantial conformity with none the 7 outcomes. Three of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity with federal requirements: Statewide Information System, Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

Oklahoma's CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on May 29, 2018, and the 2-year implementation period began on May 29, 2018. On May 28, 2020, the state was notified that it had completed all the benchmarks and action steps identified in the PIP. On January 30, 2019, the CB determined that Oklahoma had successfully met all its PIP measurement goals as well.

The Round 4 CFSR was conducted by OKDHS, with support from the CB, from October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Stakeholder interviews were conducted the week of November 13–17, 2023. The CB found that Oklahoma was not in substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes and was in substantial conformity with 4 of the 7 systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, Staff and Provider Training, and Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

The CFSR found that OKDHS has a highly functioning quality assurance system and strong interagency engagement, which can serve as foundational elements to assist OKDHS in making meaningful advances in achieving positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families, and in improving system functioning.

The highest performing outcome for Oklahoma was Well-Being Outcome 2, Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs, with 76% of the applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. Foster care cases performed slightly better than in-home services cases on this outcome in both the assessment of educational needs and the efforts to address those needs.

The next-highest performing outcome for Oklahoma was Safety Outcome 1, Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. This outcome was substantially achieved in 75% of applicable cases. In the cases reviewed, 88% of investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with Oklahoma policy and, in 70% of the cases reviewed, face-to-face contact was made with children who were the subject of maltreatment reports within the required timeframe. In addition to the one case review item assessed, performance on two safety Statewide Data Indicators (SWDIs)—Recurrence of Maltreatment and Maltreatment in Care—is used to determine conformity for this outcome. Oklahoma consistently performs worse than national performance on Maltreatment in Care. The state performed statistically no different than national performance on Recurrence of Maltreatment in the most recent reporting year (fiscal years [FYs] 2021–2022), which was an improvement from the preceding 3 years when performance was statistically worse. Oklahoma will be required to include the Maltreatment-in-Care indicator in its PIP and PIP Measurement Plan. Of note, Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties accounted for about one-third of the state's child maltreatment in care victims. These two counties had similar numbers of child victims in FYs 2019 and 2020; however, in the most recent reporting year, the number of victims in Oklahoma County increased 50%, while victims in Tulsa County decreased 45%. This is an area to explore in PIP development.

Permanency Outcome 2, Preserving the continuity of family relationships, was substantially achieved in 70% of cases reviewed. This outcome is applicable only to foster care cases. Of the five items assessed in this outcome, Item 11, Relationship of children in care with parents, was the highest performing, at 84%. The agency demonstrated concerted efforts to maintain relationships with parents, specifically fathers in the cases reviewed. Item 7, Placement With Siblings, was rated as a Strength in 81% of the applicable cases. Item 10, Relative Placement, found that the child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs in 100% of the applicable cases reviewed. It was noted that when children were not placed with relatives, Oklahoma did not identify, locate, or evaluate relatives for those children. Preserving children's connections in foster care was found to be a Strength in 68% of the applicable cases. The lowest performing item in this outcome was Item 8, Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, in which 67% of the cases were rated as a Strength. The frequency and quality of a child's visits with mothers, fathers, and siblings were similar.

Safety Outcome 2, Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, consists of two items. For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren), 70% of the applicable cases were rated as a Strength. The 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 in 10% of the foster care cases reviewed, compared to 72% of the in-home cases reviewed. Sixty percent of the cases received a Strength rating for Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management. Across both case types, performance was lowest in conducting an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns. When safety concerns were present, the agency developed appropriate safety plans with the families and continually monitored the safety plans as needed in 67% of the cases reviewed across both case types. Ongoing comprehensive assessments of safety and risk were not completed consistently throughout the life of the cases. Given how critically important it is to ensure the safety of children and families, these areas of performance merit specific attention in the PIP.

Well-Being Outcome 1 was one of the lower-performing outcomes, with 58% of cases rated as substantially achieved. Practice challenges that affected this outcome included a lack of efforts to assess the needs of children, parents, and foster parents; provision of timely and appropriate services; engagement in case planning; and frequent and quality visits. Practices assessed in this outcome are fundamental to ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of the families served. The CB encourages Oklahoma to continue building on its work to engage people with lived experience, especially youth, parents, and caregivers, as partners in improving child welfare practices and systems.

Well-Being Outcome 3 assesses the agency's concerted efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's physical and dental health needs (Item 17) and mental/behavioral needs (Item 18). Fifty-six percent of the cases were rated as substantially achieved for this outcome. The agency accurately assessed and provided services to meet the physical and dental needs of children in foster care in 78% of the cases reviewed, while efforts to assess and provide services to meet the physical and dental needs for children in in-home cases were rated as a Strength in 92% of the applicable cases reviewed. Performance was lower for the agency's efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's mental and behavioral health needs. Foster care cases were rated as a Strength in 68% of applicable cases, and in-home services cases were rated as a Strength in 61% of the cases reviewed.

Oklahoma's lowest-performing outcome in CFSR Round 4 was Permanency Outcome 1, with 25% of the cases rated as substantially achieved. This outcome contains three items: Item 4, which assesses placement stability and whether any changes in placement were made in the best interests of the child and toward achieving the child's permanency goal; Item 5, which determines the timeliness and appropriateness of permanency goals; and Item 6, which determines whether concerted efforts were made to achieve permanency for the child. Oklahoma received a Strength rating of 68% for Item 4. While 98% of the current placements were stable, for children who experienced changes in placement, 19% of those were in furtherance of the child's needs or the case goals. Oklahoma consistently performs worse than national performance on the statewide data indicator for Placement Stability, although for the most recent reporting year, Oklahoma showed some improvement.

Item 5 was rated as a Strength in 50% of the 40 foster cases reviewed. All cases had permanency goals specified in the case files, and 70% of those goals were appropriate to the child's needs and circumstances of the case. A primary reason that cases were rated as an Area Needing Improvement was the timely establishment of permanency goals in 58% of the cases. While permanency goals were revisited often, this resulted in many cases experiencing goals changing back and forth between reunification and other permanency options, which may have contributed to delays in permanency. In addition, it was observed in many cases that reunification was in place longer than case circumstances warranted, including when parents communicated that they would no longer engage in services or seek reunification.

Oklahoma's lowest-performing item was Item 6, at 33%. The three cases with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) were rated as a Strength. Performance on cases with children having permanency goals of reunification, adoption, and guardianship was notably low with respect to Strength ratings: reunification at 31%, adoption at 20%, and guardianship at 20%. As noted above, reunification goals were often in place too long given the case circumstances, which resulted in reunification not being achieved timely. Oklahoma consistently performed statistically worse than national performance for permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care. Regarding the achievement of adoption, the state acknowledged in its Statewide Assessment that there's work to be done in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR) within Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) timeframes. Delays in filing TPR were observed; sometimes this was due to courts not approving requests to file a TPR.

Legal and judicial professionals as well as agencies share a mutual responsibility for the timely achievement of permanency for children and youth. Ratings are based on both the agency and courts making concerted efforts toward permanency, and the lack of these efforts contributed to low performance for this outcome. In

Oklahoma, case plan goals and TPR petitions are approved by the court. Cases were observed where timely requests to file TPR were made but denied multiple times by the court, which delayed permanency. Process delays were observed by way of hearing delays and delays to finalization of hearing decisions. It was also observed in a number of cases that parties went unrepresented during TPR proceedings, which may have contributed to delays and was also a due process concern.

It appeared from the sample of cases reviewed that there was strong engagement of Tribes in cases involving American Indian children. Many cases had Tribal representation at hearings, and there was evidence of information-sharing between the child welfare agency and the various Tribes involved. While this is promising, it is concerning that Indians disproportionately enter foster care in Oklahoma, at a rate of 6.6 per 1,000 child population, which is nearly two times higher than the state's entry rate of 3.4, and nearly three times higher than the national rate of 2.2. Indian children also experienced very low rates of timely permanency, except for the most recent reporting year for children in care 2 or more years.

Notable for Oklahoma and for practice moving forward was the continued need for the agency to make 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. This was particularly concerning with the foster care cases that were reviewed. Specific attention needs to be placed on the initial safety planning work with families and the continued attention and monitoring of the safety plans. There also needs to be continued focus on parental engagement across the life of the case. Parental engagement is foundational for improving safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families involved in the Oklahoma child welfare system.

Engaging with families to accurately assess needs and link families to appropriate services and supports is a critical practice in child welfare. Even when needs and services are appropriately identified, children and families being served by OKDHS face a mixed array of available services, often stemming from their geographic location within the state. Stakeholders frequently cited gaps in the continuum of services for behavioral health, including waitlists for mental/behavioral health services, housing, transportation, and appropriate placements for children. Stakeholders noted significant turnover in service providers throughout the state. A shortage of licensed foster homes and congregate care options has created a dependency on temporary placement options, resulting in children staying at or sleeping in agency offices supervised by agency staff.

Equity Observations and Considerations

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

As described in the sections on Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1 data indicators during Round 4, the data for some of the statewide data indicators showed notable performance-related information by race/ethnicity and are included below.

- For context in viewing the data, Oklahoma is home to a diverse range of Indigenous peoples, including Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole Tribes, among others. There are 39 federally recognized Tribes in the state, the highest number of any state in the United States. To understand the outcomes of American Indian children involved in Oklahoma's child welfare system, it is important to consider the group of children who are identified solely as American Indian along with children in the two or more race and Hispanic categories who also identify as American Indian. While disaggregated

data for two or more races and Hispanic categories are not available for every statewide data indicator, data for foster care entry rates and permanency in 12-month indicators show that a substantial percentage—approximately three-quarters—of children in the two or more race category are American Indian and one or more other races, likely White. Disaggregated data for Hispanic children shows that about one-third are also American Indian.

- American Indian/Alaska Native children—including single, mixed race, and Hispanic ethnicity—disproportionately enter foster care in Oklahoma. They comprise about 20% of the general child population but are 38% of the foster care entries. The entry rate for American Indian/Alaska Native children of single or mixed race/ethnicity was 6.6 per 1,000 child population for FY 2023. This is important to consider as American Indian/Alaska Native children are also consistently less likely to exit to permanency in comparison with children of other races/ethnicities, with the recent exception of children in care for 2 or more years. While these children experience lower rates of permanency, it is notable that American Indian/Alaska Native children in care for 2 or more years experienced a significant increase in exits to permanency during the most recent reporting year, a 146% increase from 2 years prior.
- Federally recognized Tribes in Oklahoma are in 20 of the 22 counties that consistently have foster care entry rates higher than state and national entry rates.¹
- Children of two or more races consistently had the highest foster care entry rates. For FY 2023, their entry rate was 10.49 per 1,000 child population, which was 3 times the state entry rate of 3.4, and almost 5 times higher than the national rate of 2.2. They also experienced low rates of permanency during their first 2 years in care. More than 75% of the children in the two-or-more-race category were American Indian/Alaska Native and one or more other races.
- Black or African American children—including single, mixed race, and Hispanic ethnicity—also disproportionately entered foster care in Oklahoma. Their foster care entry rate was 5.6 per 1,000 child population.
- American Indian/Alaska Native and Black or African American children in care were less likely to exit to permanency their first 2 years in care in comparison with children of other races/ethnicities.
- Children who are of two or more races generally experienced the highest rates of maltreatment in care, which increased in the most recent reporting year. These children were also disproportionately represented in the percentage of child victims, comprising 28% of the total days in foster care whereas they were 36% of the maltreatment-in-care victims.
- The percentage of Hispanic children experiencing maltreatment in care increased over the last 3 reporting years. They had the highest rate of maltreatment in care for the most recent reporting year.
- Children of two or more races were more likely than children of other races/ethnicities to experience recurrence of maltreatment and were disproportionately represented in the number of recurring victims; comprising 26% of initial victims but 32% of the recurring victims.
- Black or African American children and children of two or more races experienced higher rates of placement moves while in foster care. Placement stability for Hispanic children improved in the most recent reporting period and is now one of the lowest rates.

¹ Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2021 Oklahoma Tribal Map, <https://sde.ok.gov/sites/default/files/2021%20Oklahoma%20Tribal%20Map.pdf>

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

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

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

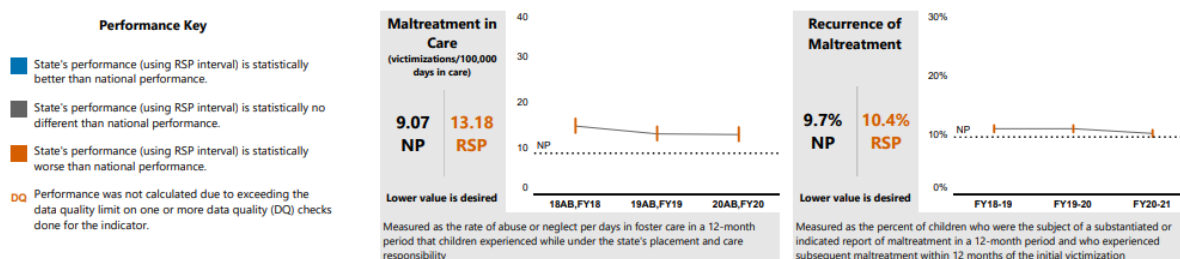
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires accepted reports of child maltreatment to be assigned for an investigation or assessment. Reports assigned for a Priority 1 response require at least two diligent face-to-face attempts to see the alleged child victim(s) on the date that the report is received and at least one diligent face-to-face attempt to see the alleged child victim(s) each calendar day thereafter until the child is located or interviewed, and the child's safety is established. Reports assigned for a Priority 2 response require two diligent, face-to-face attempts to contact the child victim(s) on or before the response time indicated in the state's Child Abuse and Neglect Information System (known as KIDS) and a minimum of one diligent, face-to-face attempt to contact the child victim every subsequent business day until the child victim is located or interviewed, and the child's safety is established. State policy provides additional procedures for circumstances when the alleged child victim cannot be located despite diligent attempts.

Statewide Data Indicators

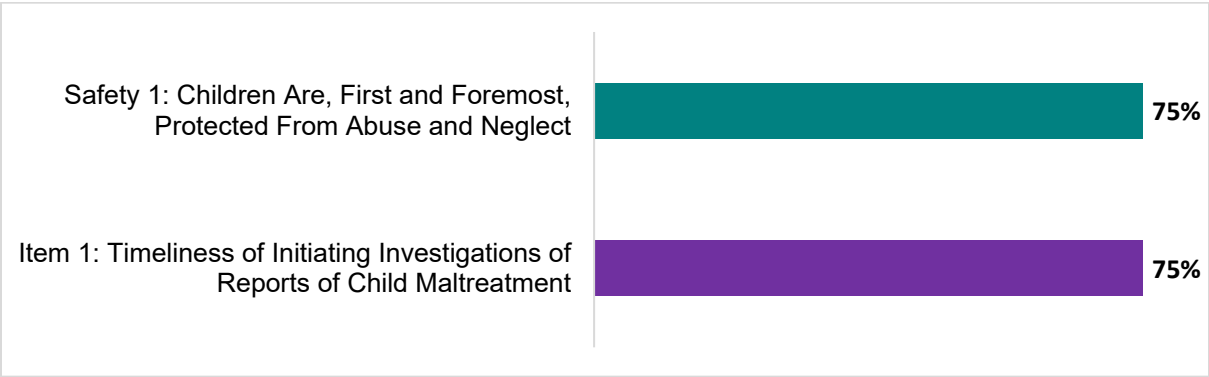
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2023 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

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

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

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

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

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the February 2023 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

Oklahoma consistently performs statistically worse than national performance on the statewide data indicator for maltreatment in care, and the rate has worsened since 2019.

- While the largest number of victimizations are for children aged 1 to 5, the highest rates of maltreatment per 100,000 days in foster care are for children aged 6 to 10 and 11 to 16, the latter of which is consistent with national trends.
- Children who are of two or more races generally experience the highest rates of maltreatment in care, which increased in the most recent reporting year. These children are also disproportionately

represented in the percentage of child victims, comprising 28% of the total days in foster care but 36% of the maltreatment-in-care victims.

- The percentage of Hispanic children experiencing maltreatment in care increased over the last 3 reporting years. They had the highest rate of maltreatment in care for the most recent reporting year.
- Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties accounted for about one-third of the state's child maltreatment-in-care victims. These two counties had similar numbers of child victims in FYs 2019 and 2020; however, in the most recent reporting year, the number of victims in Oklahoma County increased 50%, while victims in Tulsa County decreased 45%. A number of counties with smaller foster care populations consistently had high rates of maltreatment in care, some of which increased over the last 3 reporting years.

Oklahoma performed statistically no different than national performance on the statewide data indicator for recurrence of maltreatment in the most recent reporting year (FYs 2021–2022), which was an improvement from the preceding 3 years when performance was statistically worse. The number of initial substantiated or indicated maltreatment reports and the number of child victims experiencing recurrence within 12 months declined over the last 3 reporting years, by 9% and 17%, respectively.

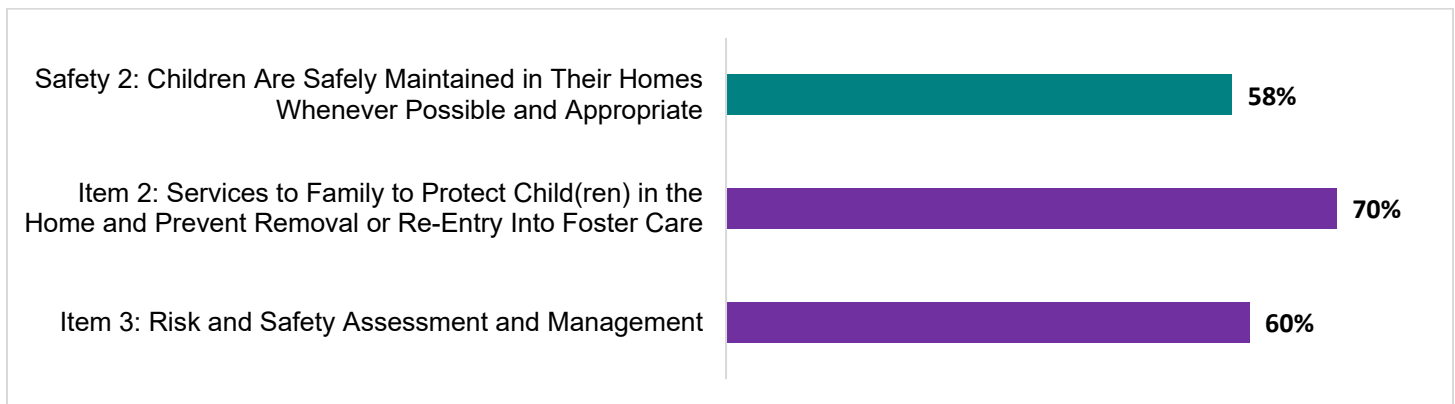
- Similar to national performance, children aged 1 to 5 years in Oklahoma consistently comprised the age group with the greatest number of victimizations. Children in this age group also experienced a higher percentage of recurrence in comparison to state performance and were disproportionately represented in the number of recurring victims, comprising 32% of initial victims but 37% of recurring victims.
- Children of two or more races were more likely than children of other races/ethnicity to experience recurrence of maltreatment and were disproportionately represented in the number of recurring victims, comprising 26% of initial victims but 32% of recurring victims.
- Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties had the greatest number of initial and recurring victims, comprising approximately 40% of the state total. While there has been a decrease in the number of initial and recurring victimizations in Tulsa County, recurrence of maltreatment was consistently higher in Tulsa than in Oklahoma County. Oklahoma County had a lower percentage of recurrence within 12 months; however, recurrence increased over time, along with the number of initial and recurring victimizations. There was substantial variation by county in the number and percentage of recurrence of maltreatment.

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



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

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

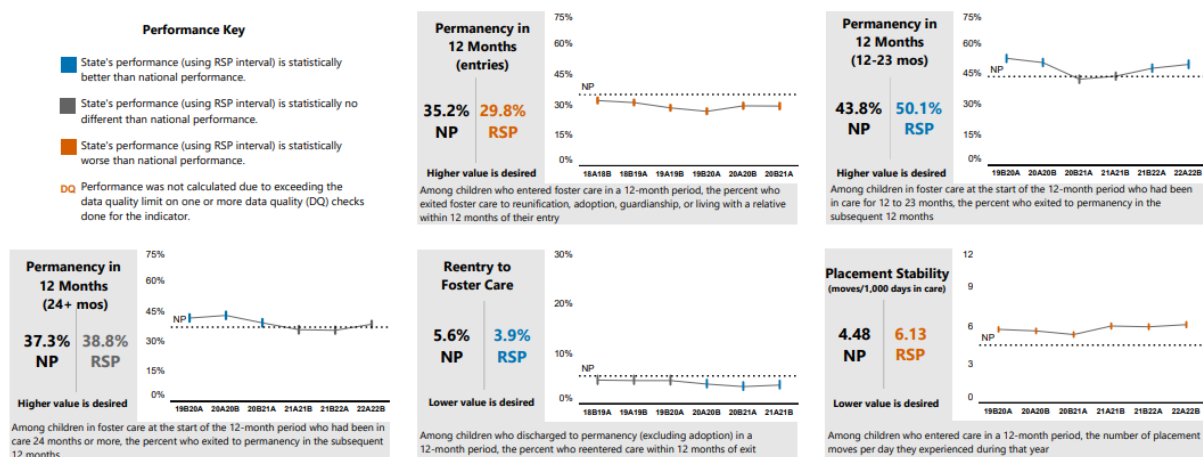
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

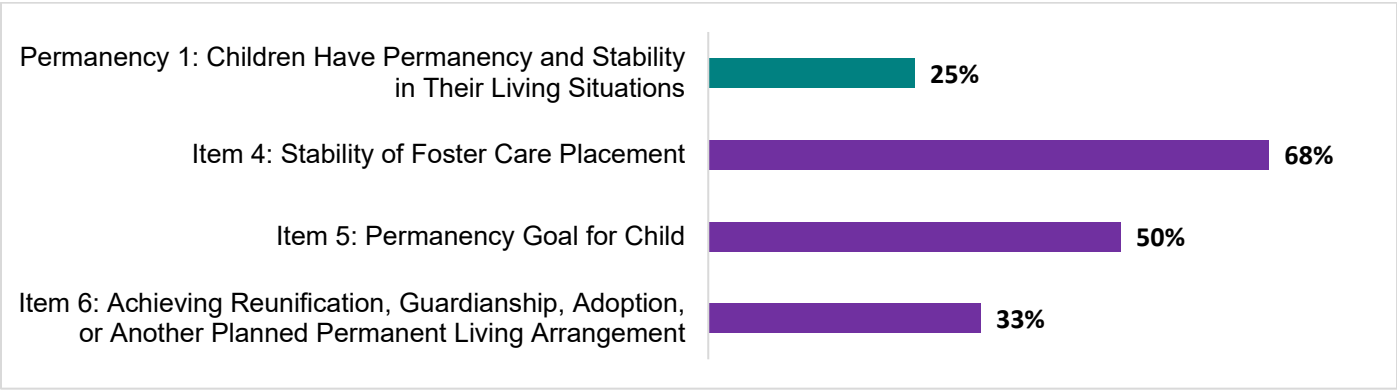
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2023 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

- The state’s performance on the “permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care” data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- The state’s performance on the “permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months” data indicator was statistically better 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 better than national performance.
- The state’s performance on the “placement stability” data indicator was statistically worse than national performance. Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2023 Profile	February 2024 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Better	Better	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	No Different	Better	Better	No

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

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the February 2023 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

Oklahoma consistently performed statistically worse than national performance for permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care.

- While Oklahoma’s foster care entry rate steadily declined over the last 6 years—from 4.5 per 1,000 child population in FY 2019 to 3.5 in FY 2022, it was consistently higher than the national rate, which was 3.1 and 2.2 for the same years.
- As with the nation, children removed as infants in Oklahoma entered foster care at much higher rates than other age groups and exited to permanency within 12 months at the lowest percentage relative to children in other age groups, with the exception of youth over 17 years.
- While Oklahoma’s entry rate for infants decreased over the last 6 years, it was more than 5 times higher than the state’s entry rate and 2 times higher than the national rate.
- American Indian/Alaska Native children—including single, mixed race, and Hispanic ethnicity—disproportionately entered foster care in Oklahoma. They comprised about 20% of the general child population but 38% of the foster care entries. The entry rate for American Indian/Alaska Native children of single or mixed race/ethnicity was 6.6 per 1,000 child population for FY 2023. This is important to consider as American Indian/Alaska Native children in Oklahoma were also consistently less likely to exit to permanency in comparison with children of other races/ethnicities, with the recent exception of children in care for 2 or more years.
- Federally recognized Tribes are in 20 of the 22 counties that consistently had foster care entry rates higher than state and national entry rates.
- Children of two or more races consistently had the highest foster care entry rates. For FY 2023, their entry rate was 10.49 per 1,000 child population, which was 3 times the state entry rate of 3.4 and almost 5 times higher than the national rate of 2.2. They also experienced low rates of permanency within 12 months of entering foster care. More than 90% of the children in the two-or-more-races category were American Indian/Alaska Native and one or more other races.
- Black or African American children—including single, mixed race, and Hispanic ethnicity—also disproportionately entered foster care in Oklahoma. Their foster care entry rate was 5.6 per 1,000 child population.

Oklahoma performed statistically better or no different than national performance for permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months and 24 months or more. Performance has steadily improved on both of these indicators over the last 3 reporting years.

- Children in care 1 year or more aged 11–16 consistently experienced the lowest percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months, with the exception of the small number of youth aged 17. As with the nation, these children were disproportionately represented in the percentage of children exiting to permanency. For the most recent reporting year, they comprised 30% of the children in care 24 months or more but 22% of the exits.
- American Indian/Alaska Native and Black or African American children in care were less likely to exit to permanency during their first 2 years in care in comparison with children of other races/ethnicities. While these children experienced lower rates of permanency, it is notable that American Indian/Alaska Native children (single race) in care for 2 or more years experienced a significant increase in exits to permanency during the most recent reporting year, a 146% increase from 2 years prior.
- A high percentage of children are adopted in Oklahoma, much higher than nationally. Following cohorts of children in Oklahoma who entered care, within 2 years of entry 10% were adopted; within 3 years of entry 27% were adopted; and within 6 years of entry 39% were adopted. In comparison, nationally these figures were 4%, 13%, and 24%, respectively. In comparison to the national rate, a lower percentage of children exited to reunification, guardianship, or living with a relative and a higher percentage aged out of foster care without permanency in Oklahoma.
- There was substantial variation by county in the percentage of children who exited foster care to permanency. Among the top 10 counties with the most children in care for 1 year or more, Oklahoma, Tulsa, Pottawatomie, Muskogee, Cleveland, and Canadian Counties had stronger performance in achieving timely permanency, while Comanche, Okmulgee, and Creek Counties had the greatest need for improvement and were locations of federally recognized Tribes.

Oklahoma's performance on reentry to foster care was statistically better than national performance.

- While a small number, infants under 1 year of age in Oklahoma are more likely to reenter foster care than other age groups. Children aged 1 to 5 comprise the largest number of children reentering care within 12 months of exit.
- There were no notable differences based on race. County differences and fluctuations are largely attributed to the relatively small number of children reentering foster care.

Oklahoma's placement stability rate was statistically worse than national performance but showed some improvement in the most recent reporting year.

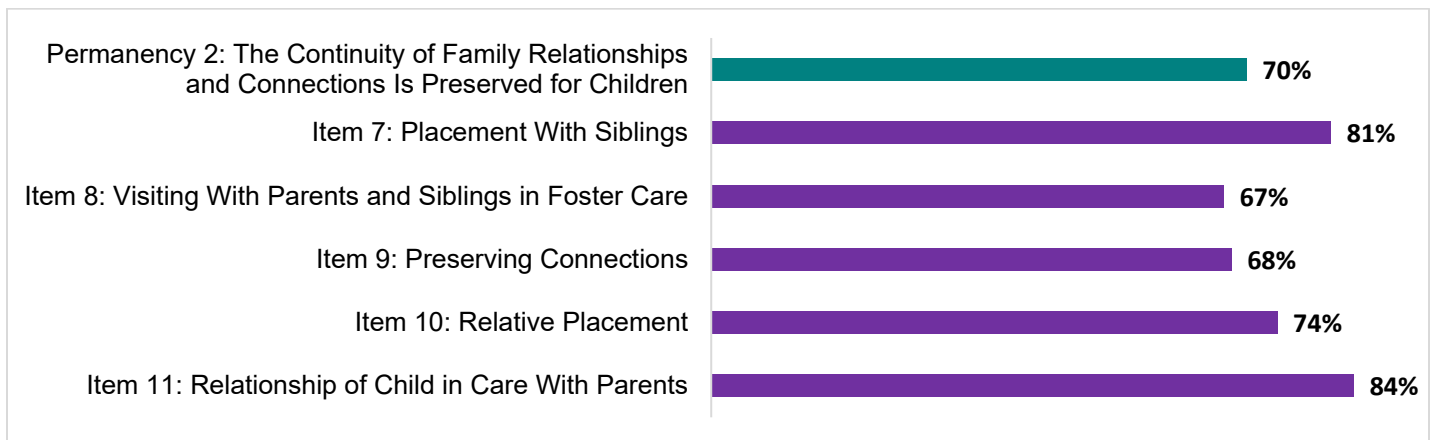
- Similar to national performance, children aged 11–16 experienced the highest rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care, with the exception of the small number of youth aged 17.
- Black or African American and children of two or more races experienced higher rates of placement moves. Placement stability for Hispanic children improved in the most recent reporting period and is now one of the lowest rates.
- Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties accounted for about 30% of the total days children spent in foster care, and both counties had higher rates of placement moves than the state and nation. Carter County stands out as having a low rate of placement moves relative to the number of days children spent in foster care.

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

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

Case Review

Figure 6. Performance on Permanency Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



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

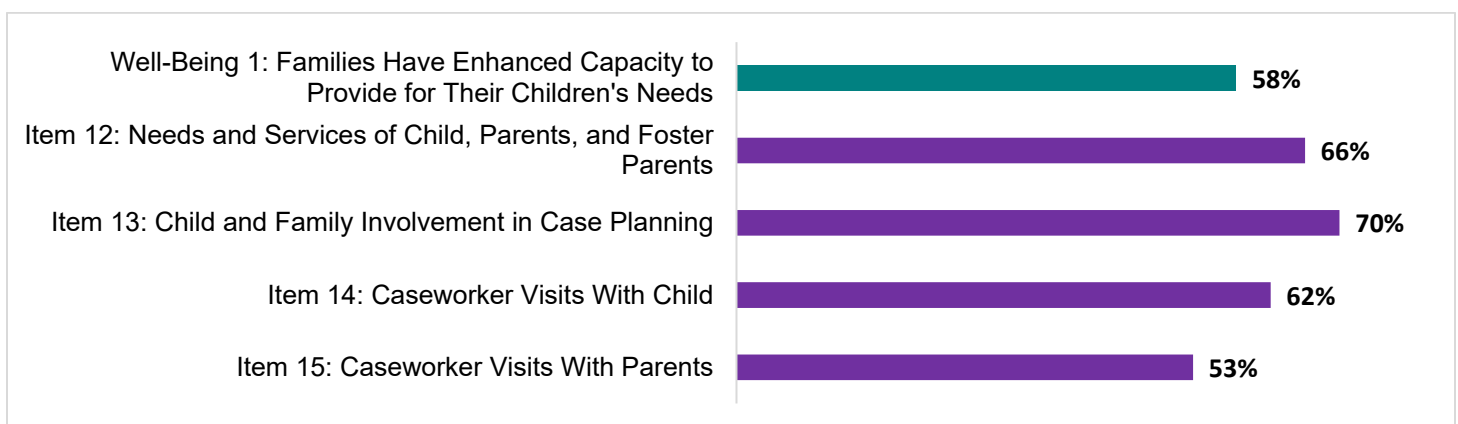
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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



Oklahoma 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.

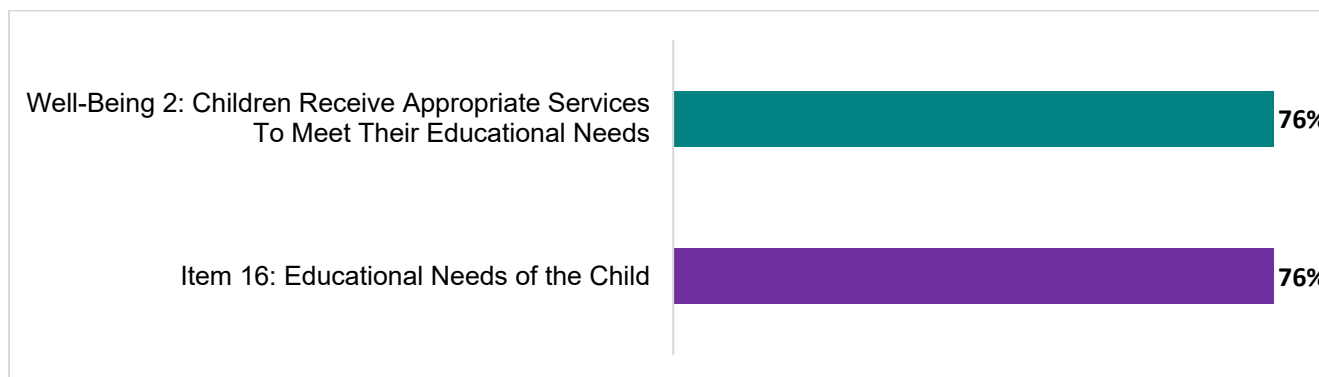
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 13.
- Less than 90% of the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



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

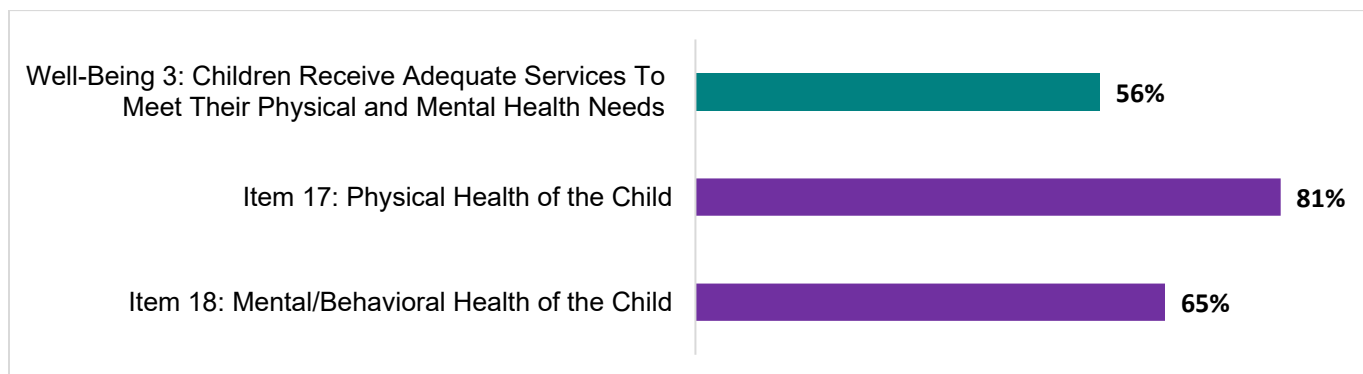
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



Oklahoma 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

Oklahoma 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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- KIDS is a comprehensive case management tool used by child welfare staff for documentation. The KIDS application functions as a case management system that serves as the electronic case file for children and families served. Information provided indicated that Oklahoma's system is functioning statewide to ensure that the status, demographic characteristics, placement location, and placement goals are readily identifiable. Data provided by the state showed that the required data elements are documented and accurate. Analysts track and report to supervisors and agency staff when discrepancies occur.

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

Oklahoma 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.

- Oklahoma 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 did not demonstrate that case plans are routinely developed with parents. Oklahoma has a Family Meeting Continuum (FMC) process, which supports the timely joint development of case plans, but each child does not have a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parent(s).

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided demonstrated that periodic reviews were occurring for each child no less frequently than once every 6 months while the child was in foster care. Information collected showed that periodic hearings were occurring within the appropriate timeframes.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided in Oklahoma's Statewide Assessment and collected during stakeholder interviews showed that for each child, a permanency hearing occurred no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and at least every 12 months thereafter. Information collected during stakeholder interviews indicated that permanency hearings were occurring within the appropriate timeframes and more frequently than required.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- The data and information provided in the Statewide Assessment did not demonstrate whether termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were filed timely. Additionally, a process for documenting exceptions or compelling reasons not to file a TPR was not demonstrated.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- Information provided in the Statewide Assessment showed that Oklahoma does not have a process to track whether foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers have been notified of periodic reviews and permanency hearings related to the children in their care. Insufficient information was provided to support the routine functioning of this item. The state did not provide information as to whether notices that were provided included notice of the right of those individuals to be heard in court.

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

Oklahoma 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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- Information in the statewide assessment showed that Oklahoma's quality assurance (QA) system is functioning in all 27 districts, 77 counties, and 5 regions where services are provided and delineated in the state's CFSP. The structure of the state CQI Program team is centrally administered and operating in all jurisdictions of the state. The state utilizes established standards, an array of performance outcomes and reports, and success indicators to evaluate the quality of services provided and implemented program improvement strategies. The state uses aggregate and case review data reports to improve practice, monitor practice metrics, and identify areas where further evaluation and improvement is needed. The state's CQI Program Team generates relevant reports and utilizes ongoing case reviews and targeted case reviews to identify and evaluate strengths and needs of the service delivery system. The state routinely shares and discuss child welfare system performance with internal and external partners.

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

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

Oklahoma 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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma's initial staff training (CORE) is functioning statewide and ensures that new child welfare specialists receive the necessary basic skills, knowledge, and on-the-job training (OJT). The training program consists of facilitated classroom learning with three progressive skill-building social simulations, pre-requisite online learning, OJT, and Mock Court. CORE utilizes a blended learning model of online learning, including an online curriculum and OJT experiences. Upon successful completion of CORE, the child welfare specialist is assigned a graduated caseload.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma described its ongoing training requirements for child welfare staff responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect and for ongoing case management staff, and optional training opportunities for all staff. The state provides a wide variety of optional ongoing trainings, differentiated by levels. Forty hours of ongoing trainings are required by all staff annually and monitored by a yearly supervisory review of employee training records. Advancing to the next level only occurs once all ongoing training requirements have been met. Mentoring is a component of the leveled system and supports ongoing development of new workers. Supervisory training is also available via the Supervisory Academy, and 24 hours of training is required via a 15-day management program focusing on supervisory skills and personnel practices. The state included sufficient evidence to demonstrate that ongoing trainings are provided to staff and supervisors to address the skills and knowledge they need to carry out their job duties.

Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

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

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- In the statewide assessment, Oklahoma described the pre-service training requirement for foster parents. OKDHS, specifically resource specialists, with the assistance of the National Resource Center

for Youth Services (NRCYS)-resource family training (RFT) contractor, has expanded training opportunities to support foster, kinship, and adoptive parents in acquiring their pre-service and in-service training. However, the state did not provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that initial and ongoing trainings was being received by caregivers and institutional staff and that it addressed the skills and knowledge needed to carry out duties with regard to foster and adopted children. The state has training requirements for staff of facilities that provide group and shelter care; however, the state did not provide evidence to demonstrate that these training requirements were being monitored.

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

Oklahoma 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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Oklahoma described programs that assess children and families for an array of services to achieve case plan goals and address gaps in services. However, stakeholders reported significant service access issues affecting all areas of the state, with rural areas more likely to face a lack of services and service providers, while more urban areas struggled with waitlists to access needed services. Service gaps cited included waitlists for mental/behavioral health services, housing, transportation, and appropriate placements for children. Stakeholders noted significant turnover in service providers throughout the state. A shortage of licensed foster homes and congregate care options resulted in the use of temporary placement options, including children staying in or sleeping in offices while being supervised by agency staff.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- While some services were able to be customized, Oklahoma did not demonstrate that the service array and resource development system was functioning statewide to ensure services could routinely be individualized to meet the unique needs of the children and families served by the state. Information gathered reported a lack of assessing for and providing individualized and culturally appropriate services, specifically linguistically appropriate services. Challenges were also noted in locating

placement and specialized services to address specific needs, such as for children with varying intellectual and developmental abilities as well as children and youth with behavioral health needs.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

Oklahoma 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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma identified a wide range of partners and stakeholders who are consulted in implementing the CFSP/APSR. However, the state did not provide recent and relevant information around current cross-system collaboration among other public state agencies and those with a vested interest in the child welfare system, including providers, Tribal partners, courts, families, and youth, which is necessary toward improving the safety, permanency, and well-being of children served by the child welfare system.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Oklahoma.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Oklahoma described regular, ongoing communication with other state agencies administering federal or federally assisted programs and services such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), FosterEd, Behavioral Health, Administrative Office of Courts, Department of Health, and Department of Education. OKDHS is the state agency designated to administer title IV-B and IV-E programs, title I—CAPTA, and the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, as well as the federal safety net programs. OKDHS is an umbrella agency that provides support programs and services to families statewide.

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

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

Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

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

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Oklahoma asserted that standards are applied equally across licensed foster family homes and child care institutions. Licensing and license renewal are completed and monitored by OKDHS. The regulations apply statewide, and the licensing staff are centrally supervised. The state described the process for issuing and renewing licenses, which includes an annual site visit to each licensee to monitor compliance with licensing standards. The state also described internal quality assurance measures, and stakeholders reported that the assessment process and required documentation were clear and confirmed that the licensing documentation is reviewed annually to ensure that standards and processes are applied equally to each provider and institution type. The state has an established process for issuing and documenting waivers and exceptions for both licensed and kinship homes.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- 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. Oklahoma has a thorough process to complete background checks on foster and adoptive parent applicants. In addition to Oklahoma State Bureau of Information (OSBI) and fingerprint results, the OSBI Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP) service and checks for additional arrests and prosecutions are conducted annually and as needed. OSBI conducts background checks for after-hours emergency placements. All foster and adoptive homes, including RFP agency homes, require fingerprint results before children are placed. Receipt and approval of fingerprints are reviewed before the home is approved and documented in KIDS. Until a home is approved, the home is not available for placement and payments.

Oklahoma demonstrated that it has a case planning process that addresses the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children in care.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Oklahoma did not demonstrate the state's process for ensuring that the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families reflects the ethnic and racial diversity of children in care. Oklahoma described a Diligent Recruitment Plan, with a goal of recruiting potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children in foster care needing foster and adoptive homes. However, the state did not describe how demographic data are used to drive and target recruitment efforts.

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.

- Oklahoma received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Oklahoma outlined its internal process and procedures to ensure effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources but did not provide evidence of the effectiveness of these resources. The state did not provide data to demonstrate the use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoption or permanent placement for waiting children statewide.

IV. APPENDIX A

Summary of Oklahoma 2024 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Not in Substantial Conformity	75% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	75% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.07	Worse	Lower	13.18	11.73–14.8	20A–20B, FY20–21
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Worse	Lower	10.4%	9.8%–11.0%	FY20–21

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	58% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or reentry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	60% 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	68% 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%	Worse	Higher	29.8%	28.3%–31.3%	20B–22B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Better	Higher	50.1%	48.2%–52.1%	22A–22B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	No Different	Higher	38.8%	37.1%–40.5%	22A–22B
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	Better	Lower	3.9%	3.2%–4.8%	21A–22B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse	Lower	6.13	5.92–6.34	22A–22B

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Not in Substantial Conformity	70% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	81% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	67% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	74% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	84% 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	58% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	66% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	77% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	63% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	79% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	53% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	76% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	76% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	56% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	81% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	65% 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 and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment	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	Area Needing Improvement
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Statewide Assessment	Strength

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

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

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT
Oklahoma CFSR (State-Led) 2023

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 Oklahoma CFSR (State-Led) and includes a breakdown of performance by case type. Please refer to the Rating Criteria section at the end of each item in the OSRI to identify which responses to questions will result in a Strength rating. For more information on the OSRI, see <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-instruments-tools-and-guides>

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

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

Practice Description	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state’s timeframes and requirements in cases.	87.5% (35 of 40)
(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.	70% (28 of 40)
(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.	16.67% (2 of 12)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	75% (30 of 40)

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 Reentry 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.	9.52% (2 of 21)	72% (18 of 25)	43.48% (20 of 46)
(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.	38.1% (8 of 21)	Not Applicable	38.1% (8 of 21)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	14.29% (3 of 21)	Not Applicable	14.29% (3 of 21)

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.	19.05% (4 of 21)	28% (7 of 25)	23.91% (11 of 46)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	66.67% (14 of 21)	72% (18 of 25)	69.57% (32 of 46)

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.	92.5% (37 of 40)	96% (24 of 25)	93.85% (61 of 65)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	97.5% (39 of 40)	100% (25 of 25)	98.46% (64 of 65)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	50% (6 of 12)	52.94% (9 of 17)	51.72% (15 of 29)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	72.5% (29 of 40)	62.5% (15 of 24)	68.75% (44 of 64)
(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.	58.33% (7 of 12)	71.43% (15 of 21)	66.67% (22 of 33)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	93.55% (29 of 31)	88.89% (16 of 18)	91.84% (45 of 49)
(Question 3E) There were no concerns related to the safety of the target child in foster care during visitation with parent(s)/caregiver(s) or other family members that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	94.12% (32 of 34)	Not Applicable	94.12% (32 of 34)
(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.	97.5% (39 of 40)	Not Applicable	97.5% (39 of 40)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	67.5% (27 of 40)	48% (12 of 25)	60% (39 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.	97.5% (39 of 40)	97.5% (39 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	67.5% (27 of 40)	67.5% (27 of 40)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	100% (40 of 40)	100% (40 of 40)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	57.5% (23 of 40)	57.5% (23 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.	70% (28 of 40)	70% (28 of 40)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	57.5% (23 of 40)	57.5% (23 of 40)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 17)	0% (0 of 17)
(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.	66.67% (14 of 21)	66.67% (14 of 21)
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
(Question 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner.	30.77% (4 of 13)	30.77% (4 of 13)
(Question 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	20% (1 of 5)	20% (1 of 5)
(Question 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	20% (3 of 15)	20% (3 of 15)
(Question 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.	100% (3 of 3)	100% (3 of 3)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 6A4 and 6B or 6A4 and 6C) 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.	50% (2 of 4)	50% (2 of 4)
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.	47.62% (10 of 21)	47.62% (10 of 21)
(Question 7B) There was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	63.64% (7 of 11)	63.64% (7 of 11)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	80.95% (17 of 21)	80.95% (17 of 21)

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.	22.73% (5 of 22)	22.73% (5 of 22)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	40.91% (9 of 22)	40.91% (9 of 22)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	9.09% (2 of 22)	9.09% (2 of 22)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	13.64% (3 of 22)	13.64% (3 of 22)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	9.09% (2 of 22)	9.09% (2 of 22)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	4.55% (1 of 22)	4.55% (1 of 22)
(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.	77.27% (17 of 22)	77.27% (17 of 22)
(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.	71.43% (15 of 21)	71.43% (15 of 21)
(Question 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.	68.18% (15 of 22)	68.18% (15 of 22)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 15)	0% (0 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	33.33% (5 of 15)	33.33% (5 of 15)

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 less than once a week but at least twice a month.	20% (3 of 15)	20% (3 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	6.67% (1 of 15)	6.67% (1 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	26.67% (4 of 15)	26.67% (4 of 15)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	13.33% (2 of 15)	13.33% (2 of 15)
(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.	73.33% (11 of 15)	73.33% (11 of 15)
(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.	69.23% (9 of 13)	69.23% (9 of 13)
(Question 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.	73.33% (11 of 15)	73.33% (11 of 15)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 11)	0% (0 of 11)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings was once a week.	18.18% (2 of 11)	18.18% (2 of 11)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	9.09% (1 of 11)	9.09% (1 of 11)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	45.45% (5 of 11)	45.45% (5 of 11)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings was less than once a month.	18.18% (2 of 11)	18.18% (2 of 11)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings.	9.09% (1 of 11)	9.09% (1 of 11)
(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.	72.73% (8 of 11)	72.73% (8 of 11)
(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.	72.73% (8 of 11)	72.73% (8 of 11)
(Question 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.	72.73% (8 of 11)	72.73% (8 of 11)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	66.67% (20 of 30)	66.67% (20 of 30)

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).	67.5% (27 of 40)	67.5% (27 of 40)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	67.5% (27 of 40)	67.5% (27 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.	43.59% (17 of 39)	43.59% (17 of 39)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (17 of 17)	100% (17 of 17)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	77.78% (7 of 9)	77.78% (7 of 9)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	100% (9 of 9)	100% (9 of 9)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	100% (9 of 9)	100% (9 of 9)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	100% (9 of 9)	100% (9 of 9)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives.	100% (7 of 7)	100% (7 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives.	100% (7 of 7)	100% (7 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives.	100% (7 of 7)	100% (7 of 7)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	74.36% (29 of 39)	74.36% (29 of 39)

Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 11A) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.	81.82% (18 of 22)	81.82% (18 of 22)
(Question 11B) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.	86.67% (13 of 15)	86.67% (13 of 15)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	84% (21 of 25)	84% (21 of 25)

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	62.5% (25 of 40)	72% (18 of 25)	66.15% (43 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.	80% (32 of 40)	80% (20 of 25)	80% (52 of 65)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	72.97% (27 of 37)	78.26% (18 of 23)	75% (45 of 60)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	75% (30 of 40)	80% (20 of 25)	76.92% (50 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	56.52% (13 of 23)	79.17% (19 of 24)	68.09% (32 of 47)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	56.52% (13 of 23)	72.73% (16 of 22)	64.44% (29 of 45)
(Question 12B1 and 12B3) Concerted efforts were made both to assess and address the needs of mothers.	52.17% (12 of 23)	75% (18 of 24)	63.83% (30 of 47)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	52.63% (10 of 19)	80% (12 of 15)	64.71% (22 of 34)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	52.63% (10 of 19)	73.33% (11 of 15)	61.76% (21 of 34)
(Question 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made both to assess and address the needs of fathers.	52.63% (10 of 19)	73.33% (11 of 15)	61.76% (21 of 34)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	53.85% (14 of 26)	72% (18 of 25)	62.75% (32 of 51)

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.	84.21% (32 of 38)	84.21% (32 of 38)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	77.14% (27 of 35)	77.14% (27 of 35)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	78.95% (30 of 38)	78.95% (30 of 38)

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.	91.3% (21 of 23)	78.57% (11 of 14)	86.49% (32 of 37)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	60.87% (14 of 23)	70.83% (17 of 24)	65.96% (31 of 47)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	55.56% (10 of 18)	73.33% (11 of 15)	63.64% (21 of 33)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	71.43% (25 of 35)	68% (17 of 25)	70% (42 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.	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	7.5% (3 of 40)	32% (8 of 25)	16.92% (11 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.	25% (10 of 40)	36% (9 of 25)	29.23% (19 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.	67.5% (27 of 40)	24% (6 of 25)	50.77% (33 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)	8% (2 of 25)	3.08% (2 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.	75% (30 of 40)	72% (18 of 25)	73.85% (48 of 65)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	67.5% (27 of 40)	68% (17 of 25)	67.69% (44 of 65)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	62.5% (25 of 40)	60% (15 of 25)	61.54% (40 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 23)	4.17% (1 of 24)	2.13% (1 of 47)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	13.04% (3 of 23)	25% (6 of 24)	19.15% (9 of 47)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	21.74% (5 of 23)	29.17% (7 of 24)	25.53% (12 of 47)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	52.17% (12 of 23)	25% (6 of 24)	38.3% (18 of 47)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	8.7% (2 of 23)	16.67% (4 of 24)	12.77% (6 of 47)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	4.35% (1 of 23)	0% (0 of 24)	2.13% (1 of 47)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	73.91% (17 of 23)	66.67% (16 of 24)	70.21% (33 of 47)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	50% (11 of 22)	75% (18 of 24)	63.04% (29 of 46)
(Question 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	47.83% (11 of 23)	58.33% (14 of 24)	53.19% (25 of 47)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 15)	0% (0 of 33)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	11.11% (2 of 18)	40% (6 of 15)	24.24% (8 of 33)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	5.56% (1 of 18)	20% (3 of 15)	12.12% (4 of 33)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	55.56% (10 of 18)	33.33% (5 of 15)	45.45% (15 of 33)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	22.22% (4 of 18)	6.67% (1 of 15)	15.15% (5 of 33)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	5.56% (1 of 18)	0% (0 of 15)	3.03% (1 of 33)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	66.67% (12 of 18)	66.67% (10 of 15)	66.67% (22 of 33)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	52.94% (9 of 17)	73.33% (11 of 15)	62.5% (20 of 32)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	50% (9 of 18)	66.67% (10 of 15)	57.58% (19 of 33)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	50% (13 of 26)	56% (14 of 25)	52.94% (27 of 51)

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

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	82.5% (33 of 40)	72.73% (8 of 11)	80.39% (41 of 51)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	71.88% (23 of 32)	70% (7 of 10)	71.43% (30 of 42)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	77.5% (31 of 40)	72.73% (8 of 11)	76.47% (39 of 51)

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.	90% (36 of 40)	91.67% (11 of 12)	90.38% (47 of 52)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	95.65% (22 of 23)	Not Applicable	95.65% (22 of 23)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	87.5% (35 of 40)	90.91% (10 of 11)	88.24% (45 of 51)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	82.86% (29 of 35)	100% (1 of 1)	83.33% (30 of 36)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	78.79% (26 of 33)	100% (1 of 1)	79.41% (27 of 34)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	77.5% (31 of 40)	91.67% (11 of 12)	80.77% (42 of 52)

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.	77.5% (31 of 40)	65.22% (15 of 23)	73.02% (46 of 63)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	72.73% (8 of 11)	Not Applicable	72.73% (8 of 11)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	70% (28 of 40)	60.87% (14 of 23)	66.67% (42 of 63)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	67.5% (27 of 40)	60.87% (14 of 23)	65.08% (41 of 63)