



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Idaho

FINAL REPORT

2023



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

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Final Report: Idaho Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment, prepared by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), Division of Family and Community Services (FACS), Child and Family Services (CFS) program, and submitted to the CB on June 7, 2023. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The August 2022 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 65 cases (40 foster care and 25 in-home), conducted via a CB-Led Review process at Boise, Pocatello, and Coeur d'Alene in Idaho during August 7–11, 2023, examining case practices occurring August 2022 through August 2023.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys for the state, parents, and youth
 - Child welfare agency leadership, Program Managers, and Regional Managers
 - Child welfare caseworkers and supervisors
 - Child welfare contractors and service providers
 - Foster and adoptive parents and relative caregivers
 - Foster/adoptive parent licensing staff
 - Judges
 - Licensing staff from the agency
 - Parents
 - Representatives from the Division of Licensing
 - Representatives from other public agencies
 - 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

Idaho 2023 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CB Comments on State Performance

Idaho’s IDHW is the state agency responsible for the state’s health, welfare, and human services program. FACS oversees programs including but not limited to child protection, adoptions, foster care, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), Indian child welfare, and developmental disabilities services. Under FACS, the CFS program provides child protection, adoption, guardianship, foster care, ICPC, and Indian child welfare services.

In 2016, CFS conducted a State-Led Review for Round 3 of the CFSR. Idaho was in substantial conformity with 1 of the 7 outcomes, Well-Being Outcome 2 (children receive adequate services to meet their educational needs), and 1 of the 7 systemic factors (Statewide Information System). While CFS was developing the PIP in response to the CFSR findings, FACS was also designing a Child Welfare Transformation (CWT) Plan to redesign the CFS program. Implementation of the CWT began in May 2018 and was completed in spring 2021. As part of the CWT, various child welfare processes were redesigned and implemented along with automated case management tools as part of the program’s new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) and other supportive activities.

Idaho’s CFSR PIP was approved in April 2019 with an implementation period from March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2021. FACS’ case record review process, used to measure progress on items being monitored for the PIP, showed that performance on all items had dropped significantly from the baselines (created using CFSR results) halfway through the PIP implementation period. At the end of the 18-month non-overlapping period, which ended on August 31, 2022, the CB determined that CFS was not in substantial conformity with the four outcomes that were being measured in the PIP: Safety Outcomes 1 and 2, Permanency Outcome 1, and Well-Being Outcome 1.

According to FACS and CFS leadership, one of the issues that affected performance toward the end of the PIP non-overlapping period (federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2021 and 2022) was the loss of staff across the state, including state agency and provider staff. High vacancy and turnover rates in various child welfare positions in the agency led to increased caseloads and frequent changes in workers assigned to families and children. Likewise, vacancy rates at residential treatment facilities and group homes led to the closure of some of these facilities. CFS reported that these closures resulted in a shortage of placements for children in foster care, some with high needs. Displaced children and children entering foster care who did not have a placement were temporarily housed in hotels, offices, or short-term rentals. In its Statewide Assessment, CFS reported that the agency is fully staffed. Additionally, CFS reported a shift from hiring only licensed social workers to employing individuals with related human services degrees. CFS implemented a mentoring program for the new staff to support and integrate them into the child welfare work.

The Round 4 CFSR conducted by the CB in August 2023 found that Idaho is not in conformity with any of the 7 outcomes or 7 systemic factors. In general, the Round 4 CFSR outcome results were lower than the Round 3 results, with Well-Being Outcome 1 showing the most significant decline in performance between the two rounds, followed by Well-Being Outcome 3. Safety Outcome 2 and Permanency Outcome 1 were the next two outcomes that showed a decline in performance. The outcome with the smallest drop between the two rounds was Permanency Outcome 2.

The highest performing outcome for Idaho in CFSR Round 4 was Well-Being Outcome 2, at 74% substantial conformity, with performance for foster care cases higher than in-home services cases. The agency made concerted efforts to assess children's identified educational needs in many of the foster cases; however, what affected the ratings was the need for more efforts to meet and/or address educational needs. Only a few cases were applicable for this outcome for in-home services cases, and the lack of both assessment and service provision affected the ratings.

The next highest performing outcome was Permanency Outcome 2, at 69% substantially achieved. Of the five items assessed in this outcome, Item 7 (Placement With Siblings) was the highest performing, at 91%. The agency also performed well in preserving children's connections in foster care and in its efforts to place them with relatives whenever possible and appropriate. The lowest performing items were Items 8 and 11. Item 8 (63% Strength) assesses agency efforts to ensure frequent and quality visits between a child in foster care and parents and siblings. Ratings for mothers, fathers, and siblings were similar for this item. For Item 11, which rates the agency's efforts to support or promote positive relationships between a child in foster care and parents, only about half of the applicable cases were rated as a Strength. Ensuring frequent and quality visits between children, parents, and siblings, and making concerted efforts to enhance their relationships, are essential to preserving children's connections and facilitating reunification.

Performance for the two safety outcomes, Safety Outcome 1 and Safety Outcome 2, was rated as substantially achieved at 63% and 49%, respectively. For Safety Outcome 1, timely initiation of investigations and face-to-face contact with victim children occurred on a timely basis for many of the cases, especially in the two local review sites. Some factors identified in the cases reviewed in Boise that affected ratings for this item were the high volume of hotline calls, staff shortages, increased workloads, and backlogs of lower-priority cases. In addition to the one item assessed in this outcome, performance on two safety Statewide Data Indicators (SWDIs) is used to determine conformity for this outcome: Recurrence of Maltreatment and Maltreatment in Care. Idaho is performing better than the national performance on these two SWDIs.

Performance on Safety Outcome 2 was relatively similar for all three review sites and across the two items assessed in this outcome. However, there were differences in ratings for the two items depending on the case type. For Item 2 (Services to Family to Protect Child(ren)), 70% of foster care cases were rated as Strengths, versus in-home services cases at 44%. The primary reason for an Area Needing Improvement (ANI) rating in in-home services cases was that the agency did not provide appropriate services to protect the children in their homes. Similarly, 60% of foster care cases received a Strength rating for Item 3 (Risk and Safety Assessment and Management) compared with 44% of in-home services cases. Across both types of cases, the most common reason Item 3 was rated as an ANI was due to a lack of ongoing assessments of children in their homes or foster care placement. An item closely tied to Item 3 is Item 14, which assesses the frequency and quality of caseworker contact with children.

In many cases where ongoing assessment was not occurring, there needed to be more quality caseworker visits with children. There were also several cases in which effective safety plans were not created or monitored when safety concerns were identified. Lastly, comprehensive assessments of safety/risks were not completed at the time cases were closed. Safety practices are an area with which CFS struggled during the Round 3 PIP. The safety of children and families is paramount. The CB recommends that FACS re-examine the practices and factors that affect caseworkers' capacity to conduct accurate and comprehensive safety/risk assessments at critical junctures of a case and create appropriate safety plans to ensure children's safety.

Idaho's lowest performing outcome in CFSR Round 4 was Permanency Outcome 1, with only 20% of the cases rated as substantially achieved. In many cases reviewed, CFS established initial permanency goals, including concurrent goals, on a timely basis. In addition, Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petitions were filed in a timely manner, and compelling reasons were documented when TPRs were not appropriate. As mentioned previously, there were reasonable efforts to place children with relatives, including those who lived out of state. There is clear evidence of good practice that positively affects permanency for children. Several factors negatively affected this permanency outcome, however, including but not limited to:

- Not evaluating and changing goals, especially reunification goals, on a timely basis as case circumstances changed;

- Not evaluating the most appropriate goal(s) for children after establishment of initial goals;
- The need for court approval to change permanency goals;
- A lack of concerted efforts to achieve permanency for children, especially children with concurrent goals; and
- Delays in adoption and guardianship paperwork and the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) process.

At the time of the review, 25 of the 40 children in foster care being reviewed had been in care for more than 12 months. Of the 25 children, 15 were in care for 12 to 23 months, eight for 24 to 35 months, and two for more than 48 months. Twenty-four children were still in foster care at the time of the review.

One of the critical factors that affected this outcome was the need for efforts to achieve permanency, especially for children with an adoption goal, either sole or concurrent. Of the 40 foster care cases, 11 children had a sole goal of adoption during the period under review (PUR), and 18 children had concurrent goals of reunification and adoption. For the children with a single goal of adoption, all cases received a Strength rating for Item 5 (timely and appropriate establishment of goals). However, 10 of 11 cases received an ANI rating for Item 6 (concerted efforts by agency and courts to achieve timely permanency). The length of stay for these children ranged from 6 to 64 months, with a median of 25 months. The length of stay for the children who had concurrent goals of reunification and adoption ranged from 1 to 18 months, with a median of 9 months. The two concurrent goals were appropriate for most of these cases, but 10 of 18 received an ANI rating for Item 6.

For the cases that received ANI ratings, there were instances when the goal of reunification was in place too long, even when it was no longer appropriate, and there were also situations where the agency needed to make efforts to achieve goals, especially concurrent goals. In several cases with either a sole or concurrent goal of adoption during the PUR, there was a lack of efforts to work on the adoption goal early in the case, which delayed permanency for many of the children. In some cases, the most appropriate goals were not selected; for instance, the agency assigned concurrent adoption goals without considering other goals based on the case circumstances. For example, in instances where reunification may not have been likely or appropriate, permanent guardianship with a family member may have been a more workable concurrent goal than adoption. Other issues that affected timely permanency achievement were a lack of efforts to assess needs and to engage and provide reunification services for parents. There were also delays in identifying permanent placement resources for children, including potential caregivers who resided out of state. There were ICPC-related delays, such as delays in requesting ICPC home studies, and residency requirements that impeded timely finalization of adoptions.

The agency's low performance on Permanency Outcome 1 should be counterbalanced with the agency's performance on the five permanency SWDIs used for CFSR Round 4. Idaho consistently performed statistically better than the nation in achieving permanency within a 12-month period for children in foster care, regardless of the length of time they spent in foster care for the 3 reporting years. Idaho also performed statistically better for the reentry to foster care measure. Of the five permanency SWDIs, placement stability is one where Idaho's performance is worse than national performance and must be addressed in the PIP. Although the agency's performance has been trending in a positive direction, current performance shows the trend falling slightly. During the onsite review, 77.5% of 40 foster care cases were rated as Strengths for Item 4 (Stability of Foster Care Placement). The primary reason for the Strength ratings is that most children were stable in their placements. Although the placement stability SWDI and Item 4 evaluate different circumstances, the CB encourages CFS to carefully analyze the factors and root causes of placement instability and identify strategies and interventions in the PIP.

Agency and legal and judicial system partners jointly own the practices that affect the timely establishment and achievement of permanency. Continued collaboration between the CFS and the legal/judicial system is necessary to ensure timely and appropriate establishment of permanency goals, including ongoing evaluation of the goals and timely achievement of permanency for children in foster care. Timely periodic reviews and permanency hearings are critical in ensuring appropriate and timely permanency and should be an area of focus in the PIP. It should be noted that the Statewide Assessment revealed challenges in holding subsequent

periodic reviews on a timely basis, and both initial and subsequent permanency hearings were not occurring timely across the state.

Well-Being Outcome 1 was one of the lowest performing outcomes, with 31% of cases rated as substantially achieved. Practice challenges that affected this outcome in Round 4 are the same as those identified in Round 3. Lack of efforts to assess the needs of children, parents, and foster parents; provide timely and appropriate services; engage them in case planning; and conduct frequent and quality visits affected this outcome. Practices assessed in this outcome are indispensable to ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of the families served. The CB encourages CFS to continue building on the work to engage people with lived experience, especially youth, parents, and caregivers, as partners in improving child welfare practices and systems. In addition to engaging people with lived experience and other partners, FACS has been developing a comprehensive Quality Assurance/Continuous Quality Improvement (QA/CQI) process and will implement it in the agency. Through the QA/CQI process, which should include input from both internal and external collaborators and a feedback loop, CFS should be well-poised to monitor, track, and improve casework practices and processes.

Well-Being Outcome 3 assesses the agency's concerted efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's physical and dental health needs (Item 17) and mental/behavioral needs (Item 18). Only 44% of the cases were rated as substantially achieved. Although fewer in-home services cases than foster care cases were applicable to this outcome, performance was better for in-home services cases than foster care cases. One of the reasons that negatively affected this outcome across both case types was the lack of agency provision of services to meet identified needs. Regarding assessment practices, agency efforts to assess foster children's mental/behavioral health needs were rated higher than efforts to assess physical and dental health needs for in-home services cases. For foster care cases, performance on assessment of physical and dental health needs was higher than on assessment of mental/behavioral needs.

One notable finding for Item 18 is that of the eight children in foster care who were placed with relatives and were applicable to Item 18, only two cases were rated as Strengths. Of the 15 children who were not placed with relatives and were applicable to Item 18, approximately half of the cases received a Strength rating. Performance for Items 16 and 17 showed a more even performance for children placed with relatives than those not. Based on the Item 18 rating narratives for all children in care, it is unclear why there is a difference in the rating of this item for children placed with relatives versus those who are not. CFS should conduct a deeper analysis to determine if this is an area that needs to be addressed. It should be noted that various factors resulted in ratings of ANI for all children, including but not limited to a lack of initial and/or ongoing assessment and/or service provision, unavailability of trauma-informed services, waitlists for mental/behavioral services and for children in foster specifically, and a lack of adequate psychotropic medication monitoring.

Service Array is a critical systemic factor that affects safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. The case review results and stakeholder interviews indicated that accessing critical services, such as housing and transportation, in all jurisdictions of the state is difficult and that it is not easy to provide individualized services, especially those that are culturally competent and services to meet disabilities. Although state flexible funds are available to pay for services, many rural communities do not have the resources that families need. Placement resources for children in foster care are scarce; if appropriate placements are not identified when they first enter care or they are disrupted from a placement, children are placed in short-term rentals, hotels, or agency offices. In addition, stakeholder interviews showed that even when resources are available, frontline staff may not be aware of these services or know how to access them. CFA should work with frontline staff and partners in the agency and community—including other federal programs that serve the same population, such as those providing housing, services for mental/behavioral health needs, substance use disorder treatment, and Medicaid—to assess, identify, and develop an accessible array of services for the families and children they serve.

Equity Observations and Considerations

Ensuring that the child welfare system is serving all people equitably and with respect for all individuals is essential to the work in child welfare and is a focused priority at the CB. States must pay attention to variations in performance metrics to create an effective and equitable system for all because the disparity in outcomes

could signal inequity that should be explored and addressed. During Round 4 of the CFSR, there is a focus on using data and evidence to identify disparities in services and outcomes, to understand the role that child welfare programs, policies, and practices may play in contributing to those disparities, and to inform and develop system improvements to address them.

As noted below in the sections on Notable Changes and Observations in performance on the Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 2 statewide data indicators (SWDI) during Round 4, the SWDIs showed the following notable performance-related information by race/ethnicity in Idaho:

- The general child population in Idaho is predominantly White. While White children comprise about three-fourths of the general child population, they comprise about two-thirds of the children entering foster care. The achievement of permanency for White children tends to be higher than state performance.
- Hispanic children comprise about one-fifth of the general child population and children entering foster care. Permanency for Hispanic children in Idaho who enter foster care has improved over the past 3 reporting years and, for the most recent reporting period, was higher than state performance. However, Hispanic children in care for 1 year or more generally experienced a disproportionate percentage of exits to permanency and had lower permanency performance than the state.
- Children of two or more races comprise a small percentage of children in the general child population in Idaho and children in foster care. However, the achievement of permanency in 23 months for children of two or more races who enter foster care was consistently lower than state performance. Performance for that group of children has improved over the past 3 reporting years and was higher for children of two or more races in care for more extended periods of time.

The race/ethnicity of children selected for case review reflects the proportion of the general child population in Idaho and children in foster care. Twenty-eight children (70%) were White, followed by six Hispanic children (15%), four children who were two or more races (10%), and one child each who were American Indian/Alaska Native and Black or African American (2.5%). Given the small number of children across the different racial/ethnic groups, it is difficult to determine if these children experienced disparate outcomes based on the small number of cases reviewed.

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. 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.

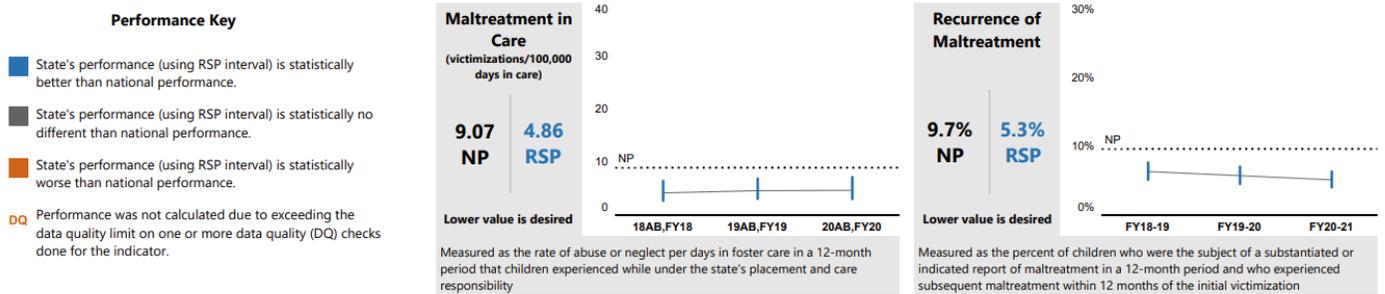
According to the state's policy, FACS must initiate reports assigned for a Priority 1 response immediately, and face-to-face contact with all children subject to the maltreatment must occur as soon as possible and within 24 hours. Reports assigned for a Priority 2 response must be initiated within 24 hours of receipt of the report, and face-to-face contact with all children subject to the maltreatment must occur within 48 hours. Reports assigned for a Priority 3 response are to be initiated within 72 hours of receipt of the report, and face-to-face contact with all children subject to the maltreatment must occur within 120 hours of receipt of the report. Investigations are initiated when the Safety Assessor engages in any of the following tasks: review of prior child protection history or other case records for relevant information; contacting a child welfare agency in another state if the report indicates child welfare involvement in the other state, locating up-to-date information in other data systems to

verify contact information, legal history, or other relevant elements; contacting or coordinating with law enforcement; and/or following up with the referring party to collect additional information.

Statewide Data Indicators

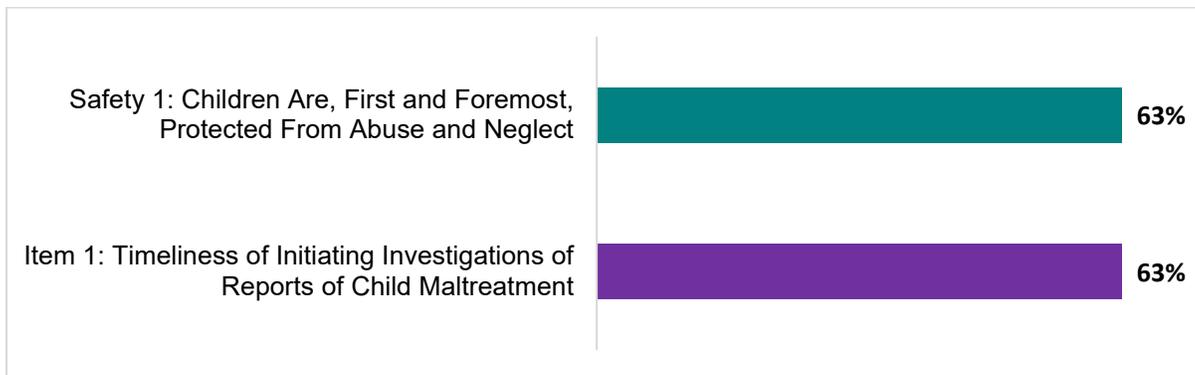
The chart below shows the state’s performance from the August 2022 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

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

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

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

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

Idaho performed statistically better than national performance on both Safety Outcome 1 statewide data indicators over the last 3 reporting years.

While the rate of maltreatment in care per 100,000 days in foster care was better than national performance, the rate increased over the past 3 reporting years. During that time, the total number of days children were in foster care fluctuated —increasing 8% from fiscal year (FY) 2018 to FY 2019, then decreasing 14% from FY 2019 to FY 2020. The number of victimizations remained low and relatively unchanged.

- Children aged 1–5 consistently comprised the age group with the greatest number of days in care. For the past 2 reporting years, they experienced the highest rate of maltreatment in care, followed by children aged 11–16.
- Maltreatment in care victimizations generally occurred in Canyon and Ada counties—the two most populated counties with the greatest number of days in care. Variation in rates of maltreatment in these two counties is attributed to the low number of total victimizations.

For recurrence of maltreatment, the number of children with an initial substantiated or indicated maltreatment report fluctuated over the past 3 reporting years, while the rate and number of children who experienced a recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months steadily declined.

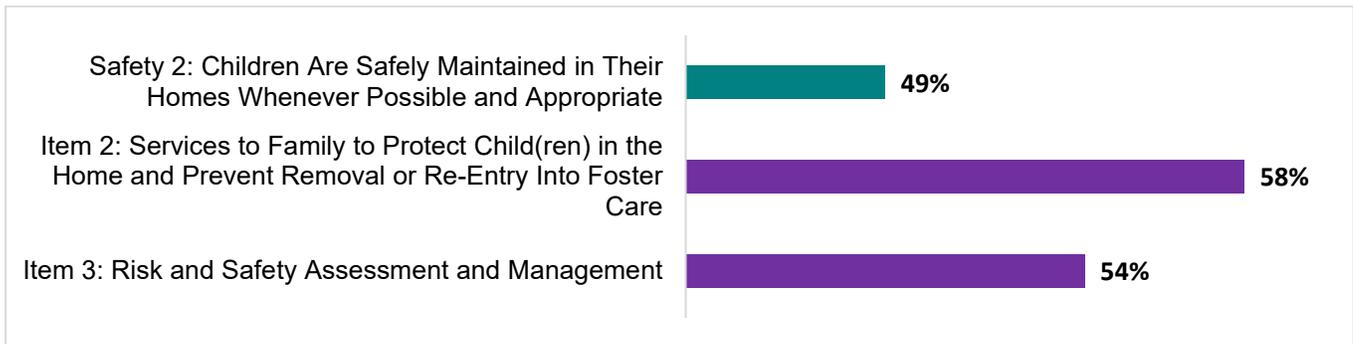
- While the age group of children experiencing the highest recurrence of maltreatment varied, children 5 years and younger consistently comprised the greatest number of initial and subsequent victimizations—accounting for approximately 50% of both.
- There was substantial variation by county in the number and percentage of children experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment across the past 3 reporting years. While Ada County (metro site) consistently had the most initial substantiated or indicated maltreatment reports and generally the most recurrent victimizations, other counties experienced a similar number of recurrent victimizations and higher percentages of recurrence.

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



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

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

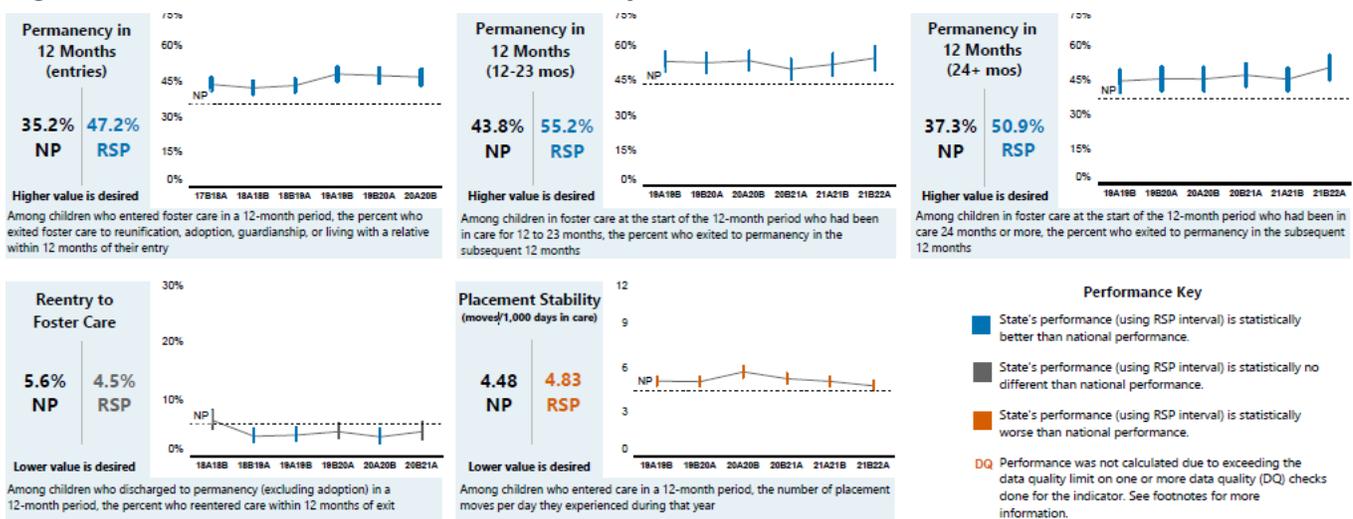
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

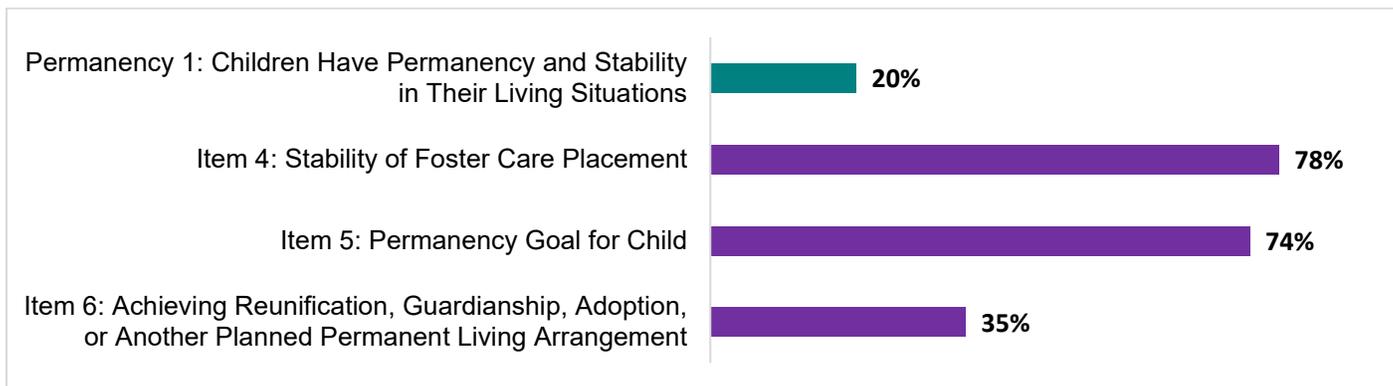
The chart below shows the state’s performance from the August 2022 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

- The state’s performance on the “permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care” data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- The state’s performance on the “permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months” data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- The state’s performance on the “permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more” data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- The state’s performance on the “reentry to foster care in 12 months” data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- The state’s performance on the “placement stability” data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- Less than 95% or more of the cases reviewed were rated as substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6

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

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

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

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

Idaho consistently performed statistically better than the nation in achieving permanency in 12 months for children in foster care regardless of their length of time in care.

The number of children in Idaho who entered foster care and were in care for 12–23 months substantially decreased in the past 3 reporting years by 25% and 32%, respectively, along with the number of those children exiting care within 12 months, by 10% and 23%. However, the number of children in care two or more years fluctuated with a slight overall increase. Performance in achieving permanency within 12 months for children who entered foster care improved over the past 3 reporting years by 11% overall. Performance for children in foster care for 12–23 months decreased 16% overall, while remaining relatively unchanged for children in care for 24 or more months.

- There was a lot of variation across counties in performance on the permanency in 12 month indicators.
- Children 5 years and younger comprised the greatest number of children entering care. They also comprised the greatest number of children in care for 12–23 months and those in care less than 2 years who exited care. Children in this age group who entered care had a lower percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months than other age groups (except for the small number of children entering care at age 17).
- Similar to other states, children 1–5 years old in care for 1 year or more experienced the highest percentage of permanency within 12 months, and children in care aged 11 years and older consistently experienced a lower rate of permanency.
- Hispanic children in care for 1 year or more in Idaho generally experienced a disproportionately low percentage of exits to permanency, which was lower than the state’s performance.
- Canyon and Ada counties—the two counties with the greatest number of children in care—performed similarly on the achievement of permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care; however, they differed for children in care for longer periods of time. While Ada County achieved a considerably higher percentage of permanency for children in care for 12–23 months, Canyon County achieved a substantially higher percentage of permanency for children in care for 24 or more months.

Over the last 3 reporting years, the number of children who exited to permanency decreased by 25%. While there was fluctuation in the percentage of those children reentering care for this reporting period, during the most recent reporting year, the percentage of reentry increased by 24%. Most of the children who reentered care within 12 months of exit tended to be those aged 1–5 and 11–16 years, predominantly White, and from Ada, Bannock, and Canyon counties.

Idaho’s placement stability rate was the only statewide data indicator that was statistically worse than national performance. During the past 3 reporting years, the total number of foster care days for children who entered care, the number of placement moves they experienced, and the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care fluctuated. While the past 6 reporting periods showed a decrease and then an increase in the rate of placement moves, the past 3 non-overlapping reporting years showed a small amount (6%) of overall improvement. The state was close to being statistically no different than national performance for children entering during the reporting period April 2021–March 2022.

- Children entering care aged 11–16 comprised the age group with the greatest number of placement moves and generally experienced the highest rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care.

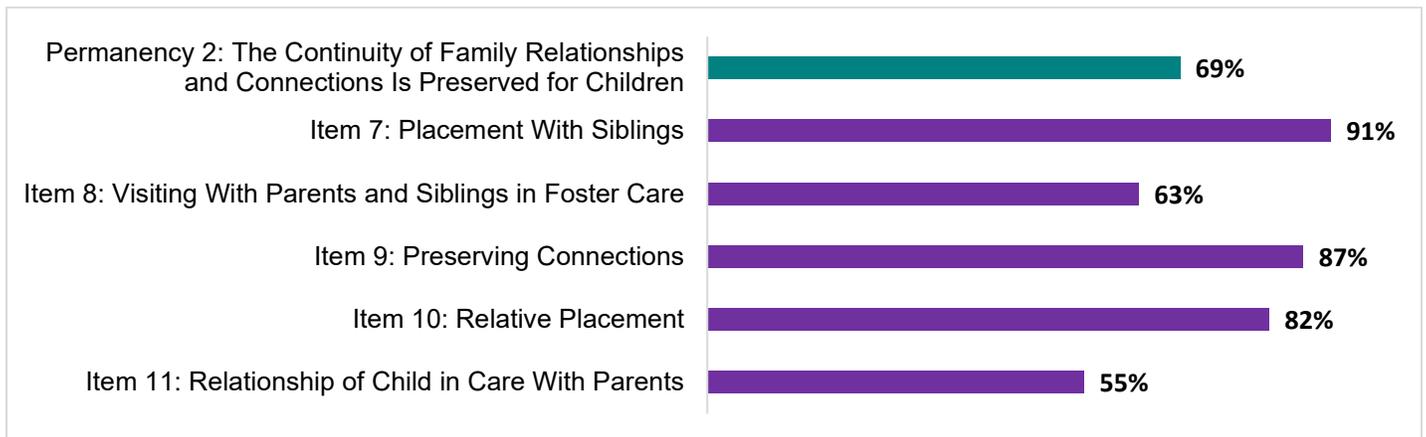
- There was variation in the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care for children entering care by race/ethnicity across the past 3 reporting years, with White children over-represented in the number of placement moves compared to their total days in care for the most recent reporting period.
- There was substantial variation across counties in the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care, with the two largest counties having a higher rate of placement moves than the state for the most recent reporting period. While Ada County consistently comprised the greatest number of days in care for children entering foster care, the greatest number of placement moves fluctuated between Ada and Canyon counties. Canyon County consistently had a higher rate of placement moves than Ada County.

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



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

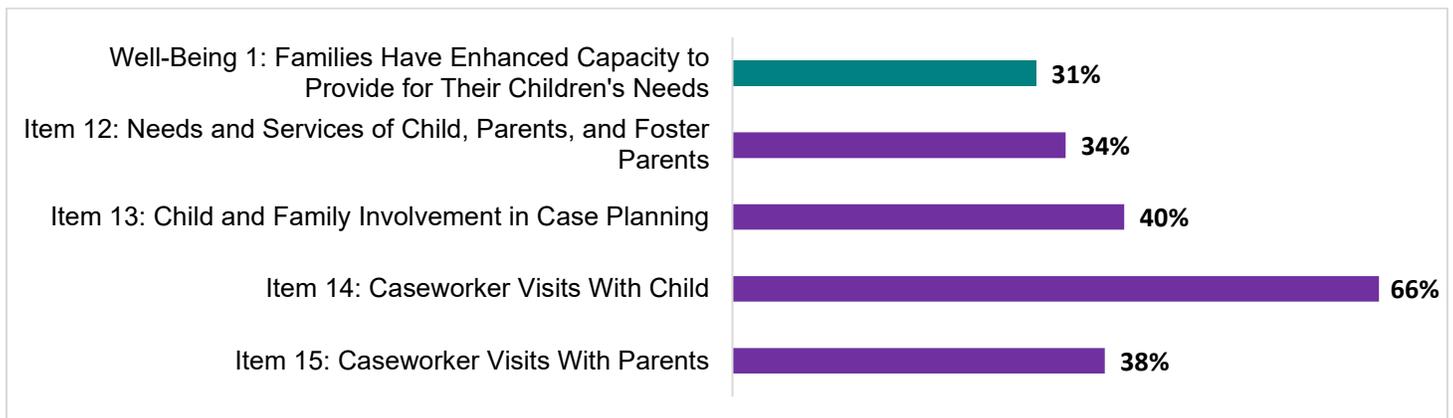
- Less than 95% or more of the cases reviewed were rated as substantially achieved.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the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



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

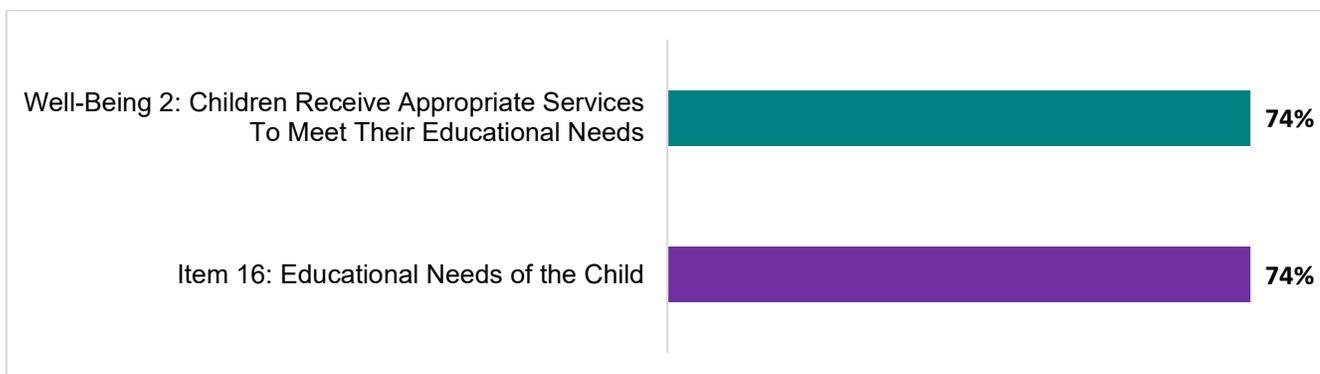
- Less than 95% or more of the cases reviewed were rated as substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12B.
 - Less than 90%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



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

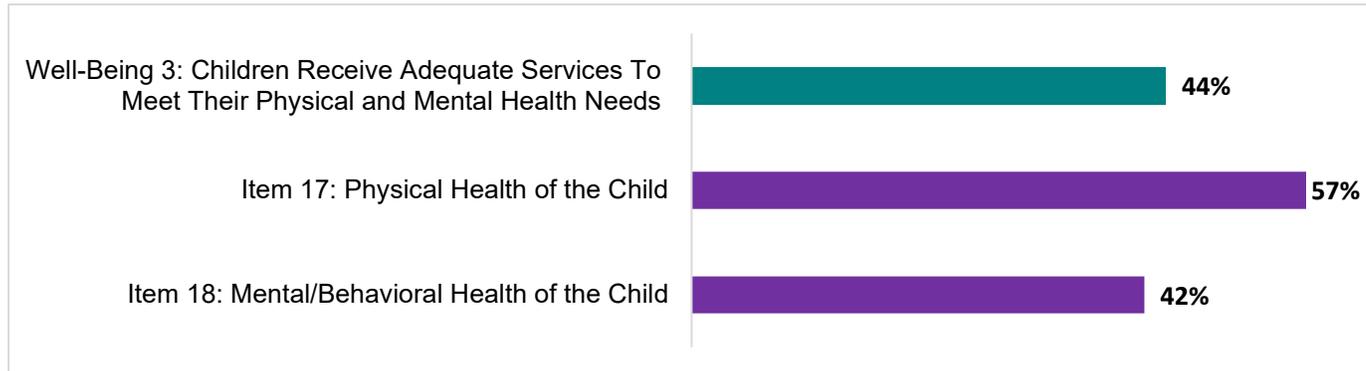
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



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

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

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Area Needing Improvement

Idaho 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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- FACS fully implemented its new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS), Ensuring Safety and Permanency in Idaho (ESPI), in FFY 2021. Although a statewide policy requires data entry within 48 hours, the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for every child who is in foster care are not readily identifiable in ESPI due to delays in data entry and known data integrity issues with ESPI. ESPI improvements and technical fixes are released regularly; however, data and information provided in the Statewide Assessment showed that the four data elements were not readily identifiable.

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

Idaho 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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- Idaho has a process in place, Family Meetings, to support joint development of case plans with families, including parents. However, information provided in the Statewide Assessment showed that use of these meetings varied significantly by region, and there was insufficient information to determine if parents were involved in the case planning process. ESPI tracks the Family Meeting dates; however, information from Idaho's qualitative case reviews showed that these meetings were held by phone or videoconference and parents were not consistently provided copies of their case plans.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

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

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were conducted to integrate judges and attorneys into the CFSR process.
- In Idaho, periodic reviews are conducted by the courts, and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) collects and provides data on the timeliness of review hearings. Information in the Statewide Assessment indicated that while initial periodic reviews were occurring consistently throughout the state, subsequent periodic reviews were not occurring timely statewide. Information from stakeholders indicated that in some judicial districts, there could be data entry errors, which were created when staff did not understand the different types of hearings and how to enter information into the system.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were conducted to integrate judges and attorneys into the CFSR process.
- AOC collects and provides data on the timeliness of permanency hearings. Information in the Statewide Assessment indicated that initial and subsequent permanency hearings were not occurring consistently throughout the state on a timely basis. Information from stakeholders indicated that in some judicial districts, there could be data entry errors, which were created when staff did not understand the different types of hearings and how to enter information into the system.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were conducted to integrate judges and attorneys into the CFSR process.

- The Statewide Assessment did not provide sufficient data or information to demonstrate that the state’s case review system was functioning statewide to ensure that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were filed in accordance with required provisions. Idaho does not have a systematic process to identify and track children who have been in care for 15 of the most recent 22 months and children who meet other Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requirements. In addition, the state does not have a way to track children for whom there may be exceptions or compelling reasons not to file for TPR.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on the information in the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- IDHW is responsible for sending notices of reviews and hearings to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers. These notices include provision regarding their right to be heard. However, Idaho does not have a tracking system that ensure notices are provided to all caregivers, and information in the Statewide Assessment was insufficient to determine if these notices were being sent consistently in all jurisdictions of the state.

Quality Assurance System

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

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Area Needing Improvement

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

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

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

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- Idaho’s Quality Assurance System is in the process of being redesigned. The redesign is in the early development phase and not fully implemented and functioning statewide. The state has standards to evaluate the quality of services, including those that ensure children in foster care are provided with quality services that protect their health and safety, and a case record review process that operates in all jurisdictions. However, the involvement of caseworkers and system partners in the process was unclear, there were insufficient reports, and the state did not yet have a way to routinely evaluate implemented program improvement measures.

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

Idaho 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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- All initial staff training is provided through a contract with Eastern Washington University (EWU). EWU also tracks all new workers by name, region, job position, date of hire, and any variances in training completion due to illness or other circumstances. However, no evidence was provided to demonstrate whether all new workers completed initial training and whether the state’s graduated case assignment process was followed. There was also no data or information provided regarding the effectiveness of initial training.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- FACS indicated that although ongoing learning opportunities are provided for staff and supervisors, there is no requirement for ongoing training. New supervisors are provided with the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Academy and training attendance and completion is tracked. However, there was no data or information provided in the Statewide Assessment regarding staff completion of ongoing training(s) or reliable methods to assess or demonstrate the effectiveness of the training.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.

- IDHW requires initial and ongoing training for current and prospective foster and adoptive parents and staff of licensed child care institutions. However, there was insufficient data and information in the Statewide Assessment to demonstrate that the staff and provider training system was routinely functioning statewide. While there appeared to be tracking of foster/adoptive parent initial and ongoing training, there was no data or evidence regarding participation, completion, and evaluation of training. For staff of licensed child care institutions, initial and ongoing training requirements are reviewed by the IDHW licensing specialist on an annual basis. When deficiencies were identified during annual reviews, it was unclear whether they were related to staff not completing the training and/or the training curriculum not addressing the needed skills and knowledge base.

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

Idaho 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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Idaho has an array of services to meet the needs of children and families being served by the child welfare agency. However, there were significant access issues, especially in rural areas, to key services such as mental/behavioral services, housing, transportation, and appropriate placements for children in foster care. There were long waitlists for Medicaid-funded service providers. Lack of placement resources (foster homes, therapeutic foster homes, and childcare institutions) resulted in children being placed in unlicensed placements (“short-term rentals”) staffed by agency staff and community partners or sleeping in offices.

Item 30: Individualizing Services

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

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Although there are services that can be individualized to meet the unique needs of families and children, and State General Funds are available to individualize service needs, many of the needed services were not readily available, especially in rural areas of the state. Stakeholders reported that while the state holds Family Team Meetings with the intent to identify and individualize services,

children and families were not always involved in these meetings, which resulted in services not being individualized. Idaho has refugee and Native American populations in some areas of the state, but linguistically/culturally competent services are not always available to meet their needs. The Statewide Assessment noted that individualized service needs for children and families were not tracked by the state.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

Idaho was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

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

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

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- Idaho identified a wide range of partners and stakeholders who are consulted in implementing the CFSP/APSR. However, engagement of persons with lived experience, particularly parents, youth, and caregivers, continues to be an area for continued growth. The Statewide Assessment also identified processes in place to support ongoing consultation but noted that formalized feedback loops with the stakeholders was not yet in place.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Although information in the Statewide Assessment showed that FACS coordinates services with several federally funded programs, information provided in the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews was insufficient to determine whether coordination of services and benefits occurs with mental/behavioral services, housing, and substance use treatment services. In addition, the state acknowledged in the Statewide Assessment that although there are collaborations across some federal or federally funded programs, there were no data related to how many children and families were jointly served across multiple programs.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

Items	Rating
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Strength
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

Idaho 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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided in the Statewide Assessment described practice standards in place to ensure that standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions. Stakeholder interviews provided additional information regarding how these standards were applied equally, including the description of the quality assurance process in place that is used to monitor variances, waivers, and the licensing of foster/adoptive homes and facilities.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- There was no information in the Statewide Assessment describing a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children. Although FACS described its statewide system regarding criminal background clearances related to licensing foster and adoptive placements and provided the total number of background checks completed and number of prospective foster and adoptive families, no information showed that background clearances were conducted as federally required for all foster and adoptive placements. In addition, no data or information was provided regarding background checks for staff of child care institutions.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- The Statewide Assessment provided data and information demonstrating that the licensing, recruitment, and retention system was functioning statewide to recruit foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in foster care. Idaho analyzes and shares relevant demographic data with its contractor, EWU, to recruit 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.

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.

- Idaho received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Idaho.
- While the Statewide Assessment provided information that confirmed processes were in place to ensure the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources, Idaho did not meet the requirement for conducting requests for home studies received from other states within the 60-day requirement.

IV. APPENDIX A

Summary of Idaho 2023 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	63% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	63% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.07	Better Than National Performance	Lower	4.86	3.22–7.35	20A–20B, FY20–21
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Better Than National Performance	Lower	5.3%	4.2%–6.5%	FY20–21

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	49% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	58% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	54% Strength

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	Not in Substantial Conformity	20% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	74% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	35% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care	35.2%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	47.2%	43.7%–50.6%	20A–22A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	55.2%	50.2%–60.2%	21B–22A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	50.9%	45.6%–56.1%	21B–22A
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	4.5%	3.2%–6.3%	20B–22A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	4.83	4.52–5.16	21B–22A

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	69% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Strength	91% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	63% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	87% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	82% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	55% 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	31% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	34% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	39% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	65% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	40% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	66% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	38% 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	74% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	74% 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	44% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	57% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	42% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

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

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Case Review System	Statewide Assessment 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 and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

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

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

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
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	Area Needing Improvement

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT Idaho CFSR (CB-Led) 2023

The Practice Performance Report provides an aggregated summary of practice performance for all 18 items in the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) for all approved and final cases from all the sites in the Idaho CFSR (CB-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.	66.67% (18 of 27)
(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.	62.96% (17 of 27)
(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.	9.09% (1 of 11)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	62.96%. (17 of 27)

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

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care.	30% (6 of 20)	43.75% (7 of 16)	36.11% (13 of 36)
(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.	40% (8 of 20)	Not Applicable	40% (8 of 20)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	10% (2 of 20)	Not Applicable	10% (2 of 20)
(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.	20% (4 of 20)	56.25% (9 of 16)	36.11% (13 of 36)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 2 Strength Ratings	70% (14 of 20)	43.75% (7 of 16)	58.33% (21) of 36

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/assessed.	87.5% (35 of 40)	96% (24 of 25)	90.77% (59 of 65)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	97.5% (39 of 40)	96% (24 of 25)	96.92% (63 of 65)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	90.91% (10 of 11)	46.15% (6 of 13)	66.67% (16 of 24)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	64.1% (25 of 39)	48% (12 of 25)	57.81% (37 of 64)
(Question 3C) When safety concerns were present, the agency developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continually monitored the safety plan as needed, including monitoring family engagement in safety-related services.	28.57% (2 of 7)	43.75% (7 of 16)	39.13% (9 of 23)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	69.23% (9 of 13)	57.14% (8 of 14)	62.96% (17 of 27)
(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.	90.91% (30 of 33)	Not Applicable	90.91% (30 of 33)
(Question 3F) There were no concerns for the target child's safety in the foster home or placement facility that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	100% (40 of 40)	Not Applicable	100% (40 of 40)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	60% (24 of 40)	44% (11 of 25)	53.85% (35 of 65)

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

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4B) Placement changes for the child were planned by the agency in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child.	50% (8 of 16)	50% (8 of 16)

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.	92.5% (37 of 40)	92.5% (37 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	77.5% (31 of 40)	77.5% (31 of 40)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	100% (39 of 39)	100% (39 of 39)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	87.18% (34 of 39)	87.18% (34 of 39)
(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.	76.92% (30 of 39)	76.92% (30 of 39)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	48.72% (19 of 39)	48.72% (19 of 39)
(Questions 5E and 5F) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	5% (1 of 20)	5% (1 of 20)
(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.	95% (19 of 20)	95% (19 of 20)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	74.36% (29 of 39)	74.36% (29 of 39)

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.	50% (2 of 4)	50% (2 of 4)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	0% (0 of 1)	0% (0 of 1)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	9.09% (1 of 11)	9.09% (1 of 11)
(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.	43.48% (10 of 23)	43.48% (10 of 23)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	35% (14 of 40)	35% (14 of 40)

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

Item 7: Placement With Siblings

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 7A) The child was placed with all siblings who also were in foster care.	63.64% (14 of 22)	63.64% (14 of 22)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	90.91% (20 of 22)	90.91% (20 of 22)

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.	31.03% (9 of 29)	31.03% (9 of 29)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	34.48% (10 of 29)	34.48% (10 of 29)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	10.34% (3 of 29)	10.34% (3 of 29)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	3.45% (1 of 29)	3.45% (1 of 29)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	13.79% (4 of 29)	13.79% (4 of 29)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	6.9% (2 of 29)	6.9% (2 of 29)
(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.	72.41% (21 of 29)	72.41% (21 of 29)
(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.	88.89% (24 of 27)	88.89% (24 of 27)
(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.	72.41% (21 of 29)	72.41% (21 of 29)
(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.	44.44% (8 of 18)	44.44% (8 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.	5.56% (1 of 18)	5.56% (1 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.	5.56% (1 of 18)	5.56% (1 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.	11.11% (2 of 18)	11.11% (2 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.	72.22% (13 of 18)	72.22% (13 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.	81.25% (13 of 16)	81.25% (13 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.	66.67% (12 of 18)	66.67% (12 of 18)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	12.5% (1 of 8)	12.5% (1 of 8)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	25% (2 of 8)	25% (2 of 8)
(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.	0% (0 of 8)	0% (0 of 8)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	25% (2 of 8)	25% (2 of 8)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	12.5% (1 of 8)	12.5% (1 of 8)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	25% (2 of 8)	25% (2 of 8)
(Question 8E) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	62.5% (5 of 8)	62.5% (5 of 8)
(Question 8F) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	100% (6 of 6)	100% (6 of 6)
(Questions 8E and 8F) The frequency and quality of visitation with siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	62.5% (5 of 8)	62.5% (5 of 8)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	62.5% (20 of 32)	62.5% (20 of 32)

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).	86.84% (33 of 38)	86.84% (33 of 38)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 9 Strength Ratings	86.84% (33 of 38)	86.84% (33 of 38)

Item 10: Relative Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative.	46.15% (18 of 39)	46.15% (18 of 39)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (18 of 18)	100% (18 of 18)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	85.71% (6 of 7)	85.71% (6 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives.	83.33% (5 of 6)	83.33% (5 of 6)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal 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 Inform paternal relatives.	83.33% (5 of 6)	83.33% (5 of 6)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives.	66.67% (4 of 6)	66.67% (4 of 6)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	82.05% (32 of 39)	82.05% (32 of 39)

Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 11A) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.	65.52% (19 of 29)	65.52% (19 of 29)
(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.	55.56% (10 of 18)	55.56% (10 of 18)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	54.84% (17 of 31)	54.84% (17 of 31)

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

Item 12: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 12 Strength Ratings	35.9% (14 of 39)	28% (7 of 25)	32.81% (21 of 64)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12A1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the children's needs.	77.5% (31 of 40)	64% (16 of 25)	72.31% (47 of 65)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	67.74% (21 of 31)	47.06% (8 of 17)	60.42% (29 of 48)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	72.5% (29 of 40)	60% (15 of 25)	67.69% (44 of 65)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the mother's needs	56.25% (18 of 32)	50% (12 of 24)	53.57% (30 of 56)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	50% (16 of 32)	40.91% (9 of 22)	46.3% (25 of 54)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	43.75% (14 of 32)	41.67% (10 of 24)	42.86% (24 of 56)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	50% (14 of 28)	50% (10 of 20)	50% (24 of 48)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	40.74% (11 of 27)	47.37% (9 of 19)	43.48% (20 of 46)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	39.29% (11 of 28)	50% (10 of 20)	43.75% (21 of 48)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	41.18% (14 of 33)*	36% (9 of 25)	38.98% (23 of 58)*

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.	75.68% (28 of 37)	75.68% (28 of 37)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	60.61% (20 of 33)	60.61% (20 of 33)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	64.86% (24 of 37)	64.86% (24 of 37)

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 13A) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the child in the case planning process.	76.19% (16 of 21)	55.56% (10 of 18)	66.67% (26 of 39)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	50% (16 of 32)	54.17% (13 of 24)	51.79% (29 of 56)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	50% (13 of 26)	58.82% (10 of 17)	53.49% (23 of 43)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	44.74% (17 of 38)	32% (8 of 25)	39.68% (25 of 63)

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0% (0 of 40)	4% (1 of 25)	1.54% (1 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	22.5% (9 of 40)	20% (5 of 25)	21.54% (14 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	67.5% (27 of 40)	48% (12 of 25)	60% (39 of 65)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	10% (4 of 40)	28% (7 of 25)	16.92% (11 of 65)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 of 65)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	90% (36 of 40)	72% (18 of 25)	83.08% (54 of 65)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	74.36% (29 of 39)	60% (15 of 25)	68.75% (44 of 64)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	72.5% (29 of 40)	56% (14 of 25)	66.15% (43 of 65)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 32)	0% (0 of 24)	0% (0 of 56)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	3.13% (1 of 32)	8.33% (2 of 24)	5.36% (3 of 56)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	9.38% (3 of 32)	25% (6 of 24)	16.07% (9 of 56)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	46.88% (15 of 32)	45.83% (11 of 24)	46.43% (26 of 56)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	31.25% (10 of 32)	16.67% (4 of 24)	25% (14 of 56)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	9.38% (3 of 32)	4.17% (1 of 24)	7.14% (4 of 56)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	59.38% (19 of 32)	70.83% (17 of 24)	64.29% (36 of 56)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	48.28% (14 of 29)	56.52% (13 of 23)	51.92% (27 of 52)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	43.75% (14 of 32)	54.17% (13 of 24)	48.21% (27 of 56)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 26)	0% (0 of 17)	0% (0 of 43)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	7.69% (2 of 26)	11.76% (2 of 17)	9.3% (4 of 43)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	3.85% (1 of 26)	11.76% (2 of 17)	6.98% (3 of 43)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	30.77% (8 of 26)	52.94% (9 of 17)	39.53% (17 of 43)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	42.31% (11 of 26)	11.76% (2 of 17)	30.23% (13 of 43)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	15.38% (4 of 26)	11.76% (2 of 17)	13.95% (6 of 43)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	53.85% (14 of 26)	76.47% (13 of 17)	62.79% (27 of 43)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	38.1% (8 of 21)	60% (9 of 15)	47.22% (17 of 36)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	38.46% (10 of 26)	52.94% (9 of 17)	44.19% (19 of 43)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	33.33% (11 of 33)	44% (11 of 25)	37.93% (22 of 58)

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

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	93.75% (30 of 32)	71.43% (5 of 7)	89.74% (35 of 39)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	78.57% (22 of 28)	50% (3 of 6)	73.53% (25 of 34)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	78.13% (25 of 32)	57.14% (4 of 7)	74.36% (29 of 39)

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

Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	90% (36 of 40)	81.82% (9 of 11)	88.24% (45 of 51)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	75% (6 of 8)	Not Applicable	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	68.75% (22 of 32)	72.73% (8 of 11)	69.77% (30 of 43)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	76.92% (30 of 39)	100% (1 of 1)	77.5% (31 of 40)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	62.5% (20 of 32)	100% (1 of 1)	63.64% (21 of 33)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	52.5% (21 of 40)	72.73% (8 of 11)	56.86% (29 of 51)

Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs.	62.5% (15 of 24)	85.71% (12 of 14)	71.05% (27 of 38)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	63.64% (7 of 11)	Not Applicable	63.64% (7 of 11)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	47.83% (11 of 23)	50% (7 of 14)	48.65% (18 of 37)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	37.5% (9 of 24)	50% (7 of 14)	42.11% (16 of 38)

* This table reflects overridden ratings.