CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Mississippi

FINAL REPORT

2026

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

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Final Report: Mississippi Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment, prepared by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) and submitted to the CB on February 17, 2026. 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 August 2025 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 100 cases [62 foster care and 38 in-home], conducted via a State-Led Review process at multiple sites in Mississippi from April 2026 through September 2026 examining case practices occurring from April 2025 through September 2026.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Agency caseworkers
  - Attorneys
  - Judges
  - Foster and adoptive parents and advisory board members
  - Parents and parent advisory board members
  - Service providers
  - Tribal attorneys, caseworkers, and lay advocate
  - Youth

Background Information

The Round 4 CFSR assesses state performance regarding 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

Mississippi 2026 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Quality Assurance System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

CB Comments on State Performance

Mississippi's Round 4 CFSR findings reflect improvement in several areas of case practice since Round 3, while also identifying persistent challenges related to safety, family engagement, timely permanency, placement resources, and access to services. In Round 3, Mississippi did not achieve substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes. Case review findings identified concerns with safety assessment and management, assessment and services to parents, family involvement in case planning, caseworker visits with parents, and timely permanency. The current review reflects stronger practice in several of these areas, particularly in assessing children's needs, supporting foster parents, caseworker visits with children, and ongoing safety assessment. At the same time, weaknesses in parent engagement and assessment, timely permanency, placement stability for some children, and the availability of services and placement resources continue to affect outcomes.

Safety findings show comparatively stronger practice in ongoing assessment and management of risk and safety, while timeliness and consistency remain concerns in some cases. Caseworkers frequently assessed children through face-to-face contact, observations of children and their home environments, conversations with caregivers and children, and collateral contacts. In some cases, informal assessments were sufficiently frequent and comprehensive to support a Strength rating even when formal comprehensive family assessments were repetitive, lacked updated information, or were not completed with sufficient frequency. Practice was less consistent when circumstances changed or when parents were difficult to engage. Timeliness in initiating maltreatment investigations was also inconsistent, with delays in face-to-face contact with alleged victims in some cases. These case-level concerns are important when considered with the statewide data indicators, which show that Mississippi's performance on maltreatment in foster care and recurrence of maltreatment is statistically worse than national performance.

Case review findings also show stronger practice in assessing and addressing children's needs than in working with their parents. Caseworkers frequently had purposeful contact with children, including private and age-appropriate conversations about safety, placement, relationships, permanency, school, services, and other needs. Practice with parents was less consistent. Case reviews identified instances in which parents were not sufficiently assessed, engaged in developing or updating case plans, or visited by caseworkers. Lack of engagement with fathers was a recurring concern across these areas. In some cases, fathers' whereabouts were known, but the agency did not maintain ongoing assessment of their needs or relationships with their children. Similar concerns were identified when fathers were not included in family team meetings or ongoing case planning despite being available to the agency. At times, contact with fathers occurred primarily at court hearings rather than through purposeful ongoing caseworker visits. Consistent engagement of both parents, particularly fathers, remains an important area for continued attention.

Findings related to permanency reflected both areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. Stability emerged as a relative strength, with 81% of children experiencing either a single stable placement or planned moves during the review period. When unplanned moves did occur, they typically stemmed from foster parents requesting removal, the use of temporary placements, or a child's mental and behavioral health needs requiring a different placement. Permanency planning also reflected largely positive performance. In 69% of cases, goals were established timely and were appropriate to each child's circumstances. Most children initially carried reunification goals alongside concurrent guardianship goals. When reunification was no longer appropriate, adoption was added alongside guardianship. Delays were present in several other cases as some

initial permanency goals were not set within the federal 60-day timeframe, while in others, reunification was maintained despite no longer being appropriate, or adoption was not established in a timely manner.

The agency and courts both made concerted efforts to achieve timely permanency in 60% of foster care cases reviewed. Efforts were generally made toward both primary and concurrent permanency goals. In reunification cases, parents were engaged, connected with needed services, and supported in addressing the reasons for removal. Children were generally reunified within 12 months or were on track to meet that timeline. In cases where reunification was no longer appropriate, efforts shifted toward guardianship or adoption, with permanency achieved or on track within federally recommended timeframes. Those efforts were not consistent across all reviewed cases. Several reunification cases experienced delays stemming from inconsistent parental engagement and unaddressed barriers to parent participation. Where reunification or adoption was the primary goal, concurrent planning toward guardianship was limited or absent in several cases.

Agency, legal, and judicial practices contributed to delays in achieving timely adoption in a subset of cases. Contributing factors included delayed goal changes from reunification to adoption, late completion of termination of parental rights (TPR) packets, untimely filing of TPR petitions, prolonged scheduling and continuation of TPR hearings, delayed trial-court decisions, and late assignment of adoption specialists. In some instances, TPR hearings were continued to appoint attorneys for parents and ensure proper service for parties—both necessary for due process. Agency, legal, and judicial professionals all play a key role in ensuring that children achieve timely permanency.

Placement and family-connection findings show that resource capacity continues to affect children's experiences in foster care. Stakeholders reported shortages of placements for teenagers, sibling groups, children with autism, and children with significant behavioral or mental health needs. These shortages contributed to temporary or non-traditional placements and, in some cases, placement instability. Maintaining sibling connections was also affected by placement capacity. Case review findings identified instances in which siblings were separated because a foster home could not accommodate the entire sibling group, without sufficient ongoing efforts to locate a placement where the children could reside together. When siblings were separated, practice in supporting visitation and contact was generally positive. Most cases reflected regular visitation, transportation, and monitoring of the quality of visits, while some reflected few visits or insufficient efforts to establish ongoing contact. These findings indicate that placement capacity, sibling placement, and preservation of family connections are closely related practice and systemic issues.

Service availability and accessibility are significant cross-cutting factors affecting safety, permanency, and well-being. Stakeholders reported that Mississippi has many core services, including behavioral health and substance use treatment, parenting education, visitation, independent living services, and concrete support, but that availability varies substantially by location. Rural communities have fewer providers, and they experience transportation barriers, workforce shortages, and waiting lists. Limited capacity can require families to travel long distances for services. Stakeholders identified gaps in mental health and substance use treatment, trauma-informed therapy, psychological evaluations, autism services, transportation, services for youth with significant behavioral needs, and support for foster families. Individualized services are possible through Family Team Meetings, individualized case planning, wraparound services, flexible funding, and community partnerships, but access depends substantially on local resources and provider availability. Culturally and linguistically responsive services are also not consistently available statewide.

Children's mental and behavioral health findings further illustrate the distinction between availability of treatment and consistency of agency oversight. Case review findings frequently demonstrated that children were assessed for mental and behavioral health needs and received therapy, psychological evaluations, medication management, and other treatment when needed. However, a recurring issue involved the lack of required oversight of psychotropic medications. Several cases were rated as Areas Needing Improvement despite the availability of appropriate therapeutic services because required follow-up with the agency nurse or coordinated care unit was not completed. The findings indicate that the concern is not simply access to behavioral health treatment but consistent implementation of agency processes for monitoring psychotropic medication.

Although several systemic factors do not yet function consistently statewide, Mississippi has systemic infrastructure that can support continued improvement. The Quality Assurance System and Agency

Responsiveness to the Community systemic factors were determined to be in substantial conformity. Mississippi's QA/CQI system includes statewide Service Area Reviews using the federal Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions, multiple levels of quality control, quantitative and qualitative reporting, and feedback loops intended to inform policy, training, and practice. The state also demonstrated ongoing consultation with community partners, including the judiciary, child and family service providers, families, youth, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, as well as coordination with other federally assisted programs.

Overall, Mississippi's Round 4 findings reflect several practice and systemic strengths, including ongoing safety assessment, assessment and services to children and foster parents, purposeful caseworker contact with children, elements of permanency planning, a functioning QA/CQI system, and established stakeholder consultation mechanisms. The findings also identify interconnected challenges that continue to affect outcomes: consistent engagement and assessment of parents, particularly fathers; timely and goal-directed permanency practice; sufficient placement resources to support stability and sibling placement; equitable access to individualized services across the state; and consistent implementation of required practice and oversight processes. These findings point to opportunities to use the state's existing QA/CQI infrastructure to examine variation in practice, understand barriers, and monitor improvement as Mississippi develops its Program Improvement Plan.

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

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

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

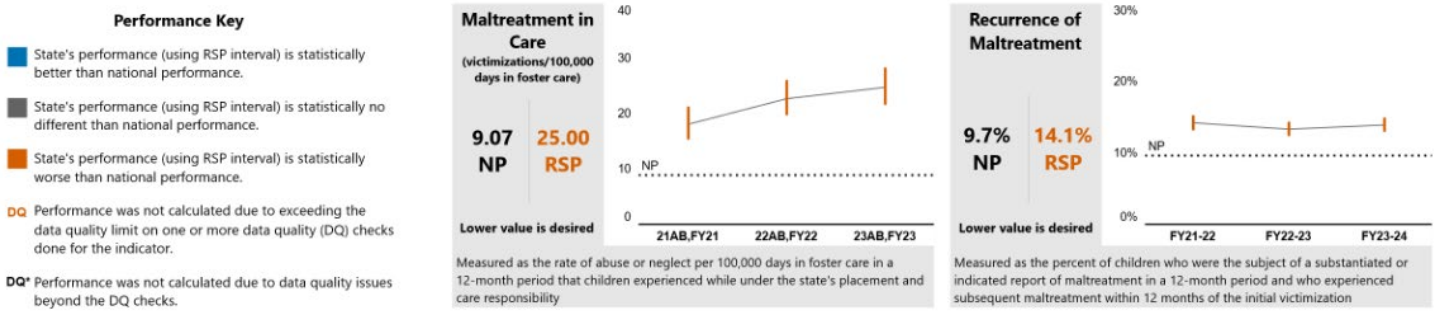
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that MDCPS initiate child protective services investigations based on a tiered screening system that determines how quickly face-to-face contact must occur. High-risk allegations, including imminent danger, custody issues, children age 5 or younger, sexual abuse, severe neglect, or felony abuse, require face-to-face initiation within 24 hours. Non-imminent or lower-risk allegations require face-to-face initiation within 72 hours of receiving the report.

Statewide Data Indicators

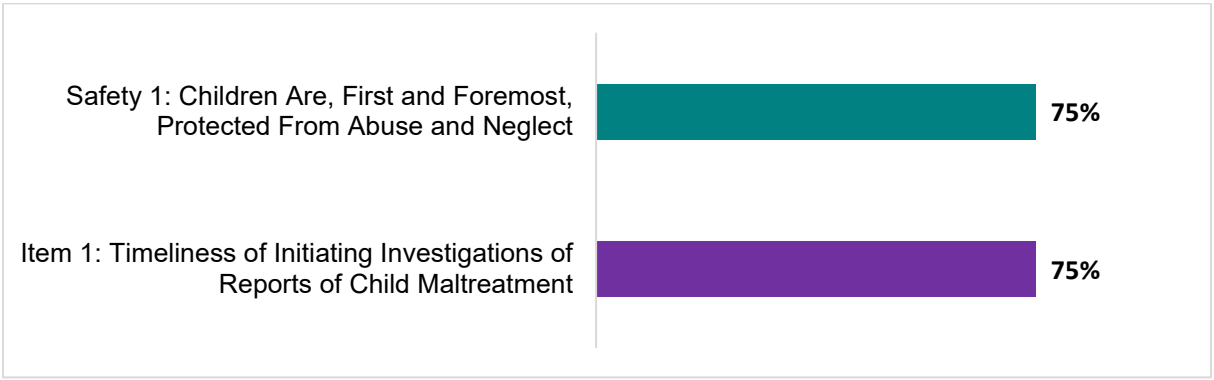
The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

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

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

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

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

All results reported here are based on the August 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the August

2025 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

Mississippi's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) on both Maltreatment in Foster Care and Recurrence of Maltreatment were statistically worse than national performance across the 3 most recent reporting periods.

The calculation of Maltreatment in Care uses a ratio of total victimizations per 100,000 days children were in care during a 12-month period (cumulative days across all children). The following are notable observations regarding Mississippi's observed performance:

- Children ages 11–16 experienced the highest rate (30.81) of maltreatment in foster care compared with other age groups, and they accounted for a disproportionately high percentage of victimizations. Children ages 11–16 accounted for 28.1% of total days in foster care but 46.9% of victimizations.
- The second-highest rate (28.23) of victimizations was for children aged 17.

The following are notable observations for Mississippi's observed performance on the Recurrence of Maltreatment Statewide Data Indicator:

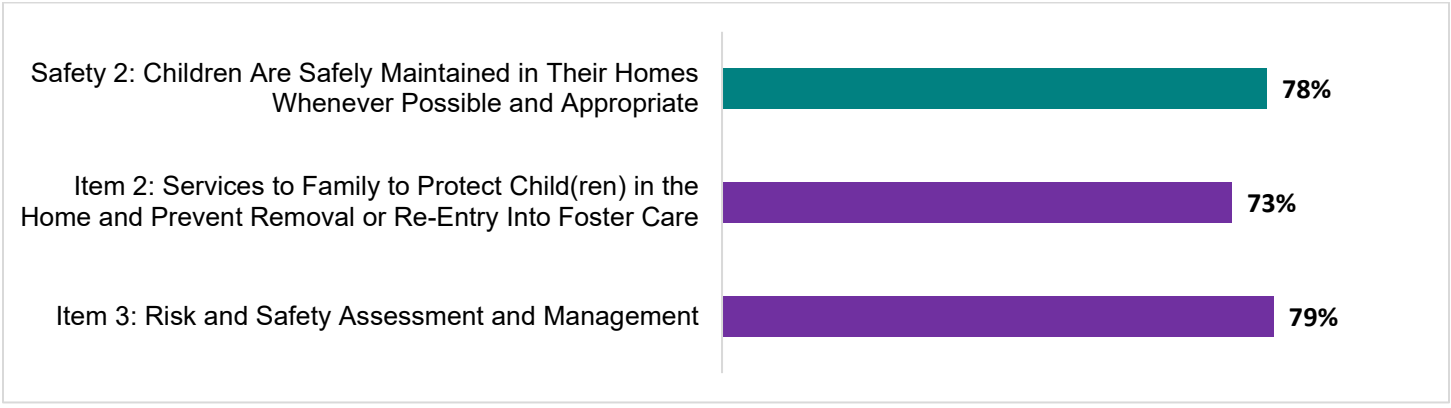
- Children ages 11–16 experienced the highest percentage of recurrence (12.7%) in the most recent reporting period. Children in this age group also accounted for a disproportionately high percentage of recurring victimizations, representing 31.3% of initial victims but 39.1% of the state's recurring victims.
- Harrison County accounts for the highest proportion of the state's recurring victims, at 12.3%, and performs worse than statewide performance.
- Hinds County accounts for the second highest proportion of the state's recurring victims and performs better than statewide performance; however, performance has been on a declining trend over the last 3 reporting periods.

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



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

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

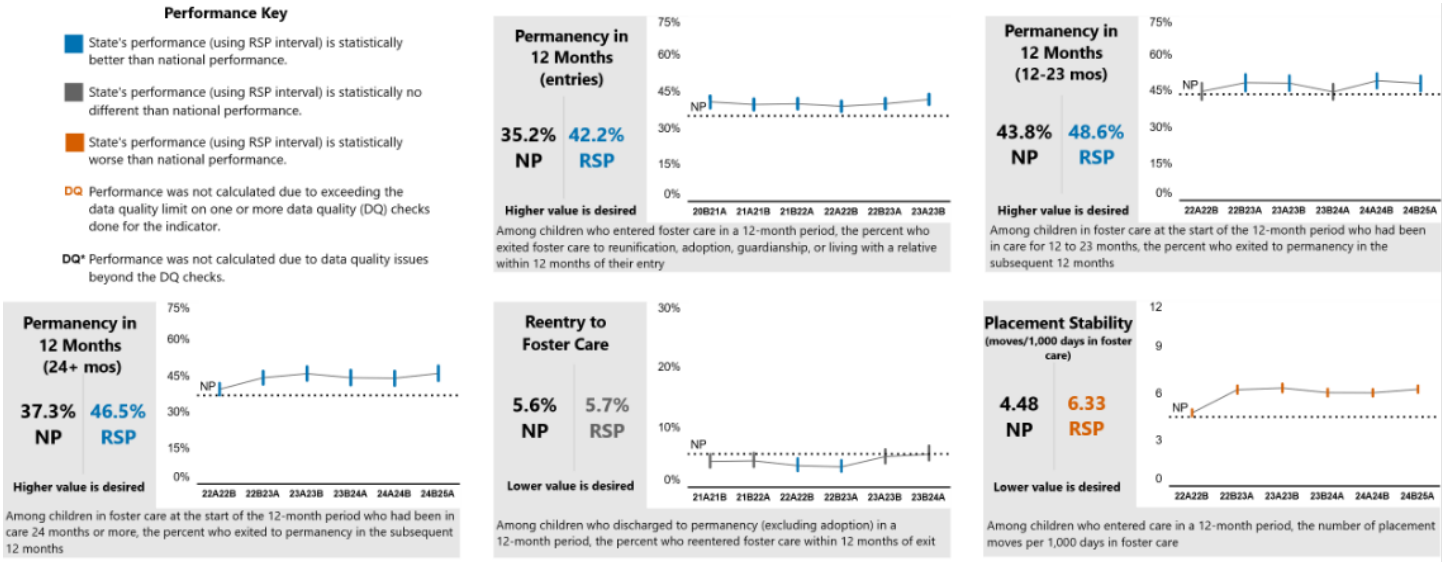
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

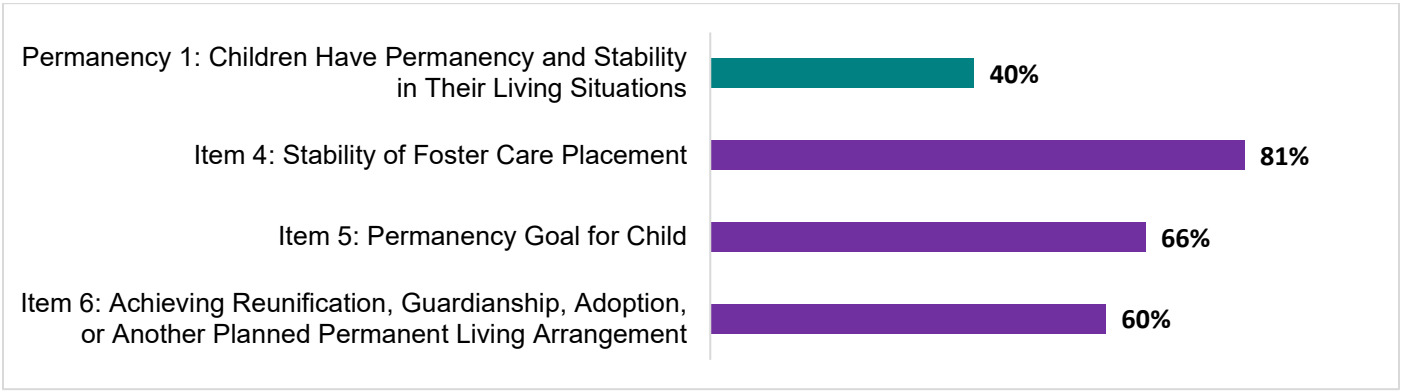
The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Mississippi 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 better than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.

- The state's performance on the "reentry to foster care in 12 months" data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "placement stability" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance. Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6.

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2026 Profile	August 2026Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Better	Better	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Better	Better	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Better	Better	Better	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	No Different	Better	No Different	No
Placement stability	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

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

Mississippi's performance on the statewide data indicator for Permanency in 12 months for children entering care is statistically better than national performance. The following are notable observations regarding Mississippi'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.

- Mississippi's entry rate (3.55 entries per 1,000 children in the population) in the most recent reporting period is higher than the national foster care entry rate (2.30 entries per 1,000 children in the population) for the same time period.
- Statewide, children under age 1 have the highest entry rate, at 12.42 entries per 1,000 children in the population. Children in this age group comprise 5.0% of the total child population but 17.4% of foster care entries in Mississippi.
- Hinds and DeSoto Counties have the first and third highest proportion, respectively, of foster care entries in the state, but both counties perform better than the statewide rate on exits to permanency within 12 months.

- Harrison, Lee, and Forrest Counties have the second, fourth, and fifth highest proportion, respectively, of foster care entries in the state, and their performance is worse than the statewide rate on this indicator.

Performance on the two statewide data indicators for later-term permanency, (1) Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months and (2) Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more, is statistically better than or no different than national performance across all reporting periods. The following are notable observations for Mississippi's performance on these indicators:

For *Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months*:

- Performance has improved overall and across age groups in the 3 most recent reporting years.
- Harrison and Jackson Counties have the highest and second-highest number of children in care (denominator) for this indicator, and both counties performed better than the statewide performance in the most recent reporting period.
- Hinds County has the third highest number of children in care for this indicator and performed worse than the statewide performance. Hinds County has a disproportionately lower proportion of exits to permanency for this indicator, with 5.0% of the state's children in care for 12–23 months but 3.2% of the state's exits to permanency for this cohort.

For *Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more*:

- Statewide performance was statistically better than national performance across all reporting periods. However, there was an overall decline in performance from the 24B25A reporting period to the 25B26A reporting period, with the most significant decrease among children ages 5 and under.
- Jackson and Lowndes Counties had the highest number of children in care for this indicator (denominator) and performed better than the statewide performance in the most recent reporting period.
- Hinds County represents the third highest number of children in care for this indicator and performed lower than the statewide performance in the three most recent reporting periods.

Mississippi's performance on the statewide data indicator for Reentry to Foster Care was statistically better than or no different than national performance across reporting periods. The following are notable observations for Mississippi's Reentry to Foster Care observed performance:

- Reentries to foster care have increased among children under the age of 1 across the 3 most recent reporting periods, although caution should be exercised in assessing performance trends due to the small numbers of reentries overall for this age group. However, children in this age group experienced reentry to foster care at a disproportionately higher frequency compared with other age groups. Children under the age of 1 accounted for 6.0% of the state's exits from care but 10.3% of the state's reentries. Conversely, children ages 1–5 represented 34.7% of the state's exits from care but 30.8% of the state's reentries.
- Lee County accounted for the highest proportion of the state's reentries, with 4.7% of the state's exits from care and 16.7% of the state's reentries.

Performance on the statewide data indicator for Placement Stability was statistically worse than national performance across all reporting periods. The following are notable observations for Mississippi's placement stability observed performance:

- Of all age groups, children under age 1 at entry had the highest rate of placement stability (5.24 moves per 1,000 days in care), while children aged 17 at entry experienced the most placement instability (10.32 moves per 1,000 days in care), followed by those ages 11–16 at entry (9.95 moves per 1,000 days in care).
- Harrison, Jackson, and Lee Counties had the highest number of days in care and performed worse than the state's overall performance on this indicator.

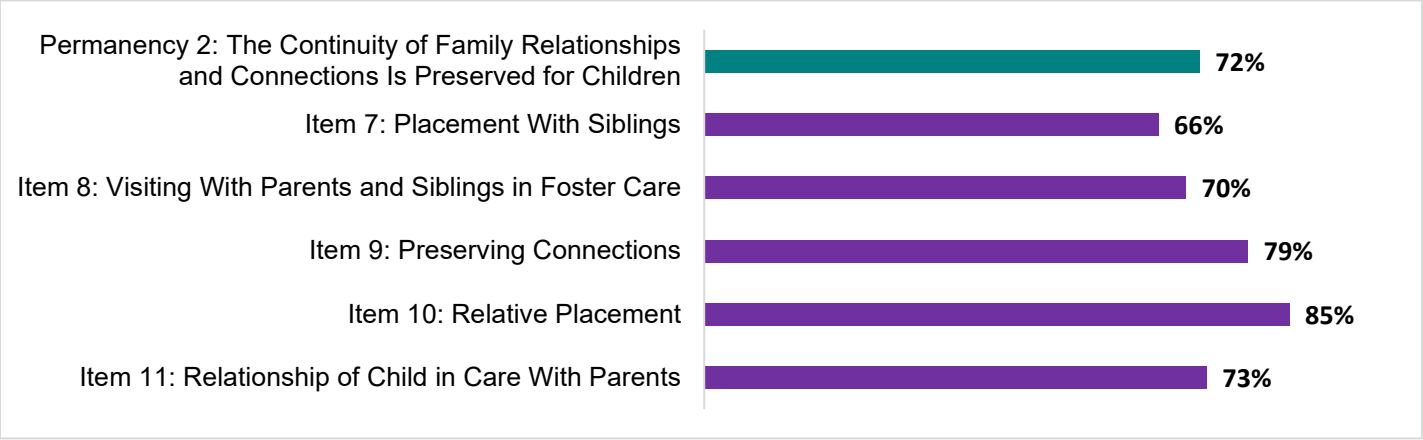
- Alcorn County represented the next highest number of days in care and performed better than the statewide performance on this indicator.

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



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

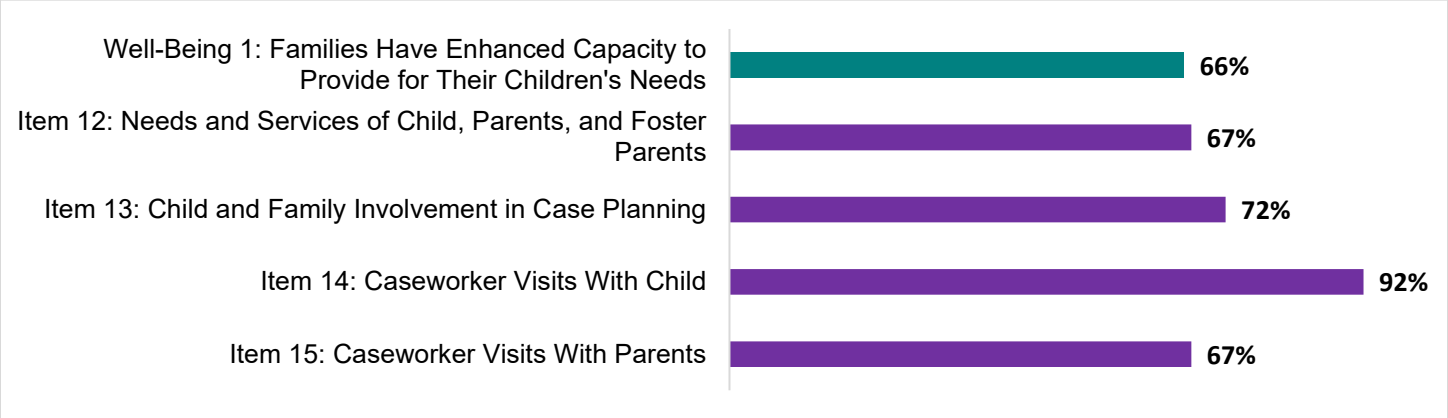
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 10.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 11.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Case Review

Figure 7. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

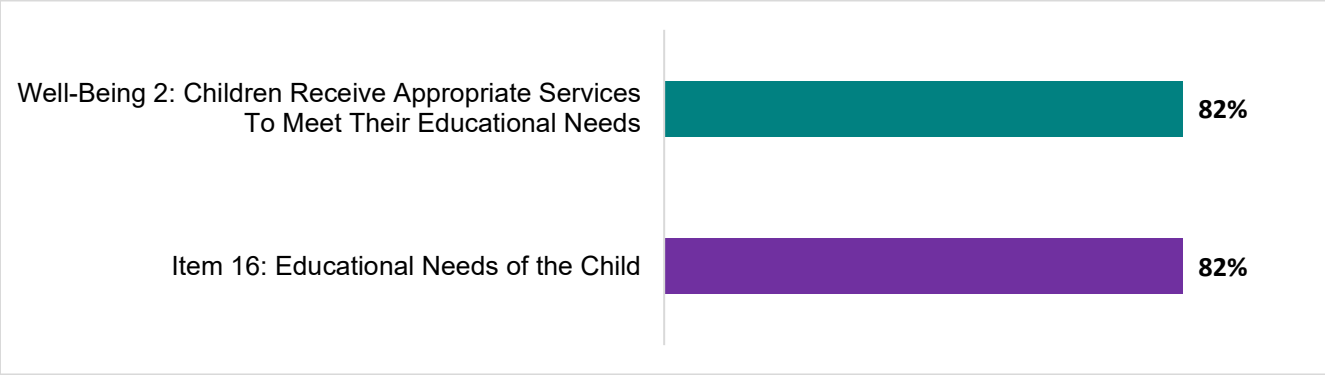
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
  - More than 90% of the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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

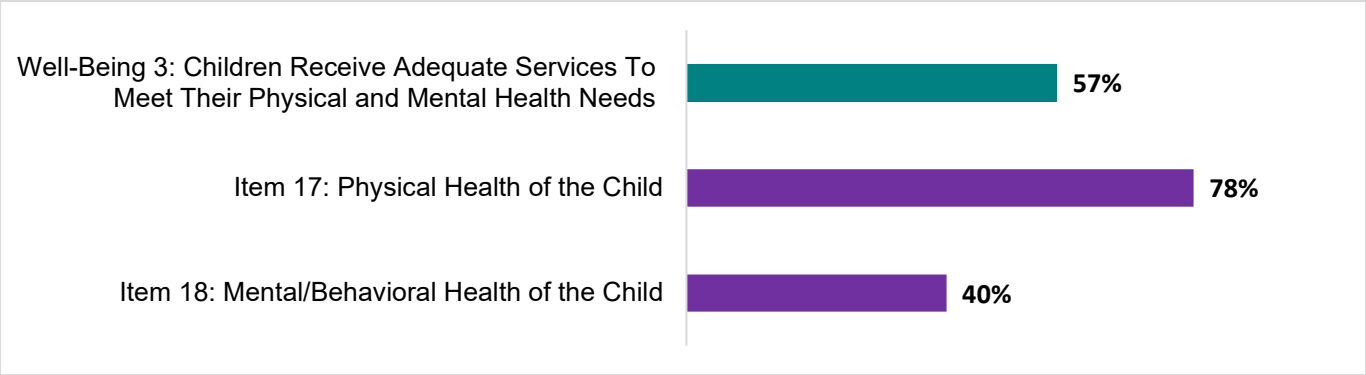
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



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

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

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Area Needing Improvement

Mississippi 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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- In the Statewide Assessment, the state asserted that it can readily identify the status, placement, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for every child in foster care. However, no data or evidence was provided to support this assertion. The state also did not provide information regarding the accuracy or timeliness of the data being entered.

Case Review System

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

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

Mississippi 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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- MDCPS uses Family Team Meetings as its primary method of engaging parents in the development of children's case plans. The data and information provided does not demonstrate that children in foster care have written case plans that are routinely developed jointly with their 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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Strength for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information submitted demonstrated that periodic reviews for each child occur no less frequently than every 6 months.

Item 22: Permanency Hearings

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body that occurs no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided do not demonstrate that initial permanency hearings routinely occur no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

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

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided do not demonstrate that the filing of termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings routinely occurs in accordance with required provisions. While Mississippi has policies and procedures in place to comply with Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requirements, the available data indicated substantial delays in filing TPR petitions for children who meet ASFA criteria, and documentation of exceptions to filing is often incomplete.

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.

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

- The data and information provided do not demonstrate that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are routinely receiving notification of periodic reviews and permanency hearings held with respect to the child and that they have a right to be heard in those reviews and hearings. There is no tracking system in place to monitor whether notices of periodic reviews (administrative and court-related) and permanency hearings are routinely received.

Quality Assurance System

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

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Strength

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

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

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

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided demonstrate that MDCPS operates a comprehensive, data-driven Quality Assurance (QA) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) system that routinely collects, analyzes, and disseminates both quantitative and qualitative data to inform practice and policy. A fully implemented internal case-review process utilizes the CFSR Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions and provides reliable qualitative data that complements other reports and reviews that the state completes. Feedback from stakeholders is integrated through established feedback loops to guide continuous improvement. Overall, the QA system functions statewide, is systematic and ongoing, and effectively drives measurable improvements in safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes.

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

Mississippi 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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- MDCPS requires staff to complete 270 hours of pre-service training before being assigned a caseload. The training is a combination of on-the-job training and online learning modules. However, information provided does not demonstrate that new agency staff consistently complete initial training in a timely manner. While the agency has created an evaluation process to assess trainees' ability to perform their duties, there is no evidence that the initial training addresses the basic skills and knowledge needed by staff to perform their job 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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided does not indicate that there are ongoing training requirements for staff or that initial and ongoing training is available for supervisors. There is no evidence that staff complete ongoing training hours or that supervisors complete their required training. Additionally, no data was available to show that the trainings address the basic skills and knowledge needed to perform their job duties.

Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

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

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided does not demonstrate that initial and ongoing foster and adoptive training provides caregivers with the skills and knowledge needed to care for the children or that the training is provided timely. No data was provided showing that facility staff complete the required initial and ongoing training or assessing the effectiveness of the training.

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

Mississippi 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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided demonstrate that Mississippi has made progress in expanding evidence-based, family-centered services, particularly focused on prevention. However, service availability is not consistent statewide, with greater service gaps in rural communities and with non-English-speaking families. Although services exist to assess family needs, support family preservation, and promote permanency, limited capacity and long waitlists often delay timely intervention. Transportation, especially for families in rural communities who must travel significant distances to access services, is also a barrier. The availability of appropriate placements is challenging, resulting in frequent overnight stays in offices for children in foster care, especially for children and youth with high-acuity mental and behavioral health needs and teens.

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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information indicate that although MDCPS has mechanisms in place to individualize services, including Family Team Meetings, individualized case planning, and wraparound services, implementation is inconsistent and heavily dependent on local provider availability and regional funding. Significant gaps persist in specialized services for children with developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs, and culturally and linguistically appropriate services remain underdeveloped statewide. Flexible funding, while effective where available, is not uniformly accessible across all counties, resulting in inequitable service access that varies by geography rather than individual need.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

Mississippi was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that, in implementing the provisions of the CFSP and developing related Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSRs), the state engages in ongoing consultation with Tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- MDCPS described ongoing meetings with a variety of community partners, including the judiciary, child and family service providers, families, youth, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. These meetings are used as mechanisms for obtaining stakeholder input regarding CFSP goals, initiatives, barriers, and strategies for improvement and provided information indicating that stakeholder input informs the CFSP/APSR, agency policy, and practice. Although the state provided limited examples directly linking specific stakeholder concerns to specific CFSP goals, objectives, or annual updates, this limitation does not prevent reliance on the evidence demonstrating ongoing stakeholder consultation and incorporation of stakeholder input into agency planning.

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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided demonstrates that the agency coordinates services with other federally assisted programs, such as Medicaid, Regional Housing Authority, Department of Education, and Department of Mental Health, serving the same population. Mississippi provided information regarding the coordination of services through memorandums of understanding, memorandums of agreement, and data-sharing agreements to guide these collaborations, ensuring integrated service delivery and accountability.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

Items	Rating
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Area Needing Improvement
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Strength
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

Mississippi 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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information in the Statewide Assessment.
- While MDCPS has established licensure standards and quality review processes for non-relative and expedited relative foster homes, consistent statewide application of those standards remains uneven. Quality review data reflects persistent documentation deficiencies across regions, and initiatives such as the SAFE home study format and Family Based Placement Meetings remain in varying stages of

implementation. These findings indicate that uniform application of licensing standards has not yet been achieved statewide.

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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided confirm that background checks are consistently completed statewide before prospective foster and adoptive parents are licensed. In addition, MDCPS has a case planning process in place that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children through standardized home studies, safety assessments, licensing reviews, ongoing monitoring, and corrective action.

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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The information provided does not demonstrate how race and ethnicity data are used to recruit or support the development of a caregiver pool that reflects the demographics of children in care.

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.

- Mississippi received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided does not demonstrate that Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children home studies for children from other states were completed in a timely manner.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Mississippi 2026 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.07	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	25.00	22.02–28.38	23A–23B, FY23–24
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	14.1%	13.3%–15.0%	FY23–24

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	78% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	73% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	79% 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	40% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	81% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	66% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	60% 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%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	42.2%	40.1%–44.3%	23A–25A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	48.6%	45.4%–51.7%	24B–25A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	46.5%	43.5%–49.6%	24B–25
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	5.7%	4.7%–7.1%	23B–25A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	6.33	6.1–6.57	24B–25A

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	72% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	66% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	79% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	85% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	73% 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	66% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	67% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	87% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	61% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Strength	91% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Strength	92% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	67% 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	82% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	82% 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	57% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	40% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The CB determines substantial conformity with the

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Case Review System	Statewide Assessment	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Statewide Assessment	Strength
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	Substantial Conformity
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

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

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT
Mississippi CFSR (State-Led) 2026

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

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

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

Practice Description	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	75% (21 of 28)
(Question 1B) Face-to-face contact with the child(ren) who is (are) the subject of the report were made in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	75% (21 of 28)
(Question 1C) Reasons for delays in initiation of investigations or assessments and/or face-to-face contact were due to circumstances beyond the control of the agency.	0% (0 of 7)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	75% (21 of 28)

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

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

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care.	38.89% (7 of 18)	62.5% (5 of 8)	46.15% (12 of 26)
(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.	16.67% (3 of 18)	Not Applicable	16.67% (3 of 18)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	16.67% (3 of 18)	Not Applicable	16.67% (3 of 18)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Concerted efforts were not made to provide appropriate services to address safety/risk issues and the child(ren) remained in the home.	5.56% (1 of 18)	37.5% (3 of 8)	15.38% (4 of 26)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	77.78% (14 of 18)	62.5% (5 of 8)	73.08% (19 of 26)

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.	98.39% (61 of 62)	100% (38 of 38)	99% (99 of 100)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (62 of 62)	100% (38 of 38)	100% (100 of 100)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	72.73% (8 of 11)	100% (2 of 2)	76.92% (10 of 13)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	83.87% (52 of 62)	76.32% (29 of 38)	81% (81 of 100)
(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.	77.78% (7 of 9)	85.71% (6 of 7)	81.25% (13 of 16)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	100% (20 of 20)	90% (9 of 10)	96.67% (29 of 30)
(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% (48 of 50)	Not Applicable	96% (48 of 50)
(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% (62 of 62)	Not Applicable	100% (62 of 62)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	80.65% (50 of 62)	76.32% (29 of 38)	79% (79 of 100)

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.	50% (12 of 24)	50% (12 of 24)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	96.77% (60 of 62)	96.77% (60 of 62)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	80.65% (50 of 62)	80.65% (50 of 62)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	100% (62 of 62)	100% (62 of 62)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	79.03% (49 of 62)	79.03% (49 of 62)
(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.	85.48% (53 of 62)	85.48% (53 of 62)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	61.29% (38 of 62)	61.29% (38 of 62)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	8.33% (2 of 24)	8.33% (2 of 24)
(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.	84.85% (28 of 33)	84.85% (28 of 33)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	66.13% (41 of 62)	66.13% (41 of 62)

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.	0	0
(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 1)	0% (0 of 1)
(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.	0	0

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and B **or** 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved.	61.67% (37 of 60)	61.67% (37 of 60)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	59.68% (37 of 62)	59.68% (37 of 62)

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.	38.3% (18 of 47)	38.3% (18 of 47)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	44.83% (13 of 29)	44.83% (13 of 29)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	65.96% (31 of 47)	65.96% (31 of 47)

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.	8.57% (3 of 35)	8.57% (3 of 35)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	8.57% (3 of 35)	8.57% (3 of 35)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	40% (14 of 35)	40% (14 of 35)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	14.29% (5 of 35)	14.29% (5 of 35)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	17.14% (6 of 35)	17.14% (6 of 35)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	11.43% (4 of 35)	11.43% (4 of 35)
(Question 8A) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	80% (28 of 35)	80% (28 of 35)
(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.	93.55% (29 of 31)	93.55% (29 of 31)
(Questions 8A and 8C) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and mother was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	80% (28 of 35)	80% (28 of 35)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	4.76% (1 of 21)	4.76% (1 of 21)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	14.29% (3 of 21)	14.29% (3 of 21)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	28.57% (6 of 21)	28.57% (6 of 21)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	4.76% (1 of 21)	4.76% (1 of 21)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	23.81% (5 of 21)	23.81% (5 of 21)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	23.81% (5 of 21)	23.81% (5 of 21)
(Question 8B) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	71.43% (15 of 21)	71.43% (15 of 21)
(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.	93.75% (15 of 16)	93.75% (15 of 16)
(Questions 8B and 8D) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and father was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	71.43% (15 of 21)	71.43% (15 of 21)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 28)	0% (0 of 28)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	3.57% (1 of 28)	3.57% (1 of 28)
(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.	39.29% (11 of 28)	39.29% (11 of 28)
(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.	25% (7 of 28)	25% (7 of 28)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	17.86% (5 of 28)	17.86% (5 of 28)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	14.29% (4 of 28)	14.29% (4 of 28)
(Question 8E) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	71.43% (20 of 28)	71.43% (20 of 28)
(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.	84% (21 of 25)	84% (21 of 25)
(Questions 8E and 8F) The frequency and quality of visitation with siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	71.43% (20 of 28)	71.43% (20 of 28)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	69.57% (32 of 46)	69.57% (32 of 46)

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).	78.69% (48 of 61)	78.69% (48 of 61)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	78.69% (48 of 61)	78.69% (48 of 61)

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.	44.26% (27 of 61)	44.26% (27 of 61)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (27 of 27)	100% (27 of 27)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** maternal relatives.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (8 of 8)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** maternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** maternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** maternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** paternal relatives.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (8 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** paternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	85.25% (52 of 61)	85.25% (52 of 61)

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.	80% (28 of 35)	80% (28 of 35)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	61.9% (13 of 21)	61.9% (13 of 21)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	72.97% (27 of 37)	72.97% (27 of 37)

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	64.52% (40 of 62)	71.05% (27 of 38)	67% (67 of 100)

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.	90.32% (56 of 62)	89.47% (34 of 38)	90% (90 of 100)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	79.49% (31 of 39)	76.47% (13 of 17)	78.57% (44 of 56)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	85.48% (53 of 62)	89.47% (34 of 38)	87% (87 of 100)

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	66.67% (26 of 39)	80.56% (29 of 36)	73.33% (55 of 75)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	63.89% (23 of 36)	76.67% (23 of 30)	69.7% (46 of 66)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	66.67% (26 of 39)	80.56% (29 of 36)	73.33% (55 of 75)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	40% (10 of 25)	68.42% (13 of 19)	52.27% (23 of 44)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	37.5% (9 of 24)	62.5% (10 of 16)	47.5% (19 of 40)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	40% (10 of 25)	68.42% (13 of 19)	52.27% (23 of 44)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	51.22% (21 of 41)	71.05% (27 of 38)	60.76% (48 of 79)

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.	92.98% (53 of 57)	92.98% (53 of 57)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	86.49% (32 of 37)	86.49% (32 of 37)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	91.23% (52 of 57)	91.23% (52 of 57)

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.	96.88% (31 of 32)	84.62% (22 of 26)	91.38% (53 of 58)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	73.68% (28 of 38)	80.56% (29 of 36)	77.03% (57 of 74)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	56.52% (13 of 23)	57.89% (11 of 19)	57.14% (24 of 42)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	72% (36 of 50)	71.05% (27 of 38)	71.59% (63 of 88)

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 62)	0% (0 of 38)	0% (0 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0% (0 of 62)	0% (0 of 38)	0% (0 of 100)

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 less than once a week but at least twice a month.	90.32% (56 of 62)	76.32% (29 of 38)	85% (85 of 100)
(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.	6.45% (4 of 62)	13.16% (5 of 38)	9% (9 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	3.23% (2 of 62)	7.89% (3 of 38)	5% (5 of 100)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 62)	2.63% (1 of 38)	1% (1 of 100)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	93.55% (58 of 62)	89.47% (34 of 38)	92% (92 of 100)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	95.16% (59 of 62)	91.89% (34 of 37)	93.94% (93 of 99)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	93.55% (58 of 62)	89.47% (34 of 38)	92% (92 of 100)

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 38)	0% (0 of 36)	0% (0 of 74)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	0% (0 of 38)	0% (0 of 36)	0% (0 of 74)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	31.58% (12 of 38)	44.44% (16 of 36)	37.84% (28 of 74)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	36.84% (14 of 38)	36.11% (13 of 36)	36.49% (27 of 74)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	28.95% (11 of 38)	11.11% (4 of 36)	20.27% (15 of 74)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	2.63% (1 of 38)	8.33% (3 of 36)	5.41% (4 of 74)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	73.68% (28 of 38)	83.33% (30 of 36)	78.38% (58 of 74)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	81.08% (30 of 37)	90.91% (30 of 33)	85.71% (60 of 70)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	68.42% (26 of 38)	83.33% (30 of 36)	75.68% (56 of 74)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 23)	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 42)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	0% (0 of 23)	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 42)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	26.09% (6 of 23)	42.11% (8 of 19)	33.33% (14 of 42)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	17.39% (4 of 23)	21.05% (4 of 19)	19.05% (8 of 42)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	47.83% (11 of 23)	10.53% (2 of 19)	30.95% (13 of 42)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	8.7% (2 of 23)	26.32% (5 of 19)	16.67% (7 of 42)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	52.17% (12 of 23)	63.16% (12 of 19)	57.14% (24 of 42)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	71.43% (15 of 21)	85.71% (12 of 14)	77.14% (27 of 35)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	52.17% (12 of 23)	57.89% (11 of 19)	54.76% (23 of 42)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	62.5% (25 of 40)	71.05% (27 of 38)	66.67% (52 of 78)

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.	89.58% (43 of 48)	85.71% (6 of 7)	89.09% (49 of 55)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	77.42% (24 of 31)	40% (2 of 5)	72.22% (26 of 36)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 16 Strength Ratings	85.42% (41 of 48)	57.14% (4 of 7)	81.82% (45 of 55)

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.	91.94% (57 of 62)	66.67% (4 of 6)	89.71% (61 of 68)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (11 of 11)	Not Applicable	100% (11 of 11)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	89.83% (53 of 59)	66.67% (4 of 6)	87.69% (57 of 65)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	78.72% (37 of 47)	0% (0 of 1)	77.08% (37 of 48)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	76.19% (32 of 42)	0% (0 of 1)	74.42% (32 of 43)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	79.03% (49 of 62)	66.67% (4 of 6)	77.94% (53 of 68)

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.	90% (27 of 30)	73.33% (11 of 15)	84.44% (38 of 45)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	17.86% (5 of 28)	Not Applicable	17.86% (5 of 28)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	82.76% (24 of 29)	72.73% (8 of 11)	80% (32 of 40)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	23.33% (7 of 30)	73.33% (11 of 15)	40% (18 of 45)