Child & Family SERVICES REVIEWS

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Arkansas

FINAL REPORT

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

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Final Report: Arkansas Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment, prepared by the Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and submitted to the CB on July 25, 2025. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The February 2025 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 100 cases (59 foster care, 34 in-home services, and 7 in-home differential/alternative response), conducted via a State-Led Review process in Arkansas during October 2025 through March 2026 examining case practices occurring October 2024 through March 2026.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Attorneys for children and youth
  - Attorneys for parents
  - Child welfare agency executive staff and area directors
  - Child welfare agency and child placement agency licensing staff
  - Child welfare caseworkers and supervisors
  - Court Appointed Special Advocates
  - Foster and adoptive parents
  - Information and data team
  - Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) staff
  - Judges
  - Office of Chief Council staff
  - Parents
  - Program directors
  - Service providers
  - Youth

Background Information

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

conformity with a particular outcome, 95% or more of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome. In addition, for Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's RSP on applicable statewide data indicators must be better than or no different than national performance. This determination for substantial conformity is based on the data profile transmitted to the state to signal the start of that state's CFSR. The state's RSP in subsequent data profiles will be factored into the determination of indicators required to be included in the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

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

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

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

Arkansas 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

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

Arkansas was found in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes:

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

- Quality Assurance System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

CB Comments on State Performance

DCFS is the state agency dedicated to ensuring safety and permanency for children and youth of all ages and to strengthening families. DCFS administers and supervises all child welfare services, including child abuse and neglect prevention, protective services, foster care, and adoptive programs, across 10 service areas in all 75 counties. The agency values foundational relationships with children, youth, and families; collaborative partnerships; and shared responsibility with community partners. DCFS demonstrates its values in the context of its "At One Table" practice mode—a collective vision and shared commitment to ensuring that every child has a safe, stable, and nurturing family every day.

In 2016, during CFSR Round 3, DCFS conducted a State-Led Review. The review found that the state's child welfare system was not in substantial conformity with federal requirements in all 7 outcome areas and 3 of the 7 systemic factors. The CB approved Arkansas's Round 3 CFSR PIP on October 15, 2019, with a 2-year implementation period beginning October 17, 2019. The CB determined that the state successfully completed all required PIP strategies and achieved all the associated PIP measurement goals on December 21, 2021.

Arkansas's Round 4 State-Led Review was conducted between October 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, with stakeholder interviews conducted the week of November 17, 2025. The CB found that Arkansas was not in substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes: Safety Outcome 1, Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect; Safety Outcome 2, Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate; Permanency Outcome 1, Children have permanency and stability in their living situations; Permanency Outcome 2, The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children; Well-Being Outcome 1, Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs; Well-Being Outcome 2, Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; and Well-Being Outcome 3, Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs. The CB also found Arkansas to be in substantial conformity with 2 of the 7 systemic factors: Quality Assurance System and Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

For Safety Outcome 1, investigations were initiated timely in 81% of applicable cases with face-to-face contact also occurring according to state policy in 81% of applicable cases. For Safety Outcome 2, in 89.5% of the applicable cases, the state made concerted efforts to address risk and safety concerns that, unmitigated, would lead to entry into foster care. The agency accomplished this through facilitating or providing intensive in-home and supportive services, including Safe Care in-home parenting services, Triple P, and substance use treatment services. Further, the cases reviewed demonstrated comprehensive and accurate initial and ongoing assessments of risk and safety, and in more foster care cases than in-home services cases, adequate safety planning. Strong risk and safety assessment and monitoring practices included quality monthly contact with children and families in their home environments, observations of the interaction among all household members, and use of collateral contacts. Challenges to risk and safety assessment and safety planning were largely driven by a lack of consistent and quality contact with children and parents.

Arkansas's performance on Permanency Outcome 1, which assesses whether children in foster care experience permanency and stability in their living situations, was substantially achieved in 56% of the foster care cases reviewed and was the lowest-performing outcome for Arkansas. For Item 4, Placement Stability, most children in the sample had one stable placement or only planned moves supporting the child's best interests during the period under review. Those who had unplanned moves largely experienced those placement disruptions due to mental health or behavioral needs requiring more support.

Most permanency goals were established timely and appropriately (Item 5), but in some of the cases reviewed, there were delays in establishing adoption when appropriate within federal expectations and changing goals from reunification when they were no longer appropriate. Applicable cases demonstrated appropriate considerations when determining permanency goals, including parental progress or lack thereof, children's needs, caregiver needs, and family dynamics.

Challenges in achieving timely permanency (Item 6) were the main contributing factors to the Permanency Outcome 1 rating. Legal and judicial professionals, along with the agency, are jointly responsible for ensuring that children and youth achieve permanency timely. There was a lack of concerted efforts to achieve timely permanency in 18 of the 59 foster care cases reviewed. Various agency and judicial practices contributed to delays, including lack of service provision to support reunification, adoption, and guardianship, process and finalization delays, and court calendaring practices. Arkansas can leverage its collaboration with legal and judicial professionals to identify the practices and policies that affect timely and appropriate permanency and develop strategies to address these barriers.

For Permanency Outcome 2, most children in the foster care cases reviewed were placed with siblings when appropriate, and many were placed with appropriate relatives—both maternal and paternal. The review also found that Arkansas routinely ensured that frequent and quality visits occurred between the target child in foster care and parents and siblings.

For Well-Being Outcome 1, 60% of the cases were rated as substantially achieved. This outcome comprises needs and services to children, parents, and foster parents; child and family involvement in case planning; and caseworker visits with children and parents. The practice assessed in 3 of the items in this outcome—Sub-Item 12B, Item 13, and Item 15—focuses on parent engagement, which is foundational for improving safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Sub-Item 12B, Needs and Services to Parents, was rated as a Strength in 59% of the 83 cases reviewed, and Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, was rated as a Strength in 59% of the cases reviewed. When considering case practices related to parent engagement in case planning as assessed in Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, 67% of the applicable 95 cases identified positive practices. As with parent engagement, quality caseworker visits with children support the system's ability to conduct comprehensive and accurate assessments of risk, safety, and needs. In the cases reviewed for Arkansas's Round 4 CFSR, caseworker visits with children were of sufficient frequency and quality in 82% of the cases overall, with 88% of foster care cases rated as a Strength and 72.5% of in-home services cases rated as a Strength.

Arkansas also demonstrated strong performance in assessing and meeting the educational needs of children (Well-Being Outcome 2). Both the assessment and the provision of appropriate services to meet children's educational needs were rated highly, resulting in Item 16, Educational Needs of the Child, being rated as a Strength in 89% of the applicable cases. Case review results showed that the state collaborated with school personnel and caregivers to help identify, address, and monitor children's educational needs and performance.

For Well-Being Outcome 3, 66% of cases were rated as Substantially Achieved. This outcome comprises children's physical, dental, and mental/behavioral health needs, including medication management. In 79.5% of Arkansas's applicable CFSR cases, children's physical health needs were assessed and addressed. In 64% of the applicable cases, children's mental and behavioral health needs were assessed and addressed.

The CB recognizes Arkansas's demonstrated strengths in key areas of child welfare practice and notes that the Round 4 CFSR findings related to placement stability, permanency, needs assessment, and service array support the state's decision to participate in and leverage the flexibilities outlined in CFSR Technical Bulletin (TB) #14 and offered by the *A Home for Every Child* (AH4EC) PIP pilot initiative. The initiative also aligns with and provides an additional opportunity to further Arkansas's statewide collaboration, Every Child Arkansas,

which brings together Arkansas DCFS, faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to recruit, support, and retain resource (foster) families.

As Arkansas works to address the concerns highlighted in the CFSR, the CB encourages the state to explore, through the AH4EC PIP pilot's flexibilities, how the state's work supports the overarching goal of achieving, sustaining, or exceeding a 1:1 ratio of licensed foster homes to children in foster care. Statewide, Arkansas has demonstrated fruitful partnerships with relatives, resource parents, and the educational system; meaningful strides in achieving permanency for children and youth; and a meaningful commitment to continuous quality improvement (CQI). These strengths provide a strong foundation for Arkansas's AH4EC PIP to drive cohesive, targeted, outcome-driven, and sustainable improvements grounded in achieving the AH4EC 1:1 ratio. This approach is consistent with the intent of TB #14 to reduce administrative burden, strengthen CQI, and focus state and federal partnerships on building and sustaining the capacity to ensure that every child in Arkansas has access to a safe, stable, and appropriate family home.

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

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

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

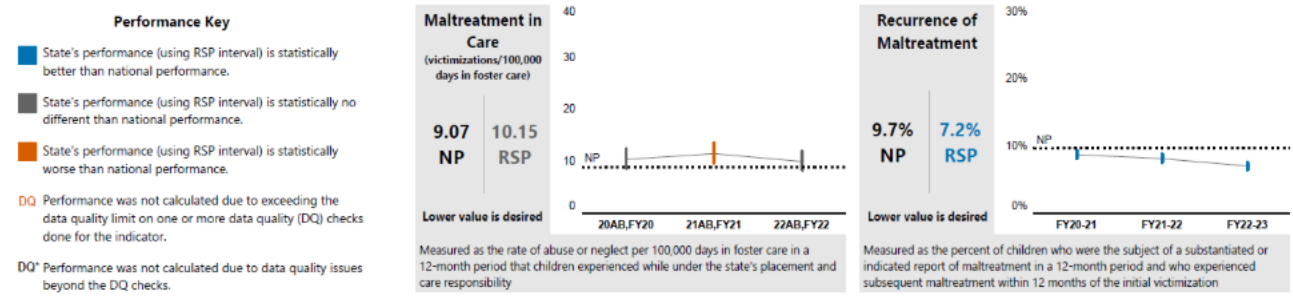
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that all accepted reports of known or suspected child maltreatment be promptly investigated and immediate steps taken to protect a maltreated child and any other child under the care of the same alleged offender who may also be in danger of maltreatment. Reports assigned as Priority I require a face-to-face attempt to see the alleged victim(s) within 24 hours of receipt of the report or 72 hours of a Priority II report. Initiation occurs when all victim children have been interviewed (or observed, if too young for an interview) within the designated timeframes.

Statewide Data Indicators

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

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Arkansas 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 better than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 1.

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2025 Profile	February 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	No Different	Not calculated due to data Quality issue	Not calculated due to data quality issue	No
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	Better	Better	Better	No

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

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

Arkansas's data submission had data quality concerns in the most recent reporting period on the statewide data indicator for maltreatment in care, preventing calculation of the state's performance on this indicator. The calculation of maltreatment in care uses a ratio of total victimizations per 100,000 days children were in care during a 12-month period (cumulative days across all children). Prior to the FY 2023 reporting period, performance had improved from a rate of 8.77 victimizations per 100,000 days in care in FY 2021 (statistically worse than national performance) to a rate of 7.64 in FY 2022 (statistically no different than national performance).
Arkansas's performance on recurrence of maltreatment was statistically better than national performance for all reporting periods. The following are notable observations for Arkansas's recurrence of maltreatment observed performance:

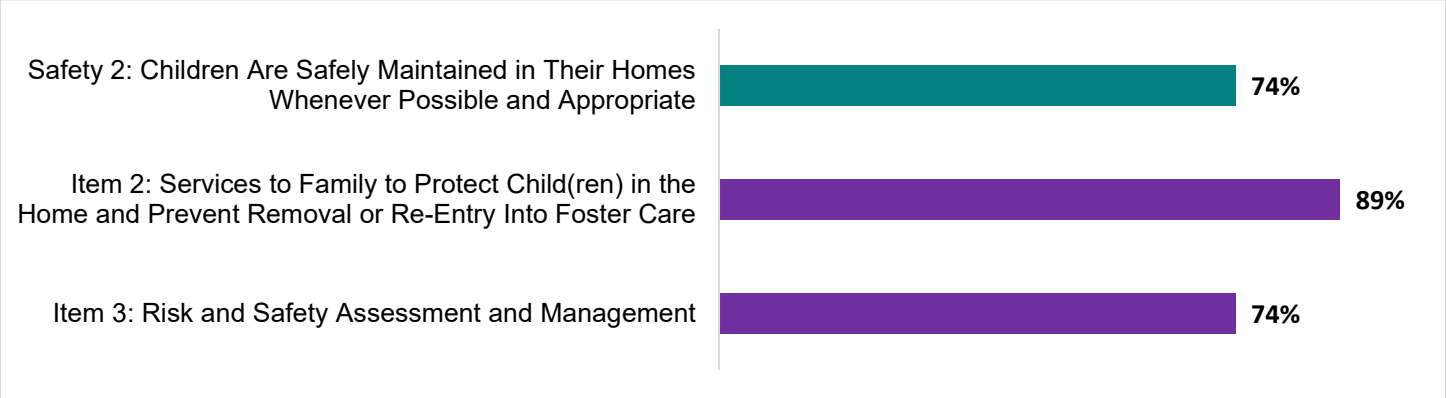
- Washington and Sebastian Counties have the second and third highest numbers of children, respectively, for this indicator, and performance on this indicator is worse than overall statewide performance in the most recent reporting period. These counties have a disproportionately high frequency of maltreatment recurrence. While Washington County represents 7.6% of the state's initial victimizations and Sebastian County represents 5.7% of initial victimizations, each county has 10.1% of the state's recurring victimizations (collectively more than 20% of the state's recurring victimizations).
- Pulaski County has the highest number of children for this indicator, and performance on this indicator has been the same as or better than overall statewide performance for each of the three most recent reporting periods.

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

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

Case Review

Figure 3. Performance on Safety Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



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

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

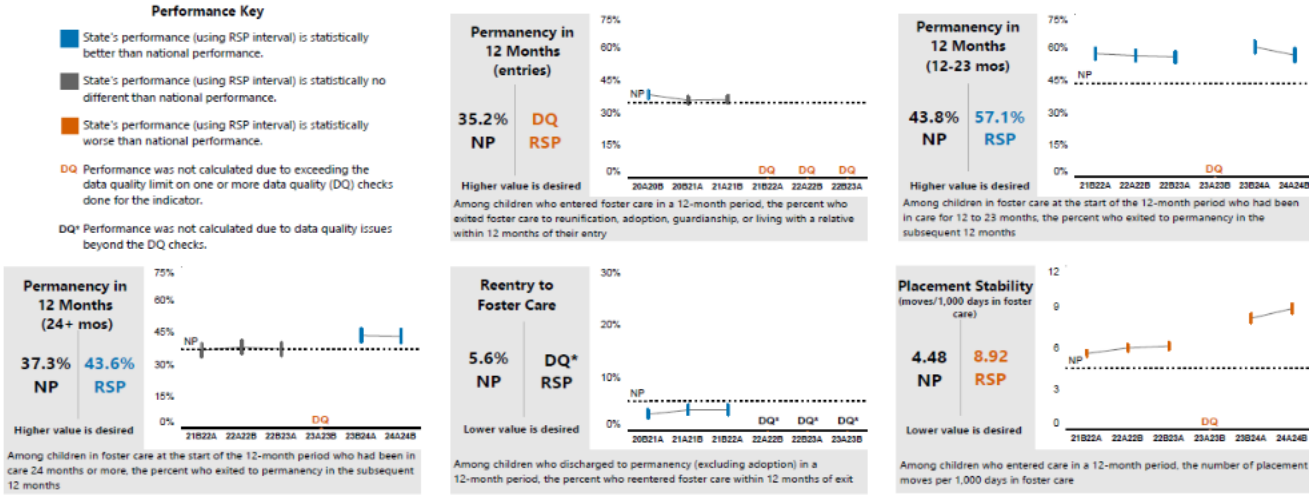
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

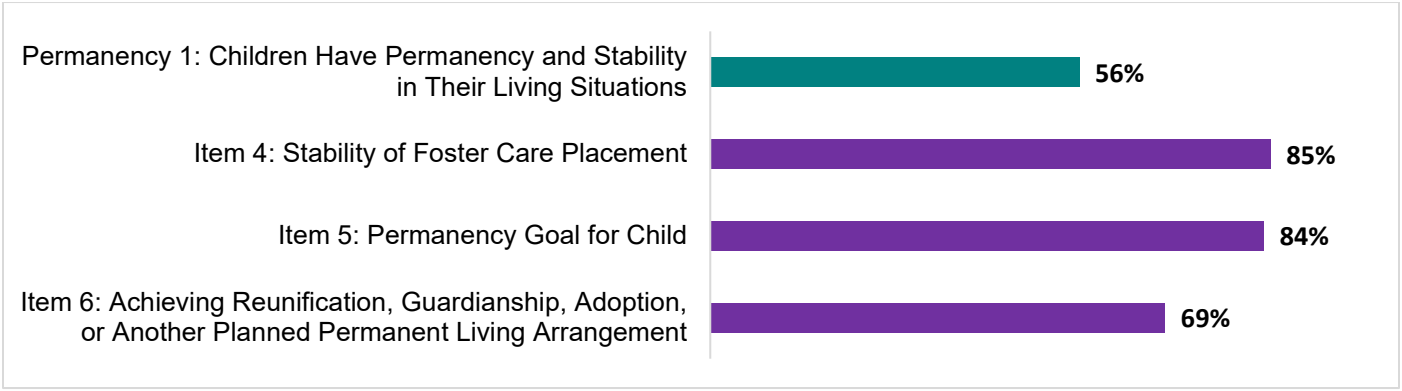
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Arkansas 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 not calculated due to data quality issue(s).
- 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 due to data quality issue(s).
- The state's performance on the "placement stability" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance. Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6.

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2025 Profile	February 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Not calculated due to Data Quality issue	Not calculated due to data quality issue	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Better	Better	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Better	Better	Better	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	Not calculated due to Data Quality issue	No Different	No Different	No
Placement stability	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

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

Although data quality concerns prevented calculation of performance on the "Permanency in 12 months for children entering care" data indicator for 4 of the 6 data reporting periods included in the state data profile, Arkansas was able to resolve these concerns for the 23B24A period, and performance was statistically better than national performance for this most recent reporting period. The following are notable observations regarding Arkansas'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:

- Arkansas's foster care entry rate trended downward from 4.14 entries per 1,000 children in the population in FY 2021 to a rate of 2.72 entries per 1,000 children in FY 2024, with a slight uptick in 2025 to a rate of 2.80. This rate is above the national entry rate (2.28 entries per 1,000 children in the population).
- Pulaski, Sebastian, and Washington Counties had the highest numbers of entries for the "Permanency in 12 months for children entering care," and performance is worse than overall statewide performance on this indicator.

- Among these counties, Sebastian County had a higher entry rate than the statewide entry rate at 5.21 entries per 1,000 children in the population. Pulaski and Washington Counties' entry rates were lower than statewide foster care entry rates.

Performance on the two statewide data indicators for later-term permanency—(1) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months and (2) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more—was statistically better than national performance across the four most recent reporting periods (data quality issues affected the 23A23B reporting period). The following are notable observations for Arkansas's performance on this indicator:

- Pulaski County had the most children in care for each indicator; however, the performance in each indicator is worse than the overall statewide performance.
- Sebastian County had the second most children in care for each indicator; however, the performance in each indicator was better than overall statewide performance for the most recent reporting period.
- Among children with longer stays in care (24+ months), Washington and Garland Counties had a higher than proportional percentage of exits to permanency. Washington had 4.9% of the state's children in care in this cohort and 6.6% of the state's exits to permanency, while Garland had 3.7% of the state's children in care for this indicator and 5.2% of the state's exits to permanency.

Arkansas's performance on the statewide data indicator for reentry to foster care was statistically no different than national performance for the two most recent reporting periods (data quality issues affected prior reporting periods, as noted above). The following are notable observations for Arkansas's reentry to foster care observed performance:

- Pulaski County accounted for the greatest number of exits from foster care (the denominator) but was among the lowest for reentries (the numerator). Pulaski had 13.2% of the state's total exits and only 4.3% of reentries.
- Sebastian County had the next highest number of children in this indicator, with 9.4% of the state's total exits but a disproportionately higher frequency of reentries at 12.9% of the state's reentries. Garland, Jefferson, and Union Counties also had disproportionately higher frequencies of reentries, each with 7.1% of the state's reentries but 4.8%, 2.0%, and 1.9% of the state's exits, respectively.

Performance on the statewide data indicator for placement stability was statistically worse than national performance for the four most recent reporting periods, with a worsening trend overall. The following are notable observations for Arkansas's placement stability observed performance:

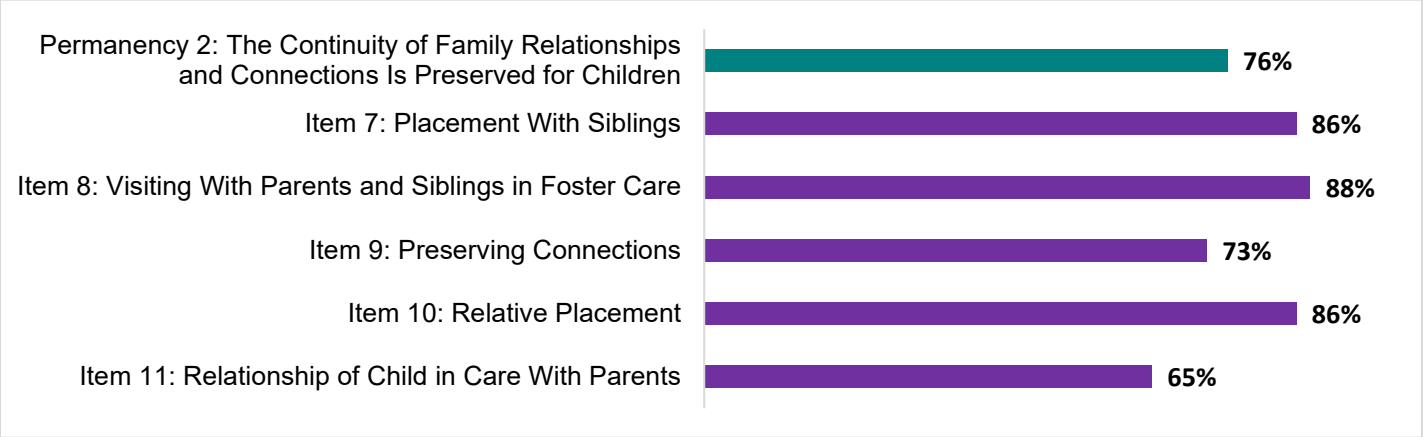
- Of all age groups, children under age 1 at entry had the best placement stability rate (5.99 moves per 1,000 days in care), while children ages 11 to 16 at entry experienced the greatest placement instability rate (13.89 moves per 1,000 days in care).
- Sebastian County had the highest number of days in care (denominator) and the highest number of moves (numerator), followed by Pulaski County. Both counties had placement stability rates worse than statewide performance on this indicator for the most recent reporting period.
- Craighead County had the third highest number of days in care, but performance was slightly better than overall statewide performance for the most recent reporting period.

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



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

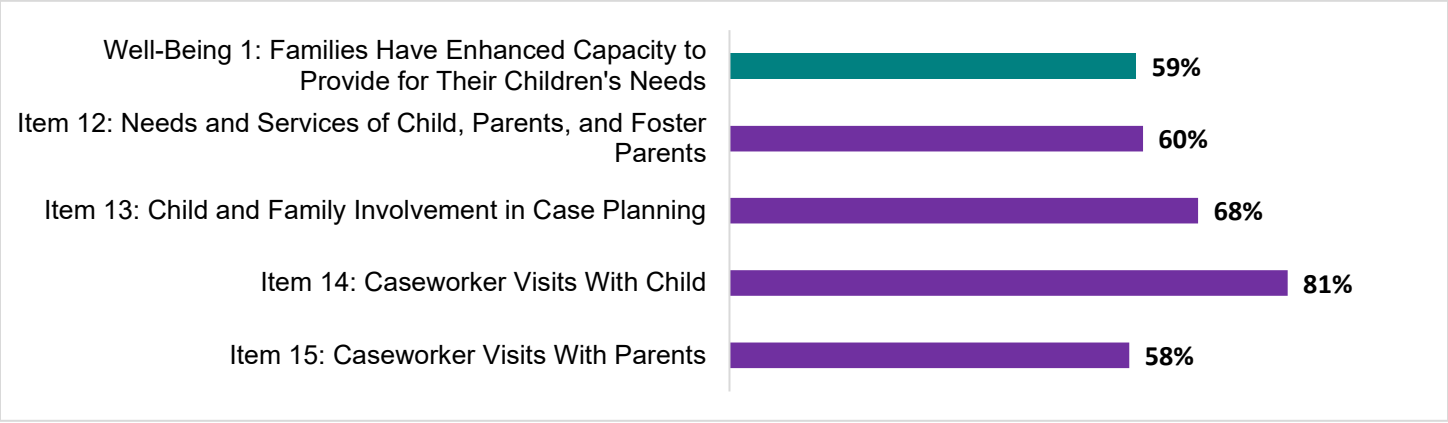
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

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

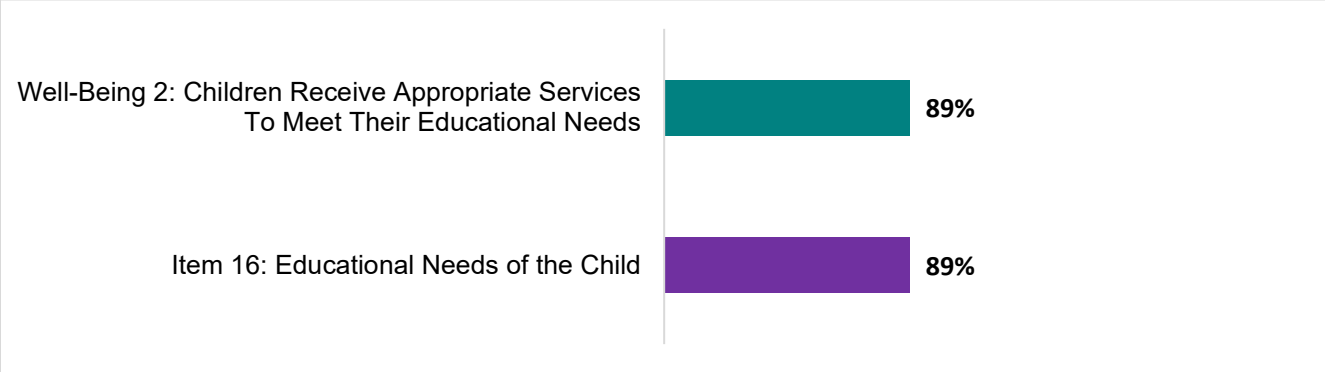
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 13.
- Less than 90% of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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

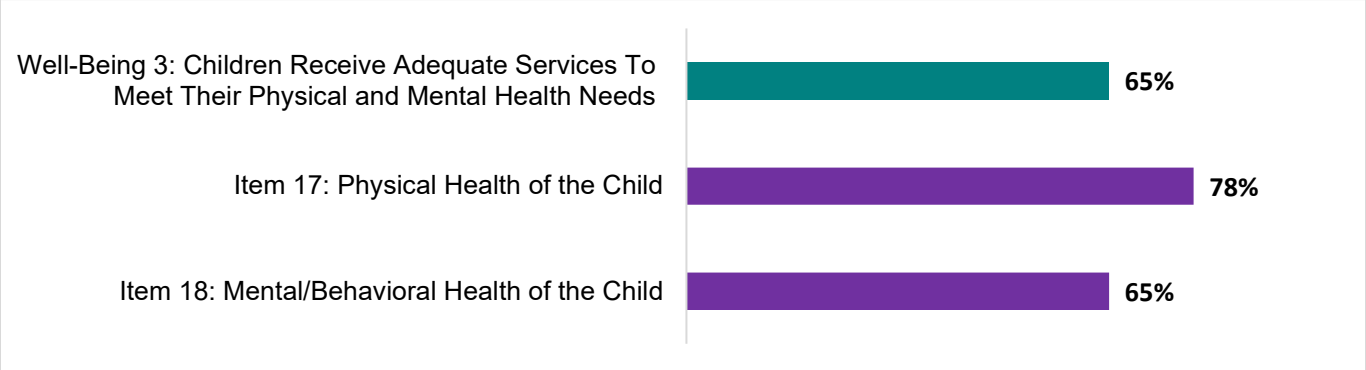
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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

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

Case Review

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



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

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

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Area Needing Improvement

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

Item 19: Statewide Information System

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

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state do not indicate that the state has a system in place to ensure the timely entry, or mechanisms to evaluate the accuracy, of the four data elements in the statewide information system.

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

Arkansas 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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided by the state indicate that although there is a process in place requiring that a case plan be developed for each child in foster care and that such plans are jointly developed with the child's parents, there is insufficient data or evidence to demonstrate that children's case plans are developed jointly with the child's parents.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

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

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Due to limitations in data system integration and reporting, the state could not demonstrate that each child receives a periodic review at least once every 6 months, as required, or that the data entered in the various tracking mechanisms are accurate or entered timely.

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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state do not demonstrate that each child receives a permanency hearing no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and at least every 12 months thereafter. Although DCFS case reviews and staff interviews suggest that hearings are routinely held and that the case review system functions effectively in practice, the state lacks the system integration necessary to validate that all initial hearings meet the federal 12-month requirement.

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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided by the state do not demonstrate that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions are routinely filed in accordance with federal requirements. Limitations in data integration and completeness across the Children's Reporting and Information System (CHRIS), DNet, and Rocket Matter hinder the ongoing monitoring of TPR filing, tracking of exceptions to filing, or monitoring whether petitions are filed in a timely manner.

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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state did not demonstrate that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are consistently receiving notifications of periodic reviews and permanency hearings or their right to be heard. While Arkansas statute requires that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers receive the required notifications, Arkansas captures this information solely through notes in narrative format and therefore there is limited data to demonstrate the functioning of this item.

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

Arkansas 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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided by the state indicate that Arkansas's Quality Assurance (QA) and CQI systems are functioning statewide, covering each of the state's judicial districts and counties. The CQI system includes established standards, regular case reviews, and robust reporting mechanisms. The Quality Services Peer Review (QSPR) effectively identifies strengths and areas needing improvement and incorporates stakeholder input, data analysis, and structured feedback loops to drive systemic change. Arkansas demonstrates a well-functioning QA system that supports ongoing evaluation and improvement of child welfare services.

Staff and Provider Training

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

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

Arkansas 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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state demonstrate that while the state provides timely, structured initial training that provides staff with foundational knowledge aligned with required competencies, significant gaps remain in role-specific training, practical skill application, and consistency in implementation. Additionally, the information provided suggests a disconnect between training and field practice, limited coaching and mentoring opportunities, and limited supervisory support, which collectively lower the effectiveness of the training system in fully preparing staff to carry out their duties.

Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training

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

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided by the state demonstrate that while DCFS provides a wide range of ongoing training opportunities and has established requirements for staff, the lack of a centralized tracking system, variability in supervisory support, reliance on manual tracking, and fragmented data across multiple platforms prevent the state from determining compliance and overall effectiveness.

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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state do not demonstrate that training effectively equips licensed caregivers and residential staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the needs of children in their care. Insufficient preparation and support may reduce caregiver retention and placement stability. In addition, Arkansas did not provide sufficient evidence of functioning tracking mechanisms that ensure compliance with training requirements for resource parents and licensed facility staff.

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

Arkansas 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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state indicate that the state does not have an adequate array of services accessible to children and families in all jurisdictions of the state. Gaps in services, such as mental and behavioral health services and substance use treatment, and waitlists were noted. Additionally, a shortage of licensed foster homes, therapeutic foster care, and appropriate residential treatment care options has led to the use of temporary placements and children staying/sleeping in offices supervised by agency staff.

Item 30: Individualizing Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning statewide to ensure that the services in Item 29 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.

- Arkansas 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 by the state do not demonstrate that services can routinely be individualized to meet the unique needs of the children and families served by DCFS. While the agency has established tools and processes to support individualized service planning, including Safety Organized Practice (SOP), Structured Decision Making (SDM), and family team meetings, implementation is inconsistent and often results in standardized, “one-size-fits-all” service approaches. Additionally, although translation and virtual/online services are available, such services are not routinely individualized to meet the developmental needs of children and parents.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

Arkansas 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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state indicate that Arkansas engages in meaningful ongoing collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including service providers, courts, advisory groups, and community partners, in the development and implementation of the CFSP and APSR. To do so, DCFS uses multiple formal and informal mechanisms, such as advisory boards, workgroups, quarterly meetings, and public data-sharing to gather input and incorporate feedback into policy, practice, and system improvements.

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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided by the state demonstrate consistent and structured coordination with multiple federal and federally funded programs, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and services provided through partner agencies in Arkansas such as the Youth Services, Behavioral Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Services, and Correction Divisions. Formal agreements, centralized processes, and active collaboration at the state and local levels support access to services and continuity of care for children and families. While some challenges remain related to system navigation and variability in coordination across regions, the overall system effectively ensures that services are aligned and accessible.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

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

Arkansas 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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.

- Data and information provided by the state demonstrate that although consistent, clearly defined, and well-structured licensing standards are in place, agency discretion in determining licensing processes leads to inconsistent application of standardized licensing practices statewide.

Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state complies with federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided by the state demonstrate inconsistent implementation of Arkansas's established policies and systems to meet federal background check requirements. While automated tracking tools and monitoring processes are in place, information and data indicate delays in processing, gaps in follow-up, and a high number of rejected or incomplete submissions. These issues, along with variability in documentation and reliance on staff action, limit the state's ability to consistently assess and address, through a case planning process, the safety of all foster and adoptive placements.

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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided by the state demonstrate a comprehensive, data-driven approach to the diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive families. Through initiatives such as Every Child Arkansas and partnerships with The Contingent, the state actively targets recruitment efforts to reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of children in care. These efforts aim to build a caregiver pool that is responsive and representative of the children served.

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.

- Arkansas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided by the state demonstrate that home study requests from other states are not routinely completed within 60 days and that there is inconsistent use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive and permanent placements for waiting children across the state.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Arkansas 2025 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Not in Substantial Conformity	81% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	81% 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	10.15	8.49–12.14	22A–22B, FY22–23
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Better Than National Performance	Lower	7.2%	6.6%–7.8	FY22–23

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	74% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	89% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	74% 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	56% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	85% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	84% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	69% 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%	Not calculated due to data quality (DQ) issues	Higher	DQ	DQ	22B–24B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	57.1%	53.9%–60.3%	24A–24B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	43.6%	40.5%–46.7	24A–24B
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	Not calculated due to DQ issues	Lower	DQ	DQ	23A–24B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	8.92	8.59–9.2	24A–24B

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Not in Substantial Conformity	76% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	88% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	73% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	65% 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	59% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	60% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	81% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	60% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	81% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	58% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	89% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	89% 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	65% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	65% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

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

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

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

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

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

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

Practice Description	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	81.4% (35 of 43)
(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.	81.4% (35 of 43)
(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 8)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	81.4% (35 of 43)

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.	30.77% (8 of 26)	90.91% (10 of 11)	0% (0 of 1)	47.37% (18 of 38)

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.	57.69% (15 of 26)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	57.69% (15 of 26)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	7.69% (2 of 26)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	7.69% (2 of 26)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Concerted efforts were not made to provide appropriate services to address safety/risk issues and the child(ren) remained in the home.	0% (0 of 26)	9.09% (1 of 11)	100% (1 of 1)	5.26% (2 of 38)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	92.31% (24 of 26)	90.91% (10 of 11)	0% (0 of 1)	89.47% (34 of 38)

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.	98.31% (58 of 59)	97.06% (33 of 34)	85.71% (6 of 7)	97% (97 of 100)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (59 of 59)	97.06% (33 of 34)	100% (7 of 7)	99% (99 of 100)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	90% (18 of 20)	87.5% (14 of 16)	57.14% (4 of 7)	83.72% (36 of 43)

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.	81.36% (48 of 59)	67.65% (23 of 34)	42.86% (3 of 7)	74% (74 of 100)
(Question 3C) When safety concerns were present, the agency developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continually monitored the safety plan as needed, including monitoring family engagement in safety-related services.	75% (3 of 4)	60% (3 of 5)	100% (1 of 1)	70% (7 of 10)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	93.75% (15 of 16)	71.43% (5 of 7)	50% (1 of 2)	84% (21 of 25)
(Question 3E) There were no concerns related to the safety of the target child in foster care during visitation with parent(s)/caregiver(s) or other family members that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	100% (41 of 41)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100% (41 of 41)
(Question 3F) There were no concerns for the target child's safety in the foster home or placement facility that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	100% (59 of 59)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100% (59 of 59)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	81.36% (48 of 59)	67.65% (23 of 34)	42.86% (3 of 7)	74% (74 of 100)

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

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4B) Placement changes for the child were planned by the agency in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child.	59.09% (13 of 22)	59.09% (13 of 22)

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.	100% (59 of 59)	100% (59 of 59)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	84.75% (50 of 59)	84.75% (50 of 59)

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% (57 of 57)	100% (57 of 57)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	89.47% (51 of 57)	89.47% (51 of 57)
(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.	94.74% (54 of 57)	94.74% (54 of 57)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	49.12% (28 of 57)	49.12% (28 of 57)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 29)	0% (0 of 29)
(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.	89.47% (17 of 19)	89.47% (17 of 19)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	84.21% (48 of 57)	84.21% (48 of 57)

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.	100% (3 of 3)	100% (3 of 3)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	50% (3 of 6)	50% (3 of 6)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	58.82% (10 of 17)	58.82% (10 of 17)
(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.	75% (24 of 32)	75% (24 of 32)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	69.49% (41 of 59)	69.49% (41 of 59)

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.	55.81% (24 of 43)	55.81% (24 of 43)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	68.42% (13 of 19)	68.42% (13 of 19)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	86.05% (37 of 43)	86.05% (37 of 43)

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.	15.79% (6 of 38)	15.79% (6 of 38)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	42.11% (16 of 38)	42.11% (16 of 38)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	13.16% (5 of 38)	13.16% (5 of 38)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	15.79% (6 of 38)	15.79% (6 of 38)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	10.53% (4 of 38)	10.53% (4 of 38)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	2.63% (1 of 38)	2.63% (1 of 38)
(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.	92.11% (35 of 38)	92.11% (35 of 38)
(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.	91.89% (34 of 37)	91.89% (34 of 37)
(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.	92.11% (35 of 38)	92.11% (35 of 38)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	22.22% (4 of 18)	22.22% (4 of 18)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	38.89% (7 of 18)	38.89% (7 of 18)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	11.11% (2 of 18)	11.11% (2 of 18)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 18)

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.	16.67% (3 of 18)	16.67% (3 of 18)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	11.11% (2 of 18)	11.11% (2 of 18)
(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.	94.44% (17 of 18)	94.44% (17 of 18)
(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.	100% (16 of 16)	100% (16 of 16)
(Questions 8B and 8D) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and father was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	94.44% (17 of 18)	94.44% (17 of 18)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	15.79% (3 of 19)	15.79% (3 of 19)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	26.32% (5 of 19)	26.32% (5 of 19)
(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.	36.84% (7 of 19)	36.84% (7 of 19)
(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.	5.26% (1 of 19)	5.26% (1 of 19)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	15.79% (3 of 19)	15.79% (3 of 19)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 19)
(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.	89.47% (17 of 19)	89.47% (17 of 19)
(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.	89.47% (17 of 19)	89.47% (17 of 19)
(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.	89.47% (17 of 19)	89.47% (17 of 19)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	88.37% (38 of 43)	88.37% (38 of 43)

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).	72.88% (43 of 59)	72.88% (43 of 59)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 9 Strength Ratings	72.88% (43 of 59)	72.88% (43 of 59)

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.	38.98% (23 of 59)	38.98% (23 of 59)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (23 of 23)	100% (23 of 23)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** maternal relatives.	83.33% (5 of 6)	83.33% (5 of 6)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** maternal relatives.	66.67% (4 of 6)	66.67% (4 of 6)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** maternal relatives.	83.33% (5 of 6)	83.33% (5 of 6)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** maternal relatives.	66.67% (4 of 6)	66.67% (4 of 6)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** paternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** paternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** paternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	86.44% (51 of 59)	86.44% (51 of 59)

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.	71.05% (27 of 38)	71.05% (27 of 38)
(Question 11B) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.	61.11% (11 of 18)	61.11% (11 of 18)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	65% (26 of 40)	65% (26 of 40)

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	66.1% (39 of 59)	50% (17 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	60% (60 of 100)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	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.	89.83% (53 of 59)	70.59% (24 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	81% (81 of 100)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	83.33% (20 of 24)	33.33% (4 of 12)	40% (2 of 5)	63.41% (26 of 41)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	89.83% (53 of 59)	70.59% (24 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	81% (81 of 100)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	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.	77.5% (31 of 40)	69.7% (23 of 33)	71.43% (5 of 7)	73.75% (59 of 80)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	78.38% (29 of 37)	66.67% (18 of 27)	25% (1 of 4)	70.59% (48 of 68)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	75% (30 of 40)	66.67% (22 of 33)	57.14% (4 of 7)	70% (56 of 80)

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.	65.22% (15 of 23)	52.94% (9 of 17)	100% (2 of 2)	61.9% (26 of 42)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	70% (14 of 20)	60% (6 of 10)	0	66.67% (20 of 30)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	65.22% (15 of 23)	52.94% (9 of 17)	100% (2 of 2)	61.9% (26 of 42)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	62.79% (27 of 43)	55.88% (19 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	59.52% (50 of 84)

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.	86.44% (51 of 59)	86.44% (51 of 59)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	73.33% (11 of 15)	73.33% (11 of 15)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	86.44% (51 of 59)	86.44% (51 of 59)

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.	83.33% (30 of 36)	68.18% (15 of 22)	57.14% (4 of 7)	75.38% (49 of 65)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	82.5% (33 of 40)	72.73% (24 of 33)	57.14% (4 of 7)	76.25% (61 of 80)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	70% (14 of 20)	52.94% (9 of 17)	100% (2 of 2)	64.1% (25 of 39)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	72.73% (40 of 55)	61.76% (21 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	67.71% (65 of 96)

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.	3.39% (2 of 59)	0% (0 of 34)	0% (0 of 7)	2% (2 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	5.08% (3 of 59)	2.94% (1 of 34)	0% (0 of 7)	4% (4 of 100)
(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.	8.47% (5 of 59)	11.76% (4 of 34)	0% (0 of 7)	9% (9 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	72.88% (43 of 59)	67.65% (23 of 34)	71.43% (5 of 7)	71% (71 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	8.47% (5 of 59)	17.65% (6 of 34)	28.57% (2 of 7)	13% (13 of 100)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	1.69% (1 of 59)	0% (0 of 34)	0% (0 of 7)	1% (1 of 100)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	89.83% (53 of 59)	79.41% (27 of 34)	71.43% (5 of 7)	85% (85 of 100)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	91.38% (53 of 58)	85.29% (29 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	86.87% (86 of 99)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	88.14% (52 of 59)	73.53% (25 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	81% (81 of 100)

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 40)	0% (0 of 33)	0% (0 of 7)	0% (0 of 80)

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.	10% (4 of 40)	3.03% (1 of 33)	0% (0 of 7)	6.25% (5 of 80)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	10% (4 of 40)	15.15% (5 of 33)	0% (0 of 7)	11.25% (9 of 80)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	60% (24 of 40)	60.61% (20 of 33)	71.43% (5 of 7)	61.25% (49 of 80)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	15% (6 of 40)	18.18% (6 of 33)	28.57% (2 of 7)	17.5% (14 of 80)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	5% (2 of 40)	3.03% (1 of 33)	0% (0 of 7)	3.75% (3 of 80)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	82.5% (33 of 40)	78.79% (26 of 33)	71.43% (5 of 7)	80% (64 of 80)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	86.84% (33 of 38)	70.97% (22 of 31)	57.14% (4 of 7)	77.63% (59 of 76)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	80% (32 of 40)	60.61% (20 of 33)	57.14% (4 of 7)	70% (56 of 80)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 21)	0% (0 of 17)	0% (0 of 2)	0% (0 of 40)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	14.29% (3 of 21)	0% (0 of 17)	0% (0 of 2)	7.5% (3 of 40)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	9.52% (2 of 21)	11.76% (2 of 17)	0% (0 of 2)	10% (4 of 40)

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.	28.57% (6 of 21)	41.18% (7 of 17)	100% (2 of 2)	37.5% (15 of 40)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	38.1% (8 of 21)	35.29% (6 of 17)	0% (0 of 2)	35% (14 of 40)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	9.52% (2 of 21)	11.76% (2 of 17)	0% (0 of 2)	10% (4 of 40)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	57.14% (12 of 21)	52.94% (9 of 17)	100% (2 of 2)	57.5% (23 of 40)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	73.68% (14 of 19)	60% (9 of 15)	100% (2 of 2)	69.44% (25 of 36)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	57.14% (12 of 21)	52.94% (9 of 17)	100% (2 of 2)	57.5% (23 of 40)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	65.12% (28 of 43)	50% (17 of 34)	57.14% (4 of 7)	58.33% (49 of 84)

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.	92.31% (48 of 52)	75% (6 of 8)	75% (3 of 4)	89.06% (57 of 64)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	93.94% (31 of 33)	80% (4 of 5)	75% (3 of 4)	90.48% (38 of 42)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	92.31% (48 of 52)	75% (6 of 8)	75% (3 of 4)	89.06% (57 of 64)

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.	94.92% (56 of 59)	84.21% (16 of 19)	0% (0 of 1)	91.14% (72 of 79)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (3 of 3)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100% (3 of 3)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	96.08% (49 of 51)	80% (8 of 10)	0% (0 of 1)	91.94% (57 of 62)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	78.43% (40 of 51)	100% (1 of 1)	0	78.85% (41 of 52)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	75% (33 of 44)	0	0	75% (33 of 44)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	77.97% (46 of 59)	84.21% (16 of 19)	0% (0 of 1)	78.48% (62 of 79)

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.	85.71% (36 of 42)	50% (8 of 16)	25% (1 of 4)	72.58% (45 of 62)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	81.25% (13 of 16)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	81.25% (13 of 16)

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 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	82.05% (32 of 39)	50% (7 of 14)	25% (1 of 4)	70.18% (40 of 57)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	76.19% (32 of 42)	43.75% (7 of 16)	25% (1 of 4)	64.52% (40 of 62)