

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

North Dakota FINAL REPORT 2025

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Final Report: North Dakota Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services (HHS/CFS) and submitted to the CB on July 19, 2024. 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 services) conducted via a State-Led Review process in North Dakota during October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, examining case practices occurring during October 2023 through March 2025.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys for the agency
 - Attorneys for children and youth, and guardians ad litem
 - Attorneys for parents
 - Child welfare agency caseworkers and supervisors
 - Child welfare agency program managers
 - Child welfare agency statewide leadership and regional managers
 - Child welfare agency training staff
 - Foster and adoptive parents and relative caregivers
 - Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment and retention staff and contractors
 - Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Family Preservationists
 - Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) staff
 - Information Systems staff
 - Judges
 - Juvenile court directors and supervisors
 - Parents
 - Service providers
 - State leadership from federally funded/federal programs
 - Tribal child welfare staff and Tribal representatives/leadership
 - 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

North Dakota 2025 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

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

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

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

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

| Outcome | Case Review Item(s) | Statewide Data Indicators |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | | Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Re-entry 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 |

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

None of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity.

CB Comments on State Performance

In Round 3 of the CFSR, North Dakota was in substantial conformity with one outcome, Well-Being Outcome 2, and two systemic factors, Statewide Information System and Agency Responsiveness to the Community. The state made progress after implementing their CFSR Round 3 PIP which was designed to improve statewide CQI processes and increase family engagement and the timely achievement of permanency, in addition to other areas of focus.

During Round 4 of the CFSR, there was not enough evidence to find the state to be in substantial conformity with any of the systemic factors. North Dakota has established policies and procedures to support the functioning of most key systemic factors within its child welfare system. However, the state currently lacks adequate data collection and tracking mechanisms to effectively evaluate where these processes are functioning as intended. Additionally, for several systemic factors, existing procedures may not be fully operational or consistently implemented. There are notable opportunities for the state to strengthen its collaboration with system partners, particularly in enhancing consultation during the development of state plans and improving service coordination to support better outcomes for children and families.

North Dakota's performance on the observed safety measures in the CFSR was mixed. When considering the timeliness of responding to maltreatment reports (Item 1), 65% of the cases reviewed were rated a Strength. More than two-thirds of the maltreatment reports examined during the review were assigned for a priority B response time, which requires initiation through face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim(s) within 72 hours, or earlier as determined by a supervisor, from when the assessing agency receives the report. There were several cases where multiple reports were received during the period under review (PUR), and staff generally initiated the investigations effectively in those cases. A strong factor contributing to the Strength ratings in these cases were the staffings between caseworkers and supervisors, and the documentation of those conversations. For the cases where timely face-to-face contact was not made, there was not typically a documented reason in the case record to justify the delay. North Dakota also performed well when considering the assessments of risk and safety for children in foster care (Item 3). There were no concerns found for any of the target children in their foster home or facility that were not adequately addressed, and there was one out of 32 applicable cases where there was a concern during visitation with parents or caregivers that was not adequately addressed. Additionally, North Dakota is performing better than national performance for both Safety statewide data indicators: Maltreatment in Care and Recurrence of Maltreatment. However, when comparing performance of foster care cases vs. in-home services cases, a distinct difference begins to emerge. Overall performance in Item 3 was affected by the accuracy of initial assessments in in-home services cases (66.67%) while foster care cases performed very well in this area (100%). Similarly, a significant decline in performance for the accuracy in ongoing assessments in both case types was observed, with foster care cases dropping to 72.5% and in-home services cases dropping to 52%. When safety concerns were identified and a safety plan was needed, insufficient monitoring and updating of those plans contributed to rating those cases as an Area Needing Improvement across both case types. Furthermore, concerted efforts were

frequently not made in the applicable cases to provide services related to risk and safety (Item 2). This was also noted in the Statewide Assessment submitted by North Dakota which examined the accessibility and availability of services for families across the state.

North Dakota's performance on Permanency Outcome 1, which assesses whether children in foster care experience permanency and stability in their living situations, was substantially achieved in 20% of foster care cases and is the lowest-performing outcome. For Item 4, Placement Stability, 77.5% of cases were rated as a Strength. Most children had one stable placement or one planned move during the PUR. The children who had more than one placement were placed in temporary placements, had mental health or behavioral needs that necessitated a higher level of care, or the foster parent could no longer care for the child due to personal reasons. While the data in this case review item did show relatively strong results, North Dakota's statewide data indicator for Placement Stability is statistically worse than national performance. This indicator measures placement moves per 1,000 days for children who enter care in a 12-month period, while the case review assesses whether moves were planned to meet the child's needs or case plan goal. Placement stability should be addressed in the PIP.

Permanency goals were timely and appropriate in about half the cases reviewed. For 13 children, adoption goals were established late, or reunification goals were inappropriate due to parents' lack of progress, visitation, or contact with the agency. The review did not reveal why timely changes to appropriate permanency goals were not made. North Dakota should explore the practices that hinder timely changes to permanency goals. The review also found that 25% of foster care cases were rated as a Strength when determining whether concerted efforts were made to achieve permanency. Positive practices were noted in reunification cases, with strong parental engagement and timely services in about half the cases. Challenges were more common in achieving adoption, with none of the 25 cases involving children with the goal of adoption being rated as a Strength. These children had been in foster care for an average of 38 months, and most were stable in pre-adoptive or non-relative foster homes. Finalized adoptions for seven children took an average of 47 months, exceeding the federal guideline of 24 months. Delays in finalizing adoptions were due to late filing of termination-of-parental-rights (TPR) petitions in 15 cases. In several cases, the state's attorney timely filed the TPR petition soon after receipt of the TPR affidavit, which is positive. There were several cases where the TPR trial was delayed due to the court needing more time for the trial or the parties were not properly served. In most of these cases, timely referrals to the adoption agency were not made and adoption referral packets were not completed timely. There were also delays completing the paperwork needed for the adoption home studies. The agency implemented new processes in 2024 to streamline adoption recruitment and home studies, but these were not yet implemented in the cases reviewed. This may be an area the agency can build upon in its PIP to improve time to adoption. Additionally, permanency hearings are crucial for the court to assess efforts towards achieving the permanency plan, address barriers, and determine when permanency will likely be achieved. These hearings also allow for inquiries about TPR petitions or referrals to the adoption agency when the goal is adoption. While 12-month hearings were timely in over half the cases, they did not significantly contribute to timely permanency. The court did not address barriers or schedule more frequent hearings in several cases. Continued collaboration between the agency and legal and judicial professionals is needed to identify factors affecting timely permanency and develop effective strategies to address these barriers in the PIP.

Permanency Outcome 2, which examines the preservation of family relationships and connections for children in foster care, was substantially achieved in 85% of the applicable 40 foster care cases, making it the second highest-performing outcome. Placement with Relatives was the highest-rated item, with 97.4% of cases rated as a Strength. Fourteen children were placed with relatives and in the other 14 cases, efforts were made to identify and evaluate relatives as potential placements. Placement with Siblings was also strong, with 85.2% of cases rated as a Strength. Eleven children were placed with their siblings and for 12 other children it was necessary to separate them to meet the needs of one of the siblings, which are positive practices. However, efforts to ensure frequent and quality visits between children and their parents or siblings were less successful, with 69.2% rated as a Strength. Most children visited their parents at least weekly, which is positive. However, most children either did not visit their siblings in separate placements or had infrequent visits, less than once a month, which hindered maintaining their relationship and affected performance on this item. Preserving

connections for children is crucial for their stability and permanency, and CFS has demonstrated many promising practices.

Family engagement is another area where mixed performance was evident during this review, particularly in the Well-Being Outcomes. In all three measures in Well-Being Outcome 1 (Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs) specific to the parents, performance shows that parents are being engaged at a higher rate in the in-home services cases than in foster care cases. This includes frequent and quality caseworker visits with parents, efforts to actively involve parents in case planning, and needs assessment/service provision for parents. Of those three areas, the one with the most significant difference was caseworker visits with parents. The performance for in-home services cases (56%) was approximately double that of foster care cases which demonstrated 28.57% strength ratings. When looking deeper into these results, we can see that this variance is amplified by the engagement with mothers involved with the agency. While the performance with fathers between foster care and in-home services cases is more consistent, engagement with mothers has a wider gap. For example, 21 of the 23 (91%) applicable in-home services cases showed a pattern of visitation with mothers that was sufficient, which is encouraging, while 44% (8 of 18) was sufficient in foster care cases. Furthermore, information provided in North Dakota's Statewide Assessment confirms that parents are typically not involved in the development of their case plans. Conversely, agency practice with children revealed some areas of optimal performance. North Dakota consistently performed well across both case types when assessing needs and providing services to children. Additionally, the agency actively involved the children in case planning as appropriate in 92.68% of the applicable cases reviewed. These positive results continued into the state's highest performing outcome, Well-Being Outcome 2, with the overall results showing a strength rating for 90% of the applicable cases. Family engagement is a foundational tenet of child welfare practice and North Dakota is encouraged to address deficiencies related to this practice in their program improvement planning.

A significant and pervasive issue that is affecting outcomes in North Dakota is the overrepresentation of American Indian/Alaska Native families in the child welfare system. While these children make up 6.9% of the total child population in the state, they account for more than 28% of all entries into the foster care system (federal fiscal year 2023). While entering the foster care system at a high rate, they are also exiting care at much lower rates than their counterparts. This pattern leads to American Indian/Alaska Native children lingering in foster care for long periods of time and this was also confirmed during the review. In approximately 62% of the cases that involved this population, the children had been in foster care for more than 24 months. Comparatively, only 41% of non-American Indian/Alaska Native youth in this review were in foster care for more than 24 months. The data also shows contributing factors to these unfavorable permanency outcomes, including a lack of quality needs assessments for children and families as well as insufficient accessibility of services on and/or near reservations. North Dakota CFS has relationships with Tribes across the state, including MHA Nation, Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. It will be essential to collaborate and partner with Tribes in a deep and meaningful way to assess and address these concerns to make significant progress with this population and the overall outcomes for children and families in the state.

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 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.

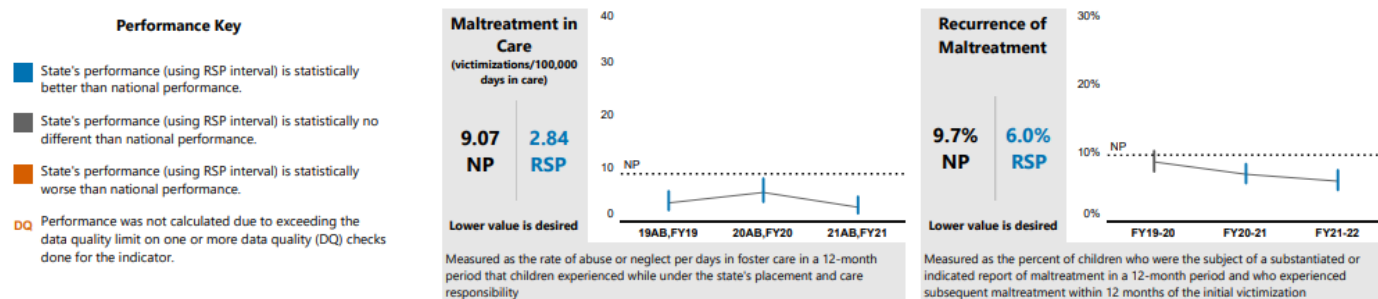
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

North Dakota uses a three-tiered response system for reports that fall within the parameters of state law for HHS/CFS to investigate. The state's policy requires that reports assigned for an A response are initiated within 24 hours of receipt of the report by Central Intake. Reports assigned for a B response are initiated within 72 hours, or earlier as determined by the CPS Supervisor, from when the assessing agency receives the report from Central Intake. Reports assigned for a C response are initiated within 1 to 14 calendar days, as determined by the CPS Supervisor, from when the assessing agency receives the report from Central Intake. Initiation is defined as having face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim(s).

Statewide Data Indicators

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

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



North Dakota 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 better than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "recurrence of maltreatment" data indicator was statistically better 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 2024 Profile | February 2025 Profile | Inclusion in PIP? |
|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Maltreatment in Foster Care | Better | Better | Better | No |
| Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months | Better | Better | Better | No |

All results reported below are based on the February 2025 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 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

For maltreatment in foster care, North Dakota consistently performed statistically better than national performance for the three most recent reporting periods. The calculation of maltreatment in care uses a ratio of the total number of days children were in care during a 12-month period (cumulative days across all children) to the total number of victimizations for these children. The following are notable observations for North Dakota's maltreatment in foster care observed performance:

- Maltreatment in care rates declined by 60% on average for FY 2021 and FY 2022.
- Although American Indian/Alaska Native children account for 46.6% of the days in care in FY 2022, they account for 20.0% of the victimizations. This is particularly notable with respect to the entry rates

and permanency outcomes described later in this report in the section titled “Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Permanency Outcome 1 Data Indicators During Round 4.”

North Dakota’s performance on the statewide data indicator for recurrence of maltreatment was statistically better than national performance for the three most recent reporting periods.

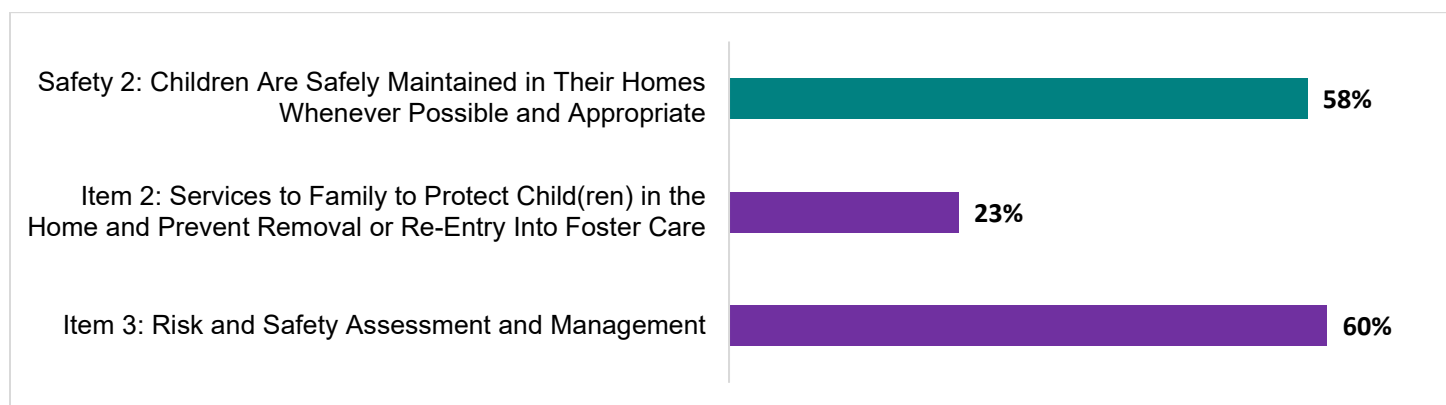
- Performance on this indicator improved each year. Performance in FY 2021 was 15% lower than FY 2020, and performance in FY 2022 was 51% lower than FY 2020.
- American Indian/Alaska Native children account for a disproportionate share of victimizations in North Dakota. They make up 6.7% of the child population in North Dakota, but 22.5% of the initial victims. However, they make up 14.8% of recurring victims and thus less likely to experience recurrence than other racial and ethnic groups.

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



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

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were rated as 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.

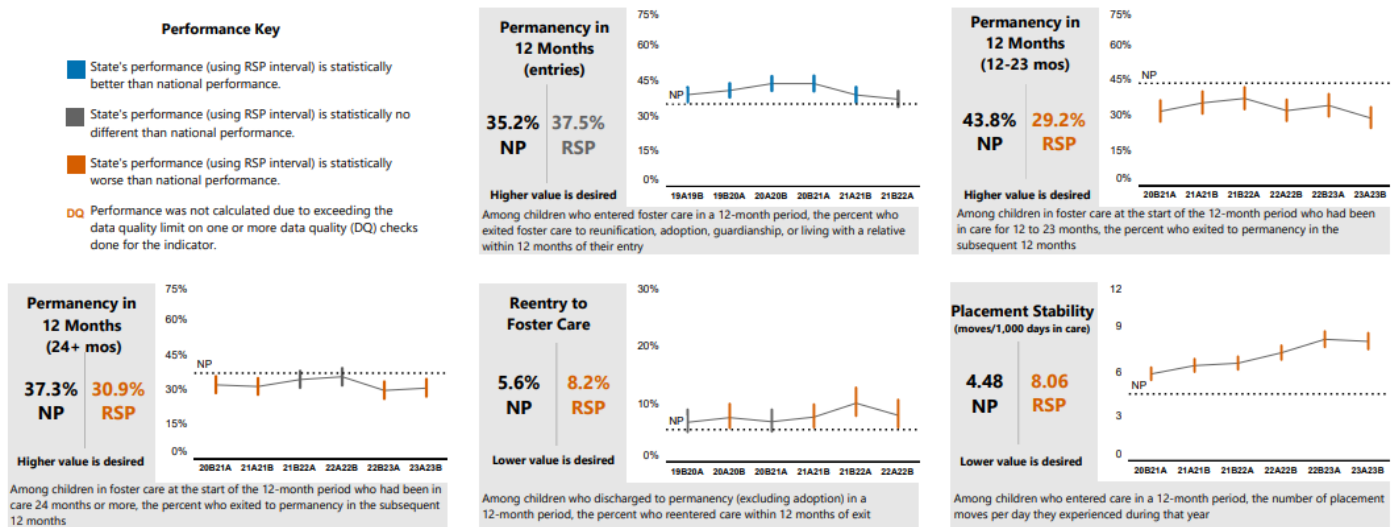
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

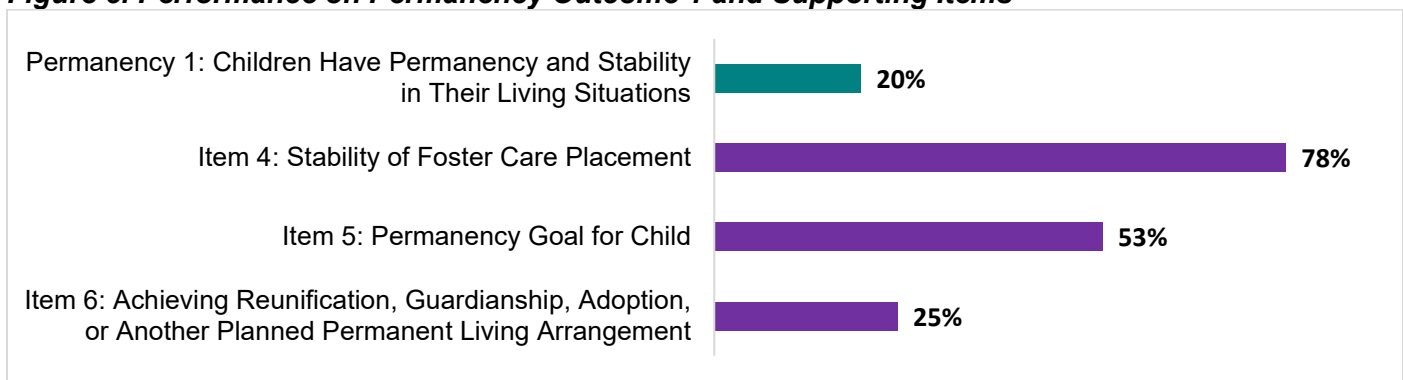
The chart below shows the state’s performance from the February 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care" data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "re-entry to foster care in 12 months" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "placement stability" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were rated as 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 2024 Profile | February 2025 Profile | Inclusion in PIP? |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Permanency in 12 months for children entering care | No Different | Better | Better | No |
| Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months | Worse | Worse | No Different | No |
| Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more | Worse | No Different | No Different | No |
| Re-entry to foster care in 12 months | Worse | No Different | No Different | No |
| Placement stability | Worse | Worse | Worse | Yes |

All results reported below are based on the February 2025 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 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

North Dakota's performance on the statewide data indicator for permanency in 12 months for children entering care is statistically better than national performance in the most recent reporting period, and in five of the six reporting periods included in the February 2025 data profile. The following are notable observations regarding North Dakota's performance on this indicator, beginning with observations regarding the foster care entry rate, which is a component of measuring and understanding permanency in 12 months for children entering care.

- While the foster care entry rate in North Dakota is declining over the last five years, it is still higher than the national entry rate. In FY 2024, the national entry rate was 2.27 per 1,000 children in the population but in North Dakota it was 3.71 per 1,000.
- American Indian/Alaska Native children account for a disproportionate share of foster care entries in North Dakota. In FY 2024 they constitute 6.7% of the total child population in the state but 31.2% of the foster care entries, for an entry rate of 17.28 per 1,000 children in the population.
- While performance on this indicator overall is statistically better than national performance, American Indian/Alaska Native children are at greater risk of not discharging to permanency within 12 months of entry. They account for 31.7% of the entries for this indicator but 23.7% of the discharges to permanency.
- Notably there are not substantial differences across counties, and the percentage of entries who discharge to permanency within 12 months of entry is roughly equivalent in large-population counties and small-population counties.

Performance on the two statewide data indicators for later-term permanency: 1) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months and 2) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 or more months is statistically no different than national performance in the most recent reporting period.

- Performance on permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months was statistically worse than national performance in all reporting periods prior to the most recent period.
- Across the two statewide data indicators there is a disproportionately low percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native children discharging to permanency. They account for 41.9% of the children in care at 12–23 months but 37.6% of the permanency discharges; and 59.9% of the children in care 24 or more months but 52.3% of the permanency discharges. Overall, this depicts that these children are disproportionately likely to have long stays in foster care.
- In FY 2024, Cass County, Burleigh County, and Rolette County accounted for 18.7%, 15.6%, and 8.3% of the children in care 12–23 months, the 1st, 2nd, and 5th largest percentages in the state and 43.6% of the 12–23 month population. All three counties also had large increases in permanency discharges. In Cass County the permanency percentage in FY 2023 was 36.8% but increased to 50.0% in FY 2024. In Burleigh county, the permanency percentage increased from 28.1% to 40.0% for the same periods, and from 5.4% to 29.2% in Rolette County. Given the share these counties had of children in the 12-23 month population, the drastic increases in these three counties are the primary sources of the state's overall performance improvement.
- Like the above result for children in care 12–23 months, Cass County, Burleigh County, and Rolette County are the primary drivers of the state's performance improvement on the statewide data indicator permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 or more months. In FY 2024, Rolette County, Cass County, and Burleigh County accounted for 25.6%, 13.3%, and 11.9% of the children in care 24 or more months. From FY 2023 to FY 2024, Rolette County improved from 20.8% to 29.1%, Cass County improved from 35.0% to 49.1%, and Burleigh County improved from 31.3% to 49.1%. This result indicates that these three counties were again the primary driver of North Dakota's improvement on this indicator.

North Dakota's performance on the statewide data indicator for re-entry to foster care is statistically no different than national performance in the most recent reporting period.

- While American Indian/Alaska Native children accounted for 25.5% of the discharges to permanency in FY 2023, they were 12.5% of the re-entries within 12 months of exit. This is most notable with respect to results described above concerning high entry rates and low frequency of discharges to permanency. Although this population is disproportionately likely to enter foster care and to not discharge, they are less likely than other racial and ethnic groups to re-enter care.
- Grand Forks County and Ward County account for the 1st and 2nd most discharges in the state at 19.2% and 15.9% of North Dakota's total discharges, respectively. In FY 2023, 25.0% of the re-entries were in Grand Forks County and 37.5% were in Ward County. Thus, these two counties both have disproportionately high frequencies of re-entry.

North Dakota's performance on the statewide data indicator for placement stability is statistically worse than national performance for all reporting periods in the February 2025 data profile.

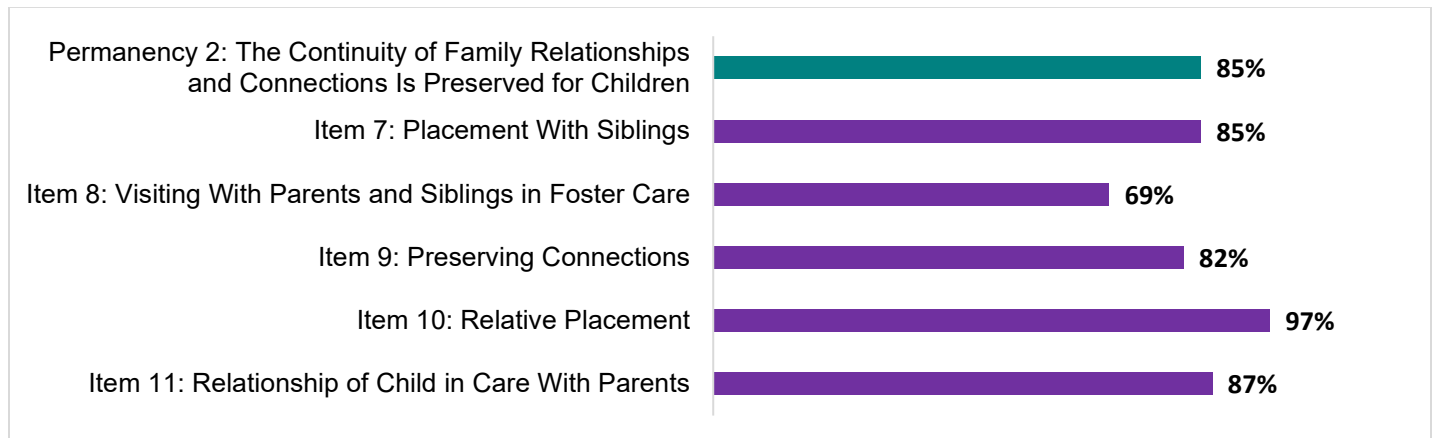
- Performance on this indicator is worse in FY 2023 and FY 2024 than it was in FY 2022, indicating that performance is worsening overall.
- Placement stability performance by age group is roughly equivalent to that observed at a national level. While children ages 6–16 years have greater placement move rates than other ages, this is consistent with a national pattern.
- There are no notable differences in placement move rates across racial and ethnic groups.
- Burleigh County is the most notable contributor to the overall high placement move rates in North Dakota. In FY 2024, Burleigh County accounted for 12.2% of the days in care but 17.7% of the placement moves. Furthermore, in Burleigh County placement move rates increased from 9.07 moves per 1,000 days in care FY 2022 to 11.48 and 11.44 moves per 1,000 days in care in FY 2023 and FY 2024, respectively.

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



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

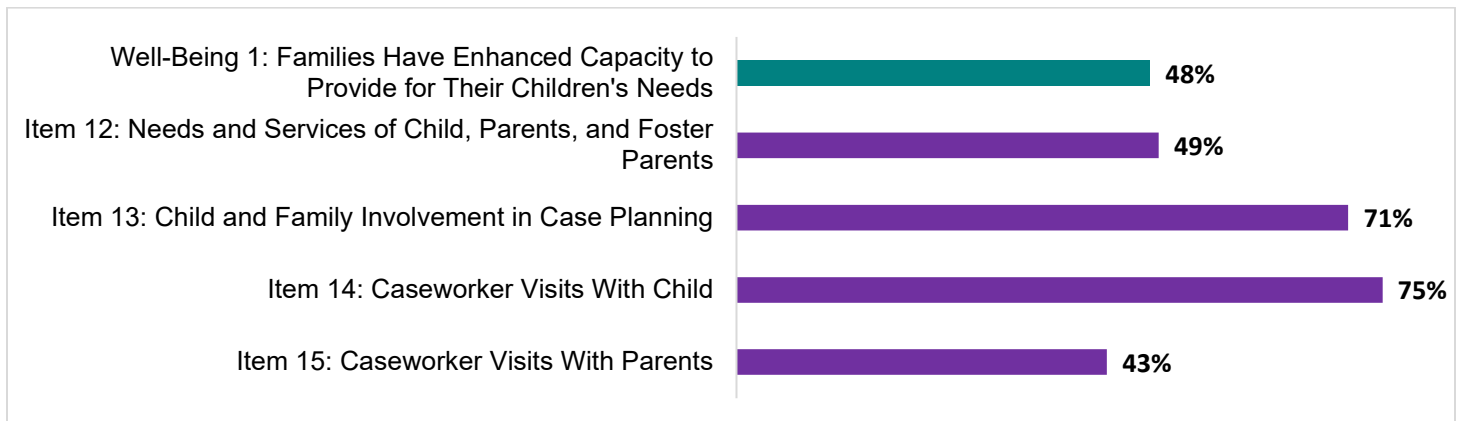
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were rated as substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- More than 90% of the cases were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



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

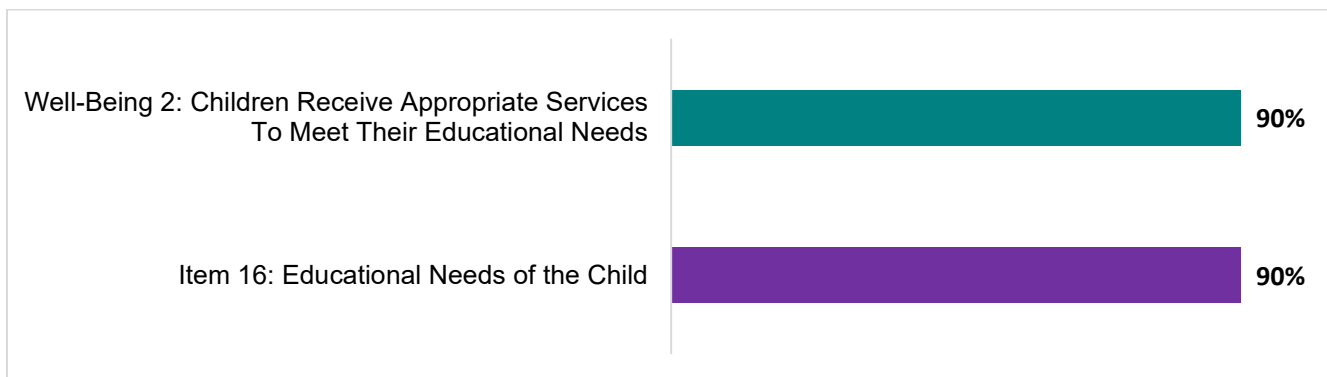
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were rated as substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
 - Less than 90%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



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

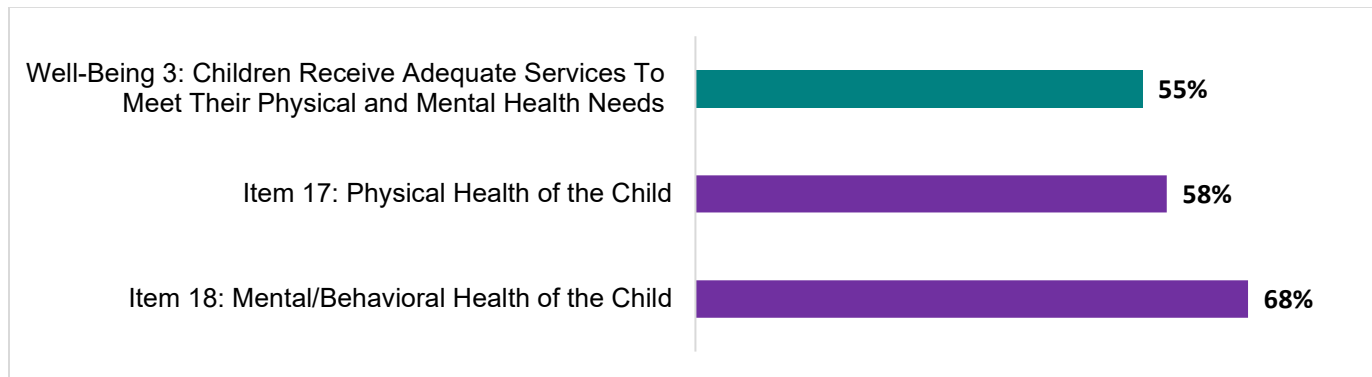
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



North Dakota was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 3:

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

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

| Item | Rating |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Item 19: Statewide Information System | Area Needing Improvement |

North Dakota was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Statewide Information System.

Item 19: Statewide Information System

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

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information provided did not show that data is entered timely. Although North Dakota's information system has the capacity to collect and report information related to the status, location, demographic characteristics, and goals for placement for every child who is in foster care, the state does not have accurate data. The state lacked evidence pertaining to the timeliness of data entry. Additionally, systemic barriers delay the receipt of court orders after shelter care hearings, affecting the timeliness of placement entries.

Case Review System

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

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

North Dakota 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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided did not show that case plans are routinely developed jointly with parents. North Dakota's policies outline the process for the development of case plans including the involvement of the parents. Child and Family Team meetings are used to develop and update case plans. There was a lack of evidence that most children in foster care have written case plans and that case plans are jointly developed with parents.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

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

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information did not demonstrate that for each child a periodic review occurs no less frequently than every 6 months. The agency does not have a systematic process to track and monitor whether periodic reviews that occur via administrative team meeting or court hearing are timely and meet federal requirements.

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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were held for the purpose of integrating the legal and judicial system partners into the CFSR.
- Data and information provided did not demonstrate that for each child a permanency hearing occurs within 12 months of entry into foster care and every 12 months thereafter. Data provided only reported the number of initial and subsequent permanency hearings held and did not include the total number of children that required an initial and/or subsequent permanency hearing.

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 (TPR) proceedings occurs in accordance with required provisions.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were held for the purpose of integrating the legal and judicial system partners into the CFSR.
- The data and information did not demonstrate that TPR petitions were filed in accordance with federal timeframes. Additionally, North Dakota does not have processes to track and monitor whether TPR petitions are filed in accordance with federal law or a process to track exceptions, including documented compelling reasons not to file.

Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

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

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information showed that North Dakota did not routinely provide notices to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers as required. There is no process to track whether foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers were notified of periodic reviews or permanency hearings related to the children in their care. The data and information did not show that notices to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers routinely include the caregivers' right to be heard.

Quality Assurance System

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

| Item | Rating |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Item 25: Quality Assurance System | Area Needing Improvement |

North Dakota was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Quality Assurance System.

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

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

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The information and data provided did not demonstrate that the quality assurance system is functioning statewide. While North Dakota has a process for evaluating the quality of services for children and families, there was no evidence that this process includes standards by which the services are evaluated. Evidence was lacking to show that practice improvement efforts are informed by data analysis and how North Dakota consistently evaluates those efforts. North Dakota has made significant progress in implementing such a system, to include the development of a manual; establishing a state council, four CQI teams that represent the counties, and a data analytics team; case reviews that are conducted consistently and include data collection and dissemination; and relevant reports and data are used to guide discussions, analyze findings, and identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Staff and Provider Training

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

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

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

Item 26: Initial Staff Training

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

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided showed North Dakota lacks a systematic tracking mechanism to monitor the completion of initial training for new staff. Scheduling conflicts with the initial training and workload demands impact the timely completion of initial training. Information provided did not sufficiently demonstrate initial training is effectively preparing new staff to carry out their duties.

Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training

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

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided showed North Dakota does not have a systematic way of tracking and monitoring the timely completion of ongoing training for staff. Currently, there are no initial or ongoing training requirements for supervisors. Although ongoing training requirements for child welfare staff and contractors include certification in the Wraparound process every two years, the state's existing system is unable to identify which staff have not fulfilled their ongoing training requirements. Additionally, there is insufficient data to assess the effectiveness of ongoing training to equip staff with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to carry out their 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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information provided showed that although North Dakota tracks initial training requirements to verify they are met prior to licensure, there is no systematic process to track ongoing training requirements. North Dakota relies on the providers to track and provide proof of completion. Additionally, there are inconsistencies with the state's ongoing training approval process across the state. Information provided did not demonstrate initial and ongoing trainings are addressing the skills and knowledge needed to adequately support foster/adoptive parents in parenting the children placed

in their homes. Information indicated licensed and approved facilities are meeting initial and ongoing training requirements.

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 |

North Dakota 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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information provided showed that although North Dakota has made progress in providing services through the Social Service Redesign and the Medicaid State Plan Amendment, the state still has significant gaps in the array of services available and accessible to children and families in all jurisdictions of the state. There is lack of available and accessible mental health services, substance abuse treatment services for adults and youth, and speech, occupational, and physical therapies. There are also extensive wait lists due to the limited pool of available providers across the state. Limited transportation and housing options present barriers for families and children accessing services. In addition, there are insufficient placement resources, resulting in children lingering in hospitals while awaiting an appropriate placement, children being placed in detention when there are not placements, or staying at hotels or offices.

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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The information and data provided did not demonstrate that the service array and resource development system was functioning statewide to ensure services can routinely be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families. There are differences across the state in the provision of culturally appropriate services for children and families who identify as Native American as well as those from other cultures. Specifically for Native American families, differences in service availability and accessibility depends on what area of the state they are located in. In addition, there are gaps in language services; in particular, there are limited bilingual and hearing-impaired services, and gaps in services for individuals with developmental delays.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

North Dakota was found not 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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The information and data provided indicated that North Dakota experiences gaps in collaborating with parents, youth, and Tribal partners. Additionally, no information was provided about how the major concerns of the stakeholders were included in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP.

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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The information and data provided did not demonstrate that the coordination of services with other federal and federally funded programs serving the same population is occurring routinely. There are no formal memoranda of understanding, and children and families served by CFS are not prioritized for access to these services. Coordination depends on informal local relationships. The information provided was insufficient to determine whether services are coordinated across key federal programs.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

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

North Dakota 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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The information and data provided outlined the state's process for monitoring compliance with licensing requirements for all licensed or approved foster family homes and child-care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds. However, information and data did not demonstrate that the state's standards are applied equally for licensed or approved foster family homes. North Dakota does not have a systematic tracking mechanism to monitor waivers outside of those issued for relative caregivers.

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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The information and data provided insufficient evidence to demonstrate that case planning processes effectively ensure the safety of children in all foster care placements as required. While the state has established case planning processes to address safety concerns in foster/adoptive homes as well as state facilities/institutions, delays were identified in communicating key findings pertaining to maltreatment reports to relevant child placing agencies. However, North Dakota has streamlined their criminal background process by integrating a system for tracking denials, and regular QA/CQI activities are in place to ensure foster/adoptive providers comply with criminal background requirements.

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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The information and data provided lacked evidence demonstrating how North Dakota uses relevant data to inform recruitment efforts and address challenges. This includes leveraging available data to adapt and refine strategies to ensure they align with the goal of recruiting families that reflect the race and ethnicity of children in foster care. While North Dakota has a statewide recruitment plan that offers flexibility to tailoring strategies at the local level based on community needs, guided by statewide and local recruitment and retention coalitions, data limitations affect access to reliable information.

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.

- North Dakota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The information and data provided showed that ICPC requests are not generally completed within the 60-day timeframe. Additionally, information did not address the effectiveness of using cross-jurisdictional resources, both within and outside the state, for children waiting adoptive and permanent placements.

APPENDIX A

Summary of North Dakota 2025 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 65% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 1: Timeliness of investigations | Area Needing Improvement | 65% Strength |

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

| Statewide Data Indicator | National Performance | Overall Determination | Direction of Desired Performance | RSP | RSP Interval | Data Period(s) Used |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|--------------|---------------------|
| Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care) | 9.07 | Better Than National Performance | Lower | 2.84 | 1.67–4.84 | 21A–21B, FY21–22 |
| Recurrence of maltreatment | 9.7% | Better Than National Performance | Lower | 6.0% | 4.7%–7.6% | FY21–22 |

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 re-entry into foster care | Area Needing Improvement | 23% 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 | 20% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 4: Stability of foster care placement | Area Needing Improvement | 78% Strength |
| Item 5: Permanency goal for child | Area Needing Improvement | 53% Strength |
| Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement | Area Needing Improvement | 25% Strength |

DATA INDICATORS FOR PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1

| Statewide Data Indicator | National Performance | Overall Determination | Direction of Desired Performance | RSP | RSP Interval | Data Period(s) Used |
|---|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------|
| Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care | 35.2% | No Different Than National Performance | Higher | 37.5 | 34.3%–40.9% | 21B–23B |
| Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months | 43.8% | Worse Than National Performance | Higher | 29.2% | 25.0%–33.9% | 23A–23B |
| Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more | 37.3% | Worse Than National Performance | Higher | 30.9% | 27.3%–34.8% | 23A–23B |
| Re-entry to foster care in 12 months | 5.6% | Worse Than National Performance | Lower | 8.2% | 6.1%–10.9% | 22A–23B |
| Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care) | 4.48 | Worse Than National Performance | Lower | 8.06 | 7.68–8.74 | 22B–23A |

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 | 85% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 7: Placement with siblings | Area Needing Improvement | 85% Strength |
| Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care | Area Needing Improvement | 69% Strength |
| Item 9: Preserving connections | Area Needing Improvement | 82% Strength |
| Item 10: Relative placement | Strength | 97% Strength |
| Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents | Area Needing Improvement | 87% 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 | 48% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents | Area Needing Improvement | 49% Strength |
| Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children | Area Needing Improvement | 82% Strength |
| Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents | Area Needing Improvement | 43% Strength |
| Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents | Area Needing Improvement | 78% Strength |
| Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning | Area Needing Improvement | 71% Strength |
| Item 14: Caseworker visits with child | Area Needing Improvement | 75% Strength |
| Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents | Area Needing Improvement | 43% 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 | 90% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 16: Educational needs of the child | Area Needing Improvement | 90% 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 | 55% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 17: Physical health of the child | Area Needing Improvement | 58% Strength |
| Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child | Area Needing Improvement | 68% Strength |

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

| Data Element | Source of Data and Information | State Performance |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Statewide Information System | Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews | Not in Substantial Conformity |
| Item 19: Statewide Information System | Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews | Area Needing Improvement |

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

| Data Element | Source of Data and Information | State Performance |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Quality Assurance System | Statewide Assessment | Not in Substantial Conformity |
| Item 25: Quality Assurance System | Statewide Assessment | Area Needing Improvement |

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

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

| Data Element | Source of Data and Information | State Performance |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Item 26: Initial Staff Training | Statewide Assessment | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training | Statewide Assessment | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training | Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews | Area Needing Improvement |

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

| Data Element | Source of Data and Information | State Performance |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Agency Responsiveness to the Community | Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews | Not in Substantial Conformity |
| Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR | Statewide Assessment | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs | Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews | Area Needing Improvement |

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

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

North Dakota CFSR (State-Led) 2025

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

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

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

| Practice Description | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|---|
| (Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state’s timeframes and requirements in cases. | 69.23% (18 of 26) |
| (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. | 61.54% (16 of 26) |
| (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. | 10% (1 of 10) |
| Item 1 Strength Ratings | 65.38% (17 of 26) |

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

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

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|---|
| (Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care. | 14.29% (1 of 7) | 16.67% (1 of 6) | 15.38% (2 of 13) |
| (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. | 14.29% (1 of 7) | Not Applicable | 14.29% (1 of 7) |
| (Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services. | 28.57% (2 of 7) | Not Applicable | 28.57% (2 of 7) |
| (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. | 42.86% (3 of 7) | 83.33% (5 of 6) | 61.54% (8 of 13) |
| Item 2 Strength Ratings | 28.57% (2 of 7) | 16.67% (1 of 6) | 23.08% (3 of 13) |

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/assessed. | 97.5% (39 of 40) | 96% (24 of 25) | 96.92% (63 of 65) |
| (Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation. | 100% (40 of 40) | 100% (25 of 25) | 100% (65 of 65) |
| (Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns. | 100% (2 of 2) | 66.67% (8 of 12) | 71.43% (10 of 14) |
| (Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns. | 72.5% (29 of 40) | 52% (13 of 25) | 64.62% (42 of 65) |
| (Question 3C) When safety concerns were present, the agency developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continually monitored the safety plan as needed, including monitoring family engagement in safety-related services. | 50% (1 of 2) | 50% (3 of 6) | 50% (4 of 8) |
| (Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency. | 83.33% (5 of 6) | 75% (3 of 4) | 80% (8 of 10) |
| (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. | 96.88% (31 of 32) | Not Applicable | 96.88% (31 of 32) |
| (Question 3F) There were no concerns for the target child’s safety in the foster home or placement facility that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency. | 100% (40 of 40) | Not Applicable | 100% (40 of 40) |
| Item 3 Strength Ratings | 72.5% (29 of 40) | 40% (10 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. | 38.46% (5 of 13) | 38.46% (5 of 13) |
| (Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable. | 92.5% (37 of 40) | 92.5% (37 of 40) |
| Item 4 Strength Ratings | 77.5% (31 of 40) | 77.5% (31 of 40) |

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|
| (Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file. | 97.5% (39 of 40) | 97.5% (39 of 40) |
| (Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner. | 67.5% (27 of 40) | 67.5% (27 of 40) |
| (Question 5C) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were appropriate to the child's needs for permanency and to the circumstances of the case. | 82.5% (33 of 40) | 82.5% (33 of 40) |
| (Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months. | 67.5% (27 of 40) | 67.5% (27 of 40) |
| (Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR). | 0% (0 of 13) | 0% (0 of 13) |
| (Questions 5F and 5G) The agency filed or joined a TPR petition before the period under review (PUR) or in a timely manner during the PUR or an exception applied. | 85.19% (23 of 27) | 85.19% (23 of 27) |
| Item 5 Strength Ratings | 52.5% (21 of 40) | 52.5% (21 of 40) |

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

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|
| (Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner. | 55.56% (5 of 9) | 55.56% (5 of 9) |
| (Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner. | 0% (0 of 1) | 0% (0 of 1) |
| (Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner. | 0% (0 of 23) | 0% (0 of 23) |
| (Questions 6A4 and 6C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to place a child with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) in a living arrangement that can be considered permanent until discharge from foster care. | 100% (4 of 4) | 100% (4 of 4) |
| (Questions 6A4 and B or 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved. | 33.33% (1 of 3) | 33.33% (1 of 3) |
| Item 6 Strength Ratings | 25% (10 of 40) | 25% (10 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. | 40.74% (11 of 27) | 40.74% (11 of 27) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|
| (Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement. | 75% (12 of 16) | 75% (12 of 16) |
| Item 7 Strength Ratings | 85.19% (23 of 27) | 85.19% (23 of 27) |

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. | 28.57% (4 of 14) | 28.57% (4 of 14) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week. | 35.71% (5 of 14) | 35.71% (5 of 14) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 7.14% (1 of 14) | 7.14% (1 of 14) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 7.14% (1 of 14) | 7.14% (1 of 14) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month. | 14.29% (2 of 14) | 14.29% (2 of 14) |
| (Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother. | 7.14% (1 of 14) | 7.14% (1 of 14) |
| (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. | 85.71% (12 of 14) | 85.71% (12 of 14) |
| (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. | 84.62% (11 of 13) | 84.62% (11 of 13) |
| (Questions 8A and 8C) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and mother was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship. | 85.71% (12 of 14) | 85.71% (12 of 14) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week. | 27.27% (3 of 11) | 27.27% (3 of 11) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week. | 27.27% (3 of 11) | 27.27% (3 of 11) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 9.09% (1 of 11) | 9.09% (1 of 11) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 0% (0 of 11) | 0% (0 of 11) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month. | 36.36% (4 of 11) | 36.36% (4 of 11) |
| (Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father. | 0% (0 of 11) | 0% (0 of 11) |
| (Question 8B) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship. | 72.73% (8 of 11) | 72.73% (8 of 11) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|
| (Question 8D) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship. | 81.82% (9 of 11) | 81.82% (9 of 11) |
| (Questions 8B and 8D) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and father was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship. | 72.73% (8 of 11) | 72.73% (8 of 11) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week. | 12.5% (2 of 16) | 12.5% (2 of 16) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week. | 12.5% (2 of 16) | 12.5% (2 of 16) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 12.5% (2 of 16) | 12.5% (2 of 16) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 12.5% (2 of 16) | 12.5% (2 of 16) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month. | 18.75% (3 of 16) | 18.75% (3 of 16) |
| (Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care. | 31.25% (5 of 16) | 31.25% (5 of 16) |
| (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. | 62.5% (10 of 16) | 62.5% (10 of 16) |
| (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. | 100% (11 of 11) | 100% (11 of 11) |
| (Questions 8E and 8F) The frequency and quality of visitation with siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship. | 62.5% (10 of 16) | 62.5% (10 of 16) |
| Item 8 Strength Ratings | 69.23% (18 of 26) | 69.23% (18 of 26) |

Item 9: Preserving Connections

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|
| (Question 9A) Concerted efforts were made to maintain the child's important connections (for example, neighborhood, community, faith, language, extended family members including siblings who are not in foster care, Tribe, school, and/or friends). | 81.58% (31 of 38) | 81.58% (31 of 38) |
| Item 9 Strength Ratings | 81.58% (31 of 38) | 81.58% (31 of 38) |

Item 10: Relative Placement

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|
| (Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative. | 36.84% (14 of 38) | 36.84% (14 of 38) |
| (Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs. | 100% (14 of 14) | 100% (14 of 14) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives. | 0% (0 of 1) | 0% (0 of 1) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives. | 100% (1 of 1) | 100% (1 of 1) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives. | 100% (1 of 1) | 100% (1 of 1) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives. | 100% (1 of 1) | 100% (1 of 1) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives. | 100% (1 of 1) | 100% (1 of 1) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives. | 100% (1 of 1) | 100% (1 of 1) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives. | 100% (1 of 1) | 100% (1 of 1) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives. | 100% (1 of 1) | 100% (1 of 1) |
| Item 10 Strength Ratings | 97.37% (37 of 38) | 97.37% (37 of 38) |

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. | 92.31% (12 of 13) | 92.31% (12 of 13) |
| (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. | 80% (8 of 10) | 80% (8 of 10) |
| Item 11 Strength Ratings | 86.67% (13 of 15) | 86.67% (13 of 15) |

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 | 52.5% (21 of 40) | 44% (11 of 25) | 49.23% (32 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. | 85% (34 of 40) | 84% (21 of 25) | 84.62% (55 of 65) |
| (Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs. | 84.38% (27 of 32) | 75% (12 of 16) | 81.25% (39 of 48) |
| Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings | 82.5% (33 of 40) | 80% (20 of 25) | 81.54% (53 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 | 44.44% (8 of 18) | 69.57% (16 of 23) | 58.54% (24 of 41) |
| (Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs. | 38.89% (7 of 18) | 61.9% (13 of 21) | 51.28% (20 of 39) |
| (Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers. | 38.89% (7 of 18) | 60.87% (14 of 23) | 51.22% (21 of 41) |
| (Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs. | 57.89% (11 of 19) | 50% (8 of 16) | 54.29% (19 of 35) |
| (Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs. | 37.5% (6 of 16) | 20% (2 of 10) | 30.77% (8 of 26) |
| (Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers. | 47.37% (9 of 19) | 37.5% (6 of 16) | 42.86% (15 of 35) |
| Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings | 38.1% (8 of 21) | 48% (12 of 25) | 43.48% (20 of 46) |

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. | 78.38% (29 of 37) | 78.38% (29 of 37) |

| 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. | 77.78% (28 of 36) | 77.78% (28 of 36) |
| Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings | 78.38% (29 of 37) | 78.38% (29 of 37) |

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. | 95.24% (20 of 21) | 90% (18 of 20) | 92.68% (38 of 41) |
| (Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process. | 55.56% (10 of 18) | 73.91% (17 of 23) | 65.85% (27 of 41) |
| (Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process. | 61.11% (11 of 18) | 68.75% (11 of 16) | 64.71% (22 of 34) |
| Item 13 Strength Ratings | 69.7% (23 of 33) | 72% (18 of 25) | 70.69% (41 of 58) |

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week. | 2.5% (1 of 40) | 0% (0 of 25) | 1.54% (1 of 65) |
| (Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week. | 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 less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 30% (12 of 40) | 84% (21 of 25) | 50.77% (33 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) | 12% (3 of 25) | 46.15% (30 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) | 4% (1 of 25) | 1.54% (1 of 65) |
| (Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren). | 0% (0 of 40) | 0% (0 of 25) | 0% (0 of 65) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient. | 82.5% (33 of 40) | 96% (24 of 25) | 87.69% (57 of 65) |
| (Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient. | 82.5% (33 of 40) | 84% (21 of 25) | 83.08% (54 of 65) |
| Item 14 Strength Ratings | 70% (28 of 40) | 84% (21 of 25) | 75.38% (49 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 18) | 0% (0 of 23) | 0% (0 of 41) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week. | 5.56% (1 of 18) | 4.35% (1 of 23) | 4.88% (2 of 41) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 22.22% (4 of 18) | 65.22% (15 of 23) | 46.34% (19 of 41) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 22.22% (4 of 18) | 17.39% (4 of 23) | 19.51% (8 of 41) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month. | 33.33% (6 of 18) | 13.04% (3 of 23) | 21.95% (9 of 41) |
| (Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother. | 16.67% (3 of 18) | 0% (0 of 23) | 7.32% (3 of 41) |
| (Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient. | 44.44% (8 of 18) | 91.3% (21 of 23) | 70.73% (29 of 41) |
| (Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient. | 46.67% (7 of 15) | 69.57% (16 of 23) | 60.53% (23 of 38) |
| (Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient. | 33.33% (6 of 18) | 69.57% (16 of 23) | 53.66% (22 of 41) |
| (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 16) | 0% (0 of 34) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week. | 5.56% (1 of 18) | 0% (0 of 16) | 2.94% (1 of 34) |
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 11.11% (2 of 18) | 31.25% (5 of 16) | 20.59% (7 of 34) |
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 27.78% (5 of 18) | 18.75% (3 of 16) | 23.53% (8 of 34) |
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month. | 27.78% (5 of 18) | 25% (4 of 16) | 26.47% (9 of 34) |
| (Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father. | 27.78% (5 of 18) | 25% (4 of 16) | 26.47% (9 of 34) |
| (Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient. | 50% (9 of 18) | 56.25% (9 of 16) | 52.94% (18 of 34) |
| (Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient. | 46.15% (6 of 13) | 75% (9 of 12) | 60% (15 of 25) |
| (Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient. | 44.44% (8 of 18) | 43.75% (7 of 16) | 44.12% (15 of 34) |
| Item 15 Strength Ratings | 28.57% (6 of 21) | 56% (14 of 25) | 43.48% (20 of 46) |

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

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs. | 100% (32 of 32) | 66.67% (6 of 9) | 92.68% (38 of 41) |
| (Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services. | 100% (18 of 18) | 40% (2 of 5) | 86.96% (20 of 23) |
| Item 16 Strength Ratings | 100% (32 of 32) | 55.56% (5 of 9) | 90.24% (37 of 41) |

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. | 95% (38 of 40) | 80% (4 of 5) | 93.33% (42 of 45) |
| (Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care. | 94.44% (17 of 18) | Not Applicable | 94.44% (17 of 18) |
| (Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs. | 80% (28 of 35) | 50% (2 of 4) | 76.92% (30 of 39) |
| (Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs. | 92.31% (36 of 39) | 100% (3 of 3) | 92.86% (39 of 42) |
| (Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs. | 50% (16 of 32) | 66.67% (2 of 3) | 51.43% (18 of 35) |
| Item 17 Strength Ratings | 57.5% (23 of 40) | 60% (3 of 5) | 57.78% (26 of 45) |

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. | 76% (19 of 25) | 75% (12 of 16) | 75.61% (31 of 41) |
| (Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care. | 85.71% (12 of 14) | Not Applicable | 85.71% (12 of 14) |
| (Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs. | 78.95% (15 of 19) | 73.33% (11 of 15) | 76.47% (26 of 34) |
| Item 18 Strength Ratings | 72% (18 of 25) | 62.5% (10 of 16) | 68.29% (28 of 41) |