

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Minnesota

FINAL REPORT

2025

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Final Report: Minnesota Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and submitted to the CB on August 2, 2024. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The February 2024 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 66 cases [41 foster care, 22 in-home services, and 3 in-home services differential/alternative response], conducted via a State-Led Review process statewide in Minnesota October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, examining case practices occurring during October 2023 through March 2025.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys for the agency
 - Attorneys for child/youth and guardians ad litem
 - Attorneys for parents
 - Child welfare agency managers
 - Child welfare agency caseworkers and supervisors
 - Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
 - Court Improvement Program (CIP) and representatives from the court
 - Foster and adoptive parents and relative caregivers
 - Foster and adoptive parent licensing staff
 - Judges
 - Parents
 - Private agency foster home staff
 - Service providers

Background Information

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

applicable statewide data indicators must be better than or no different than national performance. This determination for substantial conformity is based on the data profile transmitted to the state to signal the start of that state's CFSR. The state's RSP in subsequent data profiles will be factored into the determination of indicators required to be included in the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

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

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

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

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

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

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

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

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

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Permanency Outcome 2	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 1	Items 12, 13, 14, and 15	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 2	Item 16	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 3	Items 17 and 18	N/A

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

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

The following 3 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Statewide Information System
- Quality Assurance System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

CB Comments on State Performance

The DCYF is the state's authority designated to serve children, youth, and families in need of temporary or ongoing financial assistance and/or social services. The social services programs include but are not limited to child protection, foster care, adoption, and juvenile justice. DCYF is a state-supervised, county-administered social services system. DCYF provides guidance and technical assistance to its 79 county agencies and 3 multi-agency social service agencies, which are organized into 6 regions. The county agencies are responsible for investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect, providing in-home services, managing the state's foster care system, and providing adoption, post-adoption, and independent living services to the children and families in the state.

In 2016, during its Round 3 CFSR, Minnesota was found not to be in substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes and in substantial conformity with 1 of the 7 systemic factors: Agency Responsiveness to the Community. To address these issues, the state entered into a PIP. The state was originally scheduled to complete activities in its PIP by April 30, 2020, but received an extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state successfully completed its PIP on April 7, 2021. The non-overlapping evaluation period concluded on April 30, 2022. Throughout the PIP and evaluation period, several overarching challenges continued to impact the state's performance and practice, such as high caseworker caseloads, low staff retention, insufficient initial and ongoing caseworker training, and a shortage of qualified service providers.

Minnesota participated in a State-Led Review in the Round 4 CFSR. The review was conducted October 1, 2024–March 31, 2025. Based on the review findings, the CB determined that the state was not in substantial conformity with 6 of the 7 outcomes and 4 of the 7 systemic factors. Minnesota was found to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 2 and the Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, and Agency Responsiveness to the Community systemic factors. The state was not in substantial conformity with Safety Outcomes 1 and 2, Permanency Outcomes 1 and 2, and Well-Being Outcomes 1 and 3, as well as the Case Review System, Staff and Provider Training, Service Array and Resource Development, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention systemic factors.

In Minnesota's Round 4 CFSR, the highest-performing outcomes were Well-Being Outcome 2, Children Receive Appropriate Services To Meet Their Educational Needs, and Permanency Outcome 2, The Continuity of Family Relationships and Connections Is Preserved for Children.

Well-Being Outcome 2 was substantially achieved in 96% of applicable cases, with slightly higher performance in foster care cases (97%) compared to in-home services cases (93%). The lower performance in in-home services cases was primarily due to the agency not making concerted efforts to ensure that identified educational needs were addressed.

Permanency Outcome 2 was substantially achieved in 90% of applicable cases, with strong performance across the 5 contributing items:

- Item 7: Placement With Siblings—96% of cases rated as a Strength
- Item 8: Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care—81% of cases rated as a Strength
- Item 9: Preserving Connections—98% of cases rated as a Strength
- Item 10: Relative Placement—85% of cases rated as a Strength
- Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents—83% of cases rated as a Strength

These results reflect particularly strong practice in maintaining family connections and addressing children's educational needs.

In contrast, Well-Being Outcome 1, Families Have Enhanced Capacity To Provide for Their Children's Needs, and Safety Outcome 2, Children Are Safely Maintained in Their Homes Whenever Possible and Appropriate, were two of the lower performing outcomes, with 62% and 67%, respectively, of the applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. For Item 12, children were more likely to have their needs adequately assessed and appropriate services provided in foster care cases than in in-home services cases, with 100% of applicable foster care cases having a Strength rating in comparison to 73% of in-home services cases. In contrast to children, parents were slightly more likely to have their needs adequately assessed and appropriate services provided in in-home services cases than in foster care cases, with 68% of applicable cases having a Strength rating in comparison to 62% of foster care cases. Regardless of case type, performance on cases related to work with children was stronger than performance related to work with parents. Also notable was the difference in the agency's performance in working with fathers as compared with mothers. In addition to performance being lower for fathers in Sub-Item 12B, Needs Assessments and Services to Parents, performance was also lower for fathers when compared to mothers for Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, and Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents. This signals a need to understand the underlying challenges and improve practices for working with fathers.

Minnesota performed better on Safety Outcome 1, Children Are, First and Foremost, Protected From Abuse and Neglect, than on Safety Outcome 2, Children Are Safely Maintained in Their Homes Whenever Possible and Appropriate. Safety Outcome 1 includes both case review performance and performance on 2 statewide data indicators. Minnesota's Risk-Standardized Performance on the Maltreatment in Foster Care and Recurrence of Maltreatment statewide data indicators for the federal fiscal year (FY) 2021–2022 reporting period used for this Final Report was statistically no different than national performance. The state's performance on CFSR case review on Item 1, Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Maltreatment, was 75%. The case review found that some of the accepted child maltreatment reports were not initiated timely and face-to-face contact was not made with the children within the timeframes established by agency policy.

Safety Outcome 2 was one of the lowest performing, with 67% of applicable cases rated as a Strength. There was a notable difference in performance for the two case review items that comprise Safety Outcome 2. For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, 91% of the applicable cases were rated as a Strength, demonstrating strong performance on this item. For Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, 67% of the applicable cases were rated as a Strength. Performance in foster care cases was better than in in-home services cases. Safety-related practices for the in-home services cases, specifically Minnesota's Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP), child mental health, and juvenile justice cases require substantial improvement.

Child safety is of the utmost importance and should be a primary focus of Minnesota's PIP. Safety-related practice improvements needed in the state include timely case assignment, consistent and accurate ongoing assessment of child risk and safety (including timely visits with all children) and strengthening caseworkers' ability to accurately identify risk and safety concerns, develop appropriate plans to address them, and effectively monitor those plans.

Permanency Outcome 1 is the lowest performing outcome, with 51% of the cases reviewed rated as substantially achieved. Strong practices were observed both in timely selecting permanency goals that were appropriate to the needs of the subject children as well as in achieving permanency. The strongest performance in achieving permanency was by way of reunification, where 91% of cases in the sample with a goal of reunification were rated as a Strength due to the agency and the court having made concerted efforts to

achieve reunification. Trial home visits (THV) were achieved expeditiously where warranted and parents were supported to engage in necessary services, which expedited THV and often reunification.

Minnesota demonstrated a strong practice of looking for relatives and tailoring goals to reflect the results of those searches. Searches continued throughout a child's placement, demonstrating a clear commitment to having children in relative placements. This can also be observed in Item 10, Relative Placement, where 85% of cases were rated as a Strength due to very few cases showing a lack of efforts to identify, locate, inform, or evaluate maternal and paternal relatives. It was further observed in Item 6, Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement, that when placements were with relatives, the agency supported the relatives in completing necessary paperwork to effectuate permanency, and provided supports to the relative placements to ensure stability.

Termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were often filed earlier than federal law requires in cases where circumstances warranted an early establishment of the permanency goal of adoption. In most cases where TPR petitions were not filed timely, either children had been placed with relatives or there were documented compelling reasons. In the few cases that lacked a timely filing of a TPR petition, the lack of timeliness was often related to a delay in updating the permanency goal. When permanency was delayed beyond federal timeframes, it was observed to result from paperwork that had not been completed or provided expeditiously, or from worker turnover. A strong commitment to collaborate with Tribes was also demonstrated with respect to the work with Tribal children and families. Some delays in the timely achievement of permanency occurred when TPR was not pursued because of Tribal input and out of respect for Tribal culture.

Legal and judicial professionals play a critical role in shaping the outcomes experienced by children and families, and this is particularly evident in Permanency Outcome 1. Although the data and information in Minnesota's Statewide Assessment did not demonstrate that permanency hearings and periodic reviews were occurring within the federally prescribed timeframes, the cases reviewed showed that most such hearings and reviews were held timely.

Case files also reflected active involvement from both the judiciary and the legal bar. Judges were observed to be thoroughly reviewing permanency and TPR petitions, occasionally resulting in alternate permanency not being ordered. Although this level of judicial scrutiny sometimes contributed to delays in achieving permanency, it appeared to be grounded in appropriate due process. Some strong best practices were observed, such as keeping cases moving forward by limiting continuances, not waiting for companion cases to resolve, and providing counsel to parties even when they did not take affirmative steps to apply. Attorneys were seen to advocate for their clients, engage in discovery, and partner with the agency in making decisions in the best interests of their child clients. When delays were attributable to the legal and judicial professionals, it was in instances where there were multiple judges handling the case, delays in signing orders and approvals, or changes in county attorneys. Minnesota's performance on the statewide data indicators for the achievement of permanency within 12 months shows that Minnesota performs better or no different than national performance. This is supported by the strong practices observed in the cases reviewed.

As in Round 3, Minnesota was not in substantial conformity with the Service Array systemic factor, and this will need to be a focus in the state's PIP. The CB identified ongoing gaps in available services along with challenges to accessing essential services. These issues were particularly evident in areas such as mental and behavioral health, substance use treatment, transportation, domestic violence support, affordable housing, foster home availability, and placement options for children with high acuity needs. Stakeholders noted that rural areas face more challenges with available and accessible services, while the metropolitan areas face more challenges in accessing services.

Successfully making and sustaining practice and systemic improvements will require the collection and analysis of data evidence to examine contributing factors and root causes of strengths and challenges. It is also important that Minnesota strengthen and consistently apply these fundamental areas of practice: risk and safety assessment and management; assessment and service provision to meet parents' needs, especially fathers; and caseworker visits with parents. In addition, areas of focus for Minnesota's PIP should include the Case Review System and Staff and Provider Training.

As Minnesota begins addressing the concerns highlighted in the CFSR, the state should continue to build its existing partnerships with community organizations engaged during the statewide assessment process. Engaging partners and stakeholders in the improvement process has shown to contribute to authentic and lasting change for those who interact with the child welfare system. DCYF's strong collaboration and coordination with stakeholders will be a solid foundation for the PIP. It is also important that the state continue to strengthen its engagement of current and former recipients of the agency's services, legal and judicial communities, and other community partners in the PIP development and implementation process to ensure meaningful systemic change.

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.

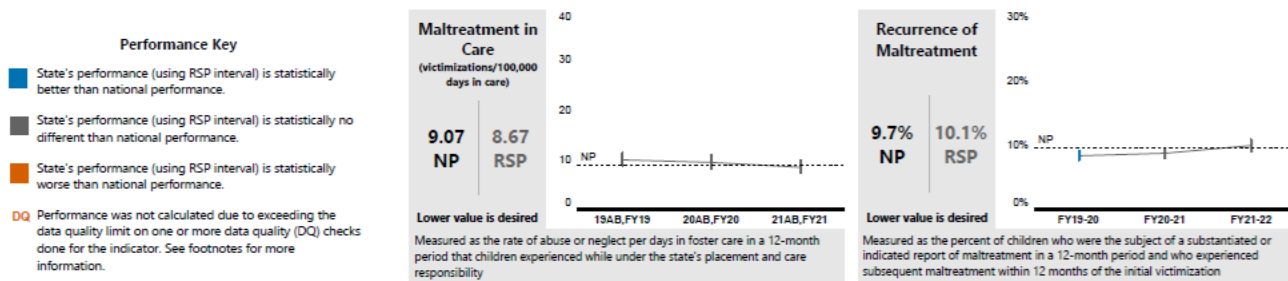
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that DCYF determine whether a report of alleged child maltreatment falls within the agency's authority to investigate no later than 24 hours after the report is received. For reports alleging substantial child endangerment or sexual abuse, face-to-face contact with alleged child victims must be made within 24 hours of receipt. For reports that do not include allegations of substantial child endangerment, face-to-face contact with alleged child victims must be made within 5 days of receipt. Reports assigned for a 5-day response can be assigned for either an investigation or Family Assessment (Differential) response. When the alleged victim(s) or the primary caretaker cannot be located during the required timeframe, the local child protection agency continues attempts to contact every day, or every 5 days, depending on the type of report, until face-to-face contact is made.

Statewide Data Indicators

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

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Minnesota 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 no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "recurrence of maltreatment" data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 1.

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2024 Profile	February 2025 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	No Different	No Different	Worse	No
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	No Different	No Different	Better	No

All results reported here are based on the February 2025 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the February

2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

For maltreatment in foster care, Minnesota performed statistically worse than national performance for the most recent period, although the prior two periods were statistically no different than national performance. The calculation of maltreatment in care uses a ratio of the total number of days children were in care during a 12-month period (cumulative days across all children) to the total number of moves for these children. The following are notable observations related to the recent decline in Minnesota's performance on this indicator:

- While the total number of days in care declined over the past 3 reporting years, the number of victimizations in care increased by 21%, from 169 victimizations to 205. The result is that the victimization-in-care rate increased from 6.58 victimizations per 100,000 days in care to 9.04 victimizations, a 37% increase.
- The maltreatment in care rate for children who identify as two or more races increased from 6.61 per 100,000 days in care to 13.77 per 100,000 (a 108% increase). Of these children, 73% identify as American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) and at least one more race.
- Hennepin County accounts for 17.5% of the total days in care (the largest in the state) and 23.4% of the maltreatment victimizations and thus contributes a disproportionately high number of victimizations. Likewise, St. Louis County accounts for 7.5% of the total days in care (third largest in the state) and 17.1% of the victimizations, which is disproportionately high.
- Hennepin County's maltreatment-in-care rate increased from 7.35 per 100,000 to 12.07 per 100,000 (a 64% increase) and St. Louis County's increased from 14.78 per 100,000 to 20.69 per 100,000 (a 40% increase), and thus both counties are major drivers of the state's overall increase.

Minnesota performs statistically better than national performance on recurrence of maltreatment in the most recent reporting period, and no different than national performance in the prior two reporting periods.

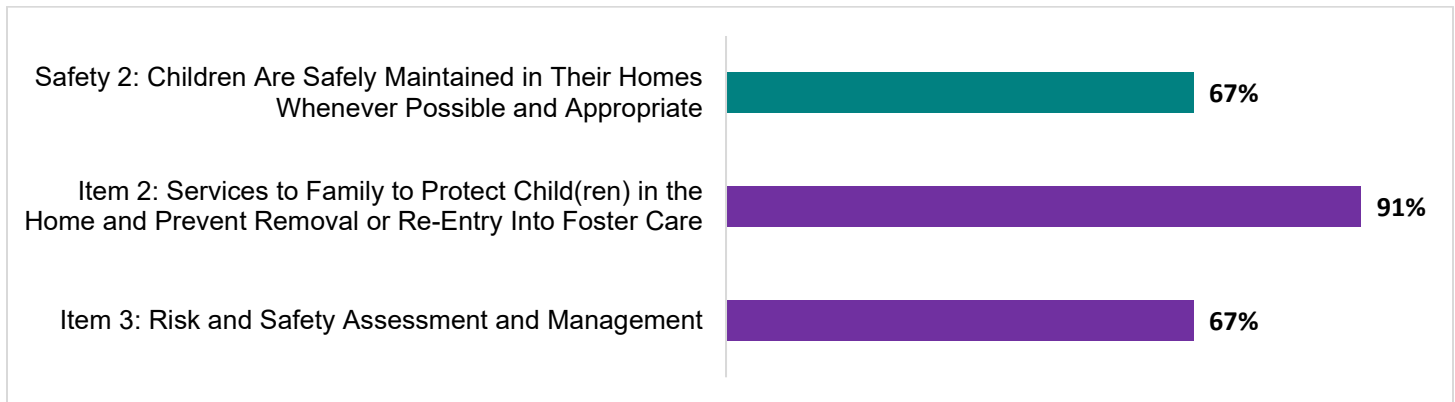
- AI/AN children are disproportionately likely to experience a recurrence of maltreatment. In the most recent reporting period, they were 8.8% of the initial victims but 12.6% of the recurring victims.
- Child victims in St. Louis County are at drastically increased risk of experiencing recurrence of maltreatment. St. Louis County accounts for 9.1% of the state's initial victims (second highest in the state), but 19.8% of the recurring victims.

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

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 2 and 3.

Case Review

Figure 3. Performance on Safety Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



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

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

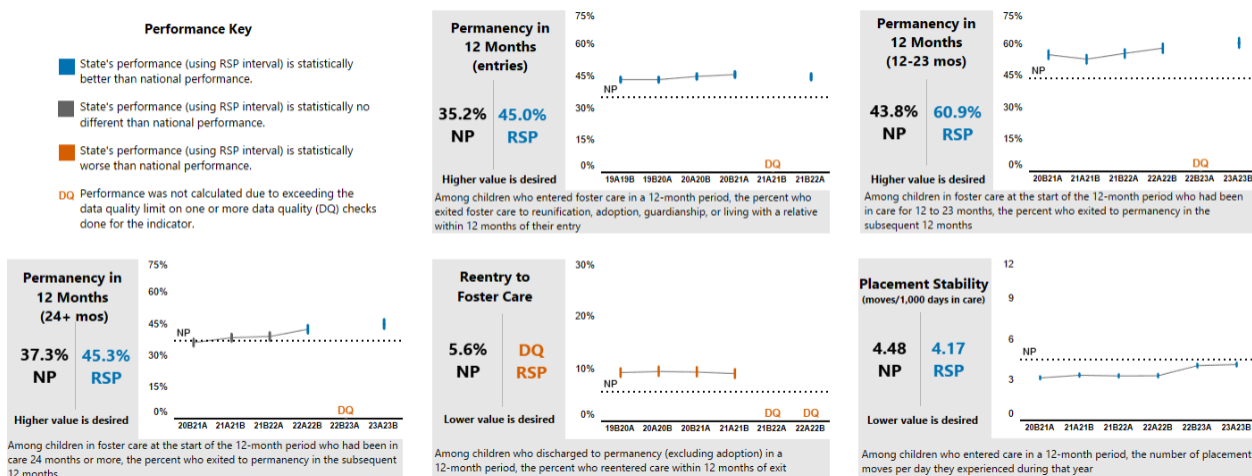
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

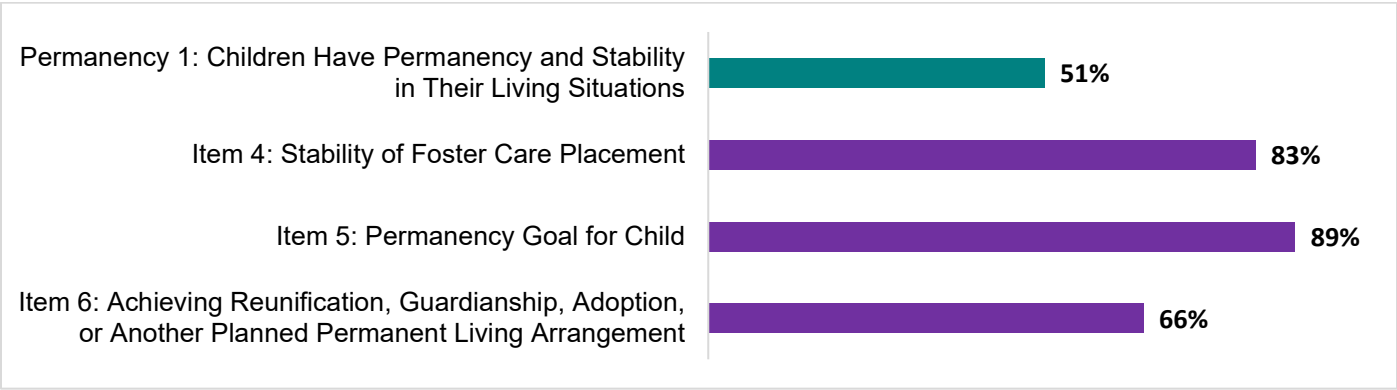
The chart below shows the state's performance as stated in the February 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Minnesota 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 not calculated because of data quality issues.
- The state’s performance on the “placement stability” data indicator was statistically better than national performance. Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6.

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2024 Profile	February 2025 Profile	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	No Different	No

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2024 Profile	February 2025 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	Data Quality	Data Quality	Data Quality	Yes
Placement stability	Better	Better	Better	No

All results reported here are based on the February 2025 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the February 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

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

- The entry rate for AI/AN children in Minnesota is 33.02 entries per 1,000 children in the population. This is compared to the state's overall entry rate of 3.15 per 1,000 and the national entry rate for AI/AN children of 6.76 per 1,000. As a further example of the elevated risk of foster care entry for this population, AI/AN children are 1.3% of the state's child population but 14.1% of the state's foster care population.
- Although 47.1% of all entries exited to permanency within 12 months, only 37.7% of AI/AN children who entered foster care exited to permanency within 12 months. AI/AN children are underrepresented among the permanent exits as they are 14.7% of the entries but 11.8% of the exits.

Performance on the two statewide data indicators for later-term permanency: (1) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months is statistically better than national performance for all three reporting years, and (2) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 or more months is statistically better than national performance in four of the six reporting periods across the most recent 3 years.

- Minnesota's performance on permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months is 8th highest (i.e., 8th best) in the nation.
- Performance on permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 or more months declined in the most recent reporting period. Performance in FY 2023 was 45.3%, but in FY 2024 it was 36.3%, a decrease of 20%.
- The Supplemental Context Data supplies two additional and relevant measures of permanent exits: Permanency Over Time and Entry Outcomes. These two measures reveal that permanent exits are quite high in Minnesota. Of children who enter care, approximately 70% exit to permanency within 2 years, whereas nationally 58% exit to permanency within 2 years. Additionally, a large portion of these permanent exits are to reunification. Nationally, 47% of exits within 5 years are to reunification, but in Minnesota 55% of permanent exits are to reunification.

Minnesota's performance on the statewide data indicator for reentry to foster care has data quality (DQ) problems that prevent calculation of the indicator in the three most recent reporting periods in the February 2025 data profile. However, in the August 2024 profile, performance was significantly worse than national performance in all reporting periods (the final period is artificially low due to the DQ issues, which were not known at the release of the August 2024 profile). Since the statewide data indicator was not calculated in the February 2025 data profile because of the DQ problems, the observations here are based on the August 2024 data profile and supplementary context data.

- Children ages 11–16 years are at elevated risk of reentry. Nationally, this age group accounts for 28.2% of the exits and 34% of the reentries, but in Minnesota they are 35.8% of exits and 51.2% of the reentries.
- Children in St. Louis County reenter foster care at a rate that is disproportionate to their representation among exits. St. Louis County accounts for 7.9% of exits but 14.5% of the reentries in Minnesota.

Performance on the statewide data indicator for placement stability is statistically better than national performance across the 3 years of reporting.

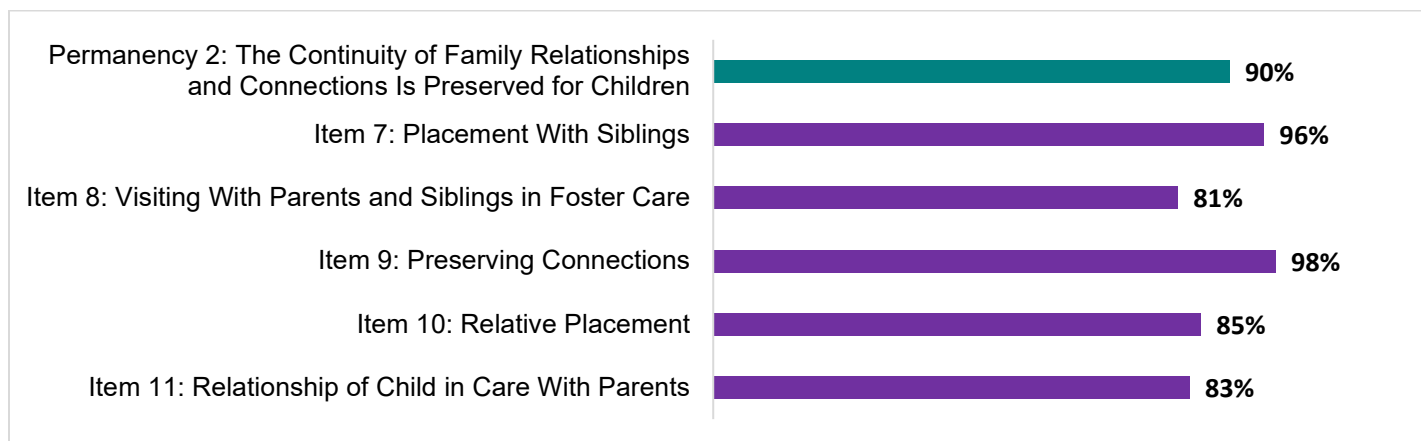
- In St. Louis County, the rate of placement moves has increased from 3.82 moves per 1,000 days in care in FY 2022 to 5.76 moves per 1,000 days in care in FY 2024.

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



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

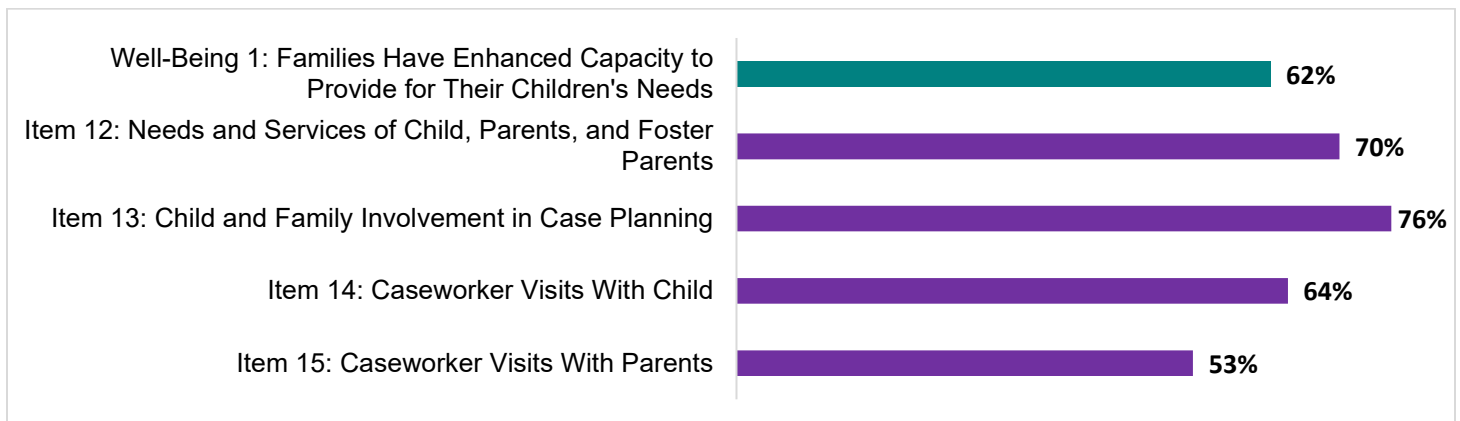
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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



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

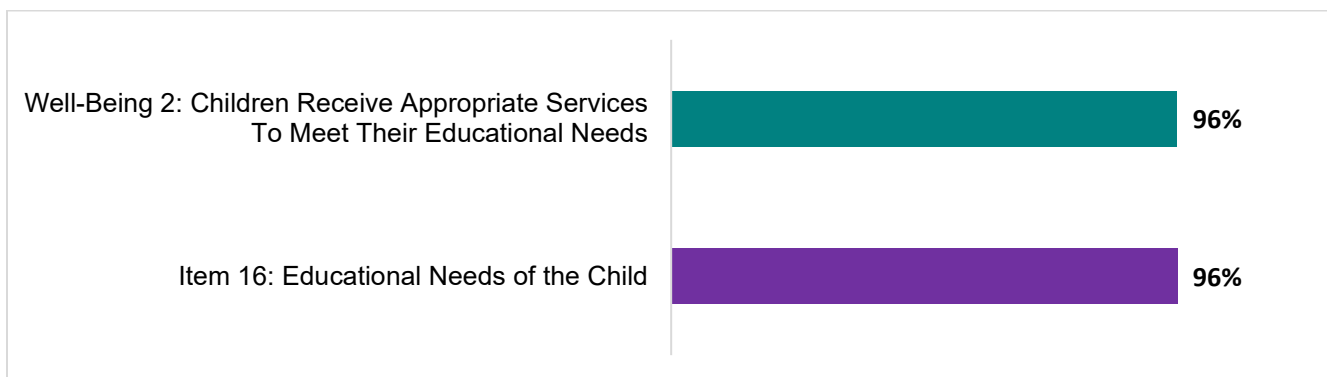
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
 - More than 90% of the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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

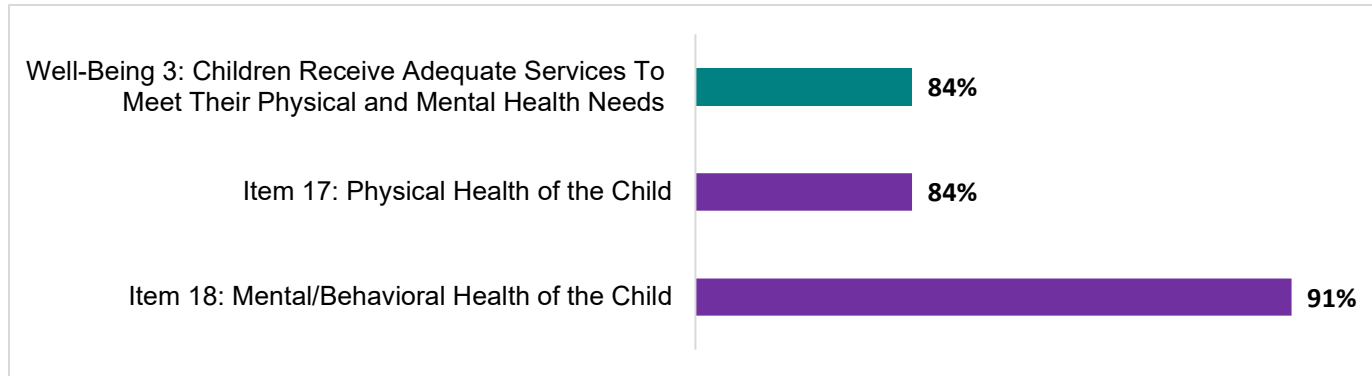
- More than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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

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

Case Review

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



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

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

KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Strength

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

Item 19: Statewide Information System

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

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information indicated that Minnesota's information system is functioning statewide and can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is, or has been within the immediately preceding 12 months, in foster care. Minnesota ensures the timeliness of data entry through information system reports that track the date and time that demographic information is entered into the system. Accuracy is ensured through caseworker validation of modifications, case reviews, and bi-yearly data integrity specialist review.

Case Review System

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

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

Minnesota 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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information did not demonstrate that each child had a written case plan that was developed jointly with the parents. Data from Item 13 and qualitative information showed that there was a lack of parental participation in the development of case plans. Stakeholders said that parents were aware of case plans but not routinely involved in the development of those plans.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

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

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information did not support a finding that initial and subsequent periodic reviews occur timely. Data on initial periodic reviews lacked clarity and no data were provided on subsequent periodic reviews. It is unclear whether periodic reviews contained all required elements.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that initial and subsequent permanency hearings occur within the required timeframes. Minnesota highlighted a discrepancy between the federal permanency hearing requirement and the timeframes set by Minnesota courts. However, it remains unclear whether the hearings identified fully align with the required elements of a permanency hearing as defined by federal standards.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided were insufficient to demonstrate that the filing of termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings occurs in accordance with required provisions. Minnesota does not have a reliable way to track TPR filing or whether there was an exception to the requirement to seek TPR. The courts track TPR filings, but inconsistencies between this data and the state's administrative data could not be reconciled.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided showed that the state lacks a routine process to track whether foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are receiving notification of periodic reviews and permanency hearings and that the notice includes their right to be heard. Minnesota's case tracking system and the court database do not adequately capture when notice is provided. Focus groups found gaps in foster parents receiving notice that they have a right to be heard during hearings.

Quality Assurance System

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

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Strength

Minnesota 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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information showed that the state has a quality assurance system that is functioning statewide. Minnesota's CQI processes and quality reviews operate statewide. Findings from case reviews, screening reviews, and mortality reviews are coded and analyzed for themes and for use in CQI efforts. These are used in the CQI cycle to identify strengths and opportunities within the system and monitor implemented initiatives. Minnesota has documented policies and best practices that outline expectations regarding foster care, services, and procedures. Through case reviews, CQI initiatives, and administrative data, the Tableau Server and annual reports provide data for internal and external stakeholders. Minnesota has conducted presentations and trainings on data literacy to support the use of data-driven decision-making.

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

Items	Rating
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Area Needing Improvement

Minnesota 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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided showed that the state lacks a process to ensure or demonstrate that initial training addresses the basic skills and knowledge needed by staff to carry out their duties. Initial training is not required for children's mental health caseworkers or juvenile justice staff despite their carrying a full caseload and having case management responsibilities. While timely completion of initial training within the first 6 months of employment is tracked and enforced, the skills gained and implemented based on the trainings are not evaluated or tracked.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided was insufficient to demonstrate, statewide, how well ongoing training addresses basic skills and knowledge needed by staff to carry out their duties. While Minnesota has established requirements for ongoing training and timeliness of completing ongoing training for child protection workers, the state does not have training requirements for supervisory, children's mental health, or juvenile justice staff. The state does not have a process to assess or track how well the ongoing training addresses the necessary skills and knowledge needed by staff.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided did not sufficiently demonstrate compliance with training requirements and that the training addresses the skills and knowledge base needed by foster and adoptive families and staff of licensed child care institutions to support the needs of children in care. Minnesota has a statewide training system, and the counties are responsible for ensuring that foster parents receive adequate training. Facility staff training is monitored through licensing reviews that are tracked manually by the state licensing authority. Minnesota has limited statewide data on training consistency from county to county, compliance, and quality. Results from surveys and focus groups found that there was a desire for fewer repetitive trainings and more skills-based trainings.

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

Minnesota 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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided did not demonstrate that services were available and accessible statewide. Stakeholders said that services were more available in metro areas but were lacking or had waitlists in rural areas across the state. Transportation was a major barrier statewide. Gaps were noted in services to address mental health and substance use issues, domestic violence, affordable housing needs, child psychological and psychiatric needs, and placements for children with high acuity needs. A lack of foster homes, in-state residential beds, and crisis services resulted in children staying in hospital emergency departments and hotels. There is no process to assess and address services statewide.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided did not demonstrate that services were individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency. Across the state, culturally competent providers and specialized services are not consistently available or tracked. Stakeholders said that the lack of providers hinders the state's ability to meet families' needs. Supporting children with developmental or higher acuity needs was a noted challenge. Minnesota does not have flexible funding streams to support children and families.

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

Items	Rating
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Strength

Minnesota 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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The information provided indicates that Minnesota has statewide processes and partnerships in place to ensure meaningful consultation with stakeholders. These efforts support the implementation of the CFSP, development of related APSRs, collection of feedback on programs and processes, and incorporation of major stakeholder concerns into the CFSP process. Consultation and engagement activities included joint projects with the courts, story collection and sensemaking initiatives, community forums and listening sessions, advisory councils, oversight committees, citizen review panels, rapid case consultations, focus groups, and ongoing feedback through meetings and publications.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information support that the state's services are coordinated with other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population. In 2024, the state launched the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families, consolidating core programs for children and families from the Departments of Human Services, Education, Health, and Public Safety. The agency collaborates with partners in housing, education, early childhood development, Medicaid, and community resources, and utilizes multiple data-sharing systems and databases to support this coordination.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

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

Minnesota 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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided showed that state standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes and childcare institutions. Licensing authority is delegated to counties and private agencies for foster homes while the state provides regulatory oversight, technical assistance, and training. The state has clear policy related to variances, waivers, and a process to ensure the policy is followed for foster care placements. The Department of Human Services or Department of Corrections license residential child care institutions and monitor those facilities on an ongoing basis.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and information provided demonstrated compliance with federal requirements for criminal background clearances for licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and a process for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children that requires completion of a background check before a child is placed in a home. The state maintains a tracking system for criminal background checks. There is a process for variances, and a system is in place to monitor and notify the department and licensing agency of new background check findings. Concerns for safety in foster and adoptive placements are immediately addressed with the placement, incorporated into case planning, documented, and tracked via a corrective action plan within the case tracking system, and are evaluated during each contact between the agency and placement.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information did not demonstrate targeted or ongoing recruitment of foster families that reflect the population of children in care. Minnesota recognized this need and created a new recruitment plan as part of the 2025–2029 CFSP.

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.

- Minnesota received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.

- The data and information did not demonstrate that an effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide. The process and tracking were unclear. The state does not meet the requirements for responding to state-to-state home study requests and does not have statistical information regarding cross-county placements of children.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Minnesota 2025 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	8.67	7.47–10.0	21A–21B, FY21–22
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	10.1%	9.2%–11.0%	FY21–22

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	67% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Strength	91% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	67% 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	51% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	83% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	89% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	66% 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	45.0%	43.5%–46.6%	21B–22A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	60.9%	58.5%–63.3%	23A–23B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	45.3%	42.9%–47.7%	23A–23B
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	DQ	Lower	DQ	DQ	22A–23B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Better Than National Performance	Lower	3.48	3.34–3.6	23A–23B

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	90% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Strength	96% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	81% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Strength	98% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	85% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	83% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1: FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	62% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Strength	91% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	65% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Strength	97% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	76% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	64% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	53% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	In Substantial Conformity	96% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Strength	96% 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	84% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	84% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Strength	91% Strength

Ratings for Systemic Factors

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

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

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
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 and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Minnesota CFSR (State-Led) 2025

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

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

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

Practice Description	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	87.5% (21 of 24)
(Question 1B) Face-to-face contact with the child(ren) who is (are) the subject of the report were made in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	75% (18 of 24)
(Question 1C) Reasons for delays in initiation of investigations or assessments and/or face-to-face contact were due to circumstances beyond the control of the agency.	0% (0 of 6)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	75% (18 of 24)

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

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— 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.	23.53% (4 of 17)	100% (5 of 5)	100% (1 of 1)	43.48% (10 of 23)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	52.94% (9 of 17)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	52.94% (9 of 17)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	5.88% (1 of 17)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	5.88% (1 of 17)
(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.	5.88% (1 of 17)	0% (0 of 5)	0% (0 of 1)	4.35% (1 of 23)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	88.24% (15 of 17)	100% (5 of 5)	100% (1 of 1)	91.3% (21 of 23)

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/assessed.	100% (41 of 41)	100% (22 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	100% (66 of 66)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (41 of 41)	100% (22 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	100% (66 of 66)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	100% (9 of 9)	87.5% (7 of 8)	100% (2 of 2)	94.74% (18 of 19)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	82.93% (34 of 41)	45.45% (10 of 22)	66.67% (2 of 3)	69.7% (46 of 66)
(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.	92.31% (12 of 13)	88.89% (8 of 9)	100% (1 of 1)	91.3% (21 of 23)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	96.15% (25 of 26)	81.82% (9 of 11)	100% (1 of 1)	92.11% (35 of 38)
(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.	96.15% (25 of 26)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	96.15% (25 of 26)
(Question 3F) There were no concerns for the target child's safety in the foster home or placement facility that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	97.56% (40 of 41)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	97.56% (40 of 41)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	80.49% (33 of 41)	40.91% (9 of 22)	66.67% (2 of 3)	66.67% (44 of 66)

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.	40% (4 of 10)	40% (4 of 10)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	95.12% (39 of 41)	95.12% (39 of 41)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	82.93% (34 of 41)	82.93% (34 of 41)

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% (37 of 37)	100% (37 of 37)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	94.59% (35 of 37)	94.59% (35 of 37)
(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.	100% (37 of 37)	100% (37 of 37)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	54.05% (20 of 37)	54.05% (20 of 37)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 17)	0% (0 of 17)
(Questions 5F and 5G) The agency filed or joined a TPR petition before the period under review (PUR) or in a timely manner during the PUR or an exception applied.	85% (17 of 20)	85% (17 of 20)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	89.19% (33 of 37)	89.19% (33 of 37)

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.	90.91% (10 of 11)	90.91% (10 of 11)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	50% (1 of 2)	50% (1 of 2)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	50% (6 of 12)	50% (6 of 12)
(Questions 6A4 and 6C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to place a child with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) in a living arrangement that can be considered permanent until discharge from foster care.	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)
(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.	60% (9 of 15)	60% (9 of 15)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	65.85% (27 of 41)	65.85% (27 of 41)

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.	67.86% (19 of 28)	67.86% (19 of 28)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	88.89% (8 of 9)	88.89% (8 of 9)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	96.43% (27 of 28)	96.43% (27 of 28)

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.	21.74% (5 of 23)	21.74% (5 of 23)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	30.43% (7 of 23)	30.43% (7 of 23)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	8.7% (2 of 23)	8.7% (2 of 23)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	13.04% (3 of 23)	13.04% (3 of 23)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	8.7% (2 of 23)	8.7% (2 of 23)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	21.74% (5 of 23)	21.74% (5 of 23)
(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.	17.39% (4 of 23)	17.39% (4 of 23)
(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.	91.3% (21 of 23)	91.3% (21 of 23)
(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.	100% (19 of 19)	100% (19 of 19)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	91.3% (21 of 23)	91.3% (21 of 23)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	26.67% (4 of 15)	26.67% (4 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	26.67% (4 of 15)	26.67% (4 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	13.33% (2 of 15)	13.33% (2 of 15)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	13.33% (2 of 15)	13.33% (2 of 15)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	13.33% (2 of 15)	13.33% (2 of 15)
(Question 8B) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	6.67% (1 of 15)	6.67% (1 of 15)
(Question 8D) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	86.67% (13 of 15)	86.67% (13 of 15)
(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.	86.67% (13 of 15)	86.67% (13 of 15)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 9)	0% (0 of 9)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	11.11% (1 of 9)	11.11% (1 of 9)
(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.	11.11% (1 of 9)	11.11% (1 of 9)
(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.	22.22% (2 of 9)	22.22% (2 of 9)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	33.33% (3 of 9)	33.33% (3 of 9)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	22.22% (2 of 9)	22.22% (2 of 9)
(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.	66.67% (6 of 9)	66.67% (6 of 9)
(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.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(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.	66.67% (6 of 9)	66.67% (6 of 9)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	81.48% (22 of 27)	81.48% (22 of 27)

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).	97.5% (39 of 40)	97.5% (39 of 40)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 9 Strength Ratings	97.5% (39 of 40)	97.5% (39 of 40)

Item 10: Relative Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative.	55.88% (19 of 34)	55.88% (19 of 34)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (19 of 19)	100% (19 of 19)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	50% (1 of 2)	50% (1 of 2)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	50% (1 of 2)	50% (1 of 2)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	50% (1 of 2)	50% (1 of 2)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	100% (2 of 2)	100% (2 of 2)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives.	80% (4 of 5)	80% (4 of 5)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives.	40% (2 of 5)	40% (2 of 5)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives.	40% (2 of 5)	40% (2 of 5)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives.	40% (2 of 5)	40% (2 of 5)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	85.29% (29 of 34)	85.29% (29 of 34)

Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 11A) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.	91.3% (21 of 23)	91.3% (21 of 23)
(Question 11B) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.	80% (12 of 15)	80% (12 of 15)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	83.33% (20 of 24)	83.33% (20 of 24)

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	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 12 Strength Ratings	75.61% (31 of 41)	54.55% (12 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	69.7% (46 of 66)

Sub-Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— 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.	100% (41 of 41)	81.82% (18 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	93.94% (62 of 66)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	100% (17 of 17)	84.62% (11 of 13)	100% (1 of 1)	93.55% (29 of 31)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	100% (41 of 41)	72.73% (16 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	90.91% (60 of 66)

Sub-Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— 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.	75% (18 of 24)	90.48% (19 of 21)	100% (3 of 3)	83.33% (40 of 48)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	76.19% (16 of 21)	83.33% (15 of 18)	100% (2 of 2)	80.49% (33 of 41)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	70.83% (17 of 24)	76.19% (16 of 21)	100% (3 of 3)	75% (36 of 48)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	64.71% (11 of 17)	64.29% (9 of 14)	0	64.52% (20 of 31)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	69.23% (9 of 13)	87.5% (7 of 8)	0	76.19% (16 of 21)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	58.82% (10 of 17)	57.14% (8 of 14)	0	58.06% (18 of 31)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	61.54% (16 of 26)	63.64% (14 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	64.71% (33 of 51)

Sub-Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12C1) The agency adequately assessed the needs of the foster or pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care on an ongoing basis.	97.06% (33 of 34)	97.06% (33 of 34)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	100% (24 of 24)	100% (24 of 24)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	97.06% (33 of 34)	97.06% (33 of 34)

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— 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.	96.55% (28 of 29)	90% (18 of 20)	100% (3 of 3)	94.23% (49 of 52)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	87.5% (21 of 24)	95.24% (20 of 21)	100% (3 of 3)	91.67% (44 of 48)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	58.82% (10 of 17)	64.29% (9 of 14)	0	61.29% (19 of 31)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	78.38% (29 of 37)	68.18% (15 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	75.81% (47 of 62)

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— 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 41)	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 3)	0% (0 of 66)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	2.44% (1 of 41)	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 3)	1.52% (1 of 66)
(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.	4.88% (2 of 41)	4.55% (1 of 22)	0% (0 of 3)	4.55% (3 of 66)
(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.	85.37% (35 of 41)	50% (11 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	74.24% (49 of 66)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	7.32% (3 of 41)	40.91% (9 of 22)	0% (0 of 3)	18.18% (12 of 66)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 41)	4.55% (1 of 22)	0% (0 of 3)	1.52% (1 of 66)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	85.37% (35 of 41)	59.09% (13 of 22)	100% (3 of 3)	77.27% (51 of 66)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	87.8% (36 of 41)	61.9% (13 of 21)	66.67% (2 of 3)	78.46% (51 of 65)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	75.61% (31 of 41)	40.91% (9 of 22)	66.67% (2 of 3)	63.64% (42 of 66)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— 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 24)	0% (0 of 21)	0% (0 of 3)	0% (0 of 48)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	8.33% (2 of 24)	0% (0) of 21)	0% (0 of 3)	4.17% (2 of 48)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	12.5% (3 of 24)	14.29% (3 of 21)	0% (0 of 3)	12.5% (6 of 48)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	37.5% (9 of 24)	28.57% (6 of 21)	33.33% (1 of 3)	33.33% (16 of 48)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	41.67% (10 of 24)	52.38% (11 of 21)	66.67% (2 of 3)	47.92% (23 of 48)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	0% (0 of 24)	4.76% (1 of 21)	0% (0 of 3)	2.08% (1 of 48)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	66.67% (16 of 24)	71.43% (15 of 21)	66.67% (2 of 3)	68.75% (33 of 48)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	70.83% (17 of 24)	90% (18 of 20)	66.67% (2 of 3)	78.72% (37 of 47)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	58.33% (14 of 24)	71.43% (15 of 21)	66.67% (2 of 3)	64.58% (31 of 48)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 17)	0% (0 of 14)	0	0% (0 of 31)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	5.88% (1 of 17)	0% (0) of 14)	0	3.23% (1 of 31)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	5.88% (1 of 17)	0% (0 of 14)	0	3.23% (1 of 31)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	35.29% (6 of 17)	14.29% (2 of 14)	0	25.81% (8 of 31)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	47.06% (8 of 17)	78.57% (11 of 14)	0	61.29% (19 of 31)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	5.88% (1 of 17)	7.14% (1 of 14)	0	6.45% (2 of 31)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	52.94% (9 of 17)	50% (7 of 14)	0	51.61% (16 of 31)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	56.25% (9 of 16)	75% (9 of 12)	0	64.29% (18 of 28)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	41.18% (7 of 17)	50% (7 of 14)	0	45.16% (14 of 31)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	50% (13 of 26)	54.55% (12 of 22)	66.67% (2 of 3)	52.94% (27 of 51)

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

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— 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.	97.3% (36 of 37)	93.33% (14 of 15)	100% (1 of 1)	96.23% (51 of 53)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	96.3% (26 of 27)	92.86% (13 of 14)	0	95.12% (39 of 41)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	97.3% (36 of 37)	93.33% (14 of 15)	100% (1 of 1)	96.23% (51 of 53)

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	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	97.56% (40 of 41)	100% (3 of 3)	0	97.73% (43 of 44)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (9 of 9)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100% (9 of 9)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	92.68% (38 of 41)	100% (3 of 3)	0	93.18% (41 of 44)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	94.74% (36 of 38)	100% (1 of 1)	0	94.87% (37 of 39)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	84.21% (32 of 38)	100% (1 of 1)	0	84.62% (33 of 39)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	82.93% (34 of 41)	100% (3 of 3)	0	84.09% (37 of 44)

Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs.	97.06% (33 of 34)	94.74% (18 of 19)	100% (1 of 1)	96.3% (52 of 54)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (11 of 11)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100% (11 of 11)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	88% (22 of 25)	88.89% (16 of 18)	100% (1 of 1)	88.64% (39 of 44)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	91.18% (31 of 34)	89.47% (17 of 19)	100% (1 of 1)	90.74% (49 of 54)