



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Kentucky

FINAL REPORT

2025



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

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Final Report: Kentucky Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) and submitted to the CB on July 31, 2024. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The February 2024 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 180 cases [90 foster care and 90 in-home], conducted via a State-Led Review process across service regions in Kentucky during October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, examining case practices occurring during October 2023 through March 2025.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys for the agency
 - Guardians ad litem, and attorneys for parents
 - Child welfare agency leadership
 - Child welfare agency and private provider caseworkers
 - Child welfare agency and private provider supervisors
 - Child welfare agency and private agency training staff and agency training partner
 - Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) staff
 - Administrative Office of Courts and Court Improvement Program staff
 - Foster and adoptive parents and kinship providers
 - Agency gatekeepers for service providers
 - Information system staff
 - Judges
 - Kinship care support staff
 - Parents
 - Service providers
 - State licensed/approved child care staff
 - Youth

Background Information

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

Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies to those items. For a state to be in substantial conformity with a particular outcome, 95% or more of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome. In addition, for Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's RSP on applicable statewide data indicators must be better than or no different than national performance. This determination for substantial conformity is based on the data profile transmitted to the state to signal the start of that state's CFSR. The state's RSP in subsequent data profiles will be factored into the determination of indicators required to be included in the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

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

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

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Quality Assurance System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

CB Comments on State Performance

Kentucky's CHFS serves as the state child welfare agency and holds legal authority and responsibility to implement programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. CHFS administers both in-home and out-of-home services aimed at promoting public safety and public health. The services are delivered through the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), the Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP), the Division of Prevention and Community Wellbeing (DPCW), and the Division of Service Regions. This report provides an overview of Kentucky's performance in the Round 4 CFSR, including systemic strengths, areas needing improvement, and data trends impacting child safety, permanency, and well-being.

During its Round 3 CFSR in 2016, Kentucky did not achieve substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes; however, it was found in substantial conformity with 3 systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. The CB approved the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) on April 1, 2019, with implementation concluding on March 31, 2021. Although CHFS completed all the benchmarks and action steps within the PIP on August 11, 2021, the CB sent CHFS a letter notifying the state of the CB's decision, consistent with regulations at 45 CFR § 1355.36(e), to withhold federal funds for the state's inability to successfully reach the required measurement goals of its approved PIP.

In the Round 4 CFSR, Kentucky also did not achieve substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes. The state was in substantial conformity with 3 systemic factors: Quality Assurance System, Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. A key difference for Kentucky between the rounds was the change in the systemic factors in substantial conformity. Although the Statewide Information System was in substantial conformity in Round 3, it was not in Round 4. However, in Round 4, the Quality Assurance System was found to be in conformity. In addition to the Statewide Information System, Kentucky was not in substantial conformity with the Case Review System, Staff and Provider Training, and Service Array and Resource Development systemic factors.

As with other child welfare systems across the country, Kentucky continues to experience significant challenges in maintaining a well-staffed workforce, particularly in service regions with the largest child populations. Through case reviews, case participant interviews, and systemwide stakeholder interviews, turnover has been identified as a contributing factor in creating high caseloads, and these high caseloads have negatively affected outcomes, case practice, and overall system functioning. As Kentucky develops its PIP, an important focus should be on recruiting and retaining a high-quality workforce, as this may be a key component in enhancing safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families.

Although not in substantial conformity, Kentucky has made significant strides to ensure that services are provided to children to meet their educational needs and that family relationships and connections are preserved for children. The highest performing outcome in the Round 4 CFSR was Well-Being Outcome 2, with

92% of the applicable cases rated as a Strength for the state. This outcome addresses children receiving appropriate services to meet their educational needs. There were no substantial differences between foster care and in-home cases for this outcome; however, a slightly higher percentage of foster care cases were rated favorably than were in-home cases, with 93% and 86%, respectively. This performance difference was due primarily to the lack of concerted efforts to address children's educational needs through appropriate services for children involved with in-home cases.

Permanency Outcome 1 evaluates the stability and permanency of children's living situations and was Kentucky's lowest-rated outcome, with 17% of foster care cases reviewed rated as substantially achieved. For placement stability, 68% of children experienced stable placements or planned transitions during the review period, which is a relatively positive result. Children with multiple placements often had significant behavioral or mental health needs that required intensive levels of care. There were waitlists for children to move to appropriate placements as well as frequent transitions between hospitals, detention centers, and residential facilities, which contributed to placement disruptions.

Delays in establishing and achieving appropriate permanency goals affected performance on Items 5 and 6 in Permanency Outcome 1. These items assess whether permanency goals were appropriate and established timely, and whether the agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve the goals. For the 35 children in the sample with the sole goal of adoption, goals were established within 1 to 40 months after removal, with the average being 16 months, and 10% of the cases were rated favorably for achieving adoption in a timely manner. Several factors contributed to delays in goal changes, including frequent caseworker turnover, high caseworker caseloads, inconsistent parental engagement, courts granting parents additional time to reunify, and rescheduled hearings. In 16 of these cases, termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were filed either in the same month or up to 8 months after the permanency goal changed, with the average being 3 months. The case record review did not identify specific agency or legal practices that supported or hindered timely TPR filings. Parental rights were terminated 3 to 24 months after the adoption goal was established, with the average being 11 months. In cases where TPR petition filing dates were available, termination occurred 1 to 14 months later, with an average of 7 months. There were delays due to difficulties in serving or locating parents, late paternity establishment, parental absences at hearings, scheduling conflicts among attorneys, limited court availability, timeframes for related criminal case resolution, agency procedures for initiating TPR petitions, and completion of adoption paperwork. Delays also occurred in ordering both voluntary and involuntary termination and in the resolution of TPR appeals.

Reunification was the second most common permanency goal for children in foster care. Among the 35 reunification cases reviewed (some of which were concurrent goals), 51% had timely and appropriate goals established, and 43% achieved timely permanency through reunification. In several cases, timely reunification was facilitated by early parental engagement, prompt connection to necessary services, and effective efforts to address barriers to participation. However, in several other cases, reunification remained the goal despite clear signs of parental lack of interest, or the goal was changed to adoption late. When permanency goals are not established timely, efforts to achieve permanency are hindered.

According to the Kentucky February 2025 CFSR Data Profile, the state performs better than national performance in achieving permanency within 12 months for both children entering care and those who have been in care for 24 months or longer. Kentucky performs worse than national performance for achieving permanency for children in care between 12 and 23 months. Among the reviewed cases, 44 children were in foster care for 12 to 35 months, aligning with the state's performance on this statewide data indicator. Most of these children had goals of either reunification or adoption. Eight children were reunified after an average of 16 months. Meanwhile, 10 children remained in care at the time of the review, with an average duration of 18 months. Nine children were adopted after an average of 27 months. Fourteen children remained in care, with an average duration of 25 months. Continued collaboration between CHFS and legal and judicial partners may assist with identifying and addressing the policies and practices that delay permanency for children in care 12 to 23 months to support the development of targeted strategies and interventions to improve timely permanency outcomes for this population.

A stronger area of performance for Kentucky was Permanency Outcome 2, which evaluates how effectively family relationships and connections are preserved for children in foster care. This outcome was substantially

achieved in 86% of foster care cases, making it the second highest-performing outcome. The strongest drivers of performance in this outcome were Placement With Siblings, with siblings placed together unless separation was necessary to meet the needs of one sibling in 92% of the applicable cases, and Relative Placement, with 90% of applicable cases rated positively. Seventeen children were placed with relatives, and in most other cases, efforts were made to assess relatives as potential placement options. Kentucky also supported children's relationships with their parents through activities beyond visitation, such as attending medical appointments and school events, resulting in an 85% Strength rating in the applicable cases. However, efforts to ensure frequent and high-quality visits between children and their parents or siblings were less successful, with 72% of applicable cases rated positively in this area. The quality of visits with parents was good, with 84% of cases rated favorably for mothers and 93% for fathers; however, 50% of cases were rated favorably for quality of sibling visits, which drove down the overall rating for this item. While most children visited their parents weekly or at least twice a month, those placed separately from their siblings or placed outside of their communities often saw their siblings less than once a month, or not at all.

Safety, a paramount outcome in child welfare, and often considered the cornerstone of the system's efforts, continues to be a challenge in Kentucky. The state's performance on the Statewide Data Indicators related to safety were statistically worse than national performance. Maltreatment in Care, which has been a longstanding issue, continues to be more than double national performance, with a Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) of 20.23. Kentucky did not previously include targeted strategies to actively address this issue but reported that 56% of maltreatment in care incidents occurred prior to the child's entry into out-of-home care. Additional analysis should be conducted to determine whether this factor is contributing to elevated rates of maltreatment in care. Recent data for the Recurrence of Maltreatment indicator suggests there are ongoing concerns related to child safety. These concerns are further reflected in the findings for Safety Outcomes 1 and 2, which highlight areas where safety practices may need to be strengthened.

Of the applicable cases, for Safety Outcome 1, 62% of investigations of reports of child maltreatment were initiated according to state timeframes, and timely face-to-face contact with children in accepted child maltreatment reports was made in 57% of applicable cases. The barriers most often noted were high caseloads, staffing issues, and the prioritization of work that affected the timeliness of initiation and subsequent attempts for face-to-face contact.

In Safety Outcome 2, specifically Item 2, services were provided to families to protect children in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care in 62% of the applicable cases. The most common reasons driving lower ratings were either delays in providing needed services or no services provided to prevent removal. This seems to align with issues identified during stakeholder interviews regarding the state's service array. While Kentucky has made improvements in service availability throughout the state, consistency in available services across the state varies. Critical services such as those for domestic violence, substance use issues, mental health needs, and high-acuity youth often have long waitlists, which is particularly evident in rural areas. Kentucky is encouraged to develop innovative strategies alongside community partners to address the gaps in service availability. For Item 3, accurate and comprehensive initial and ongoing safety and risk assessments were evident in 56% of the applicable cases. The state performed strongest in ensuring that maltreatment reports were formally reported or investigated and substantiated appropriately and that the state was appropriately addressing safety concerns in the family home. Accurate assessments were more likely to occur in foster care cases (70% of cases) compared to in-home cases (42% of cases). Insufficient ongoing assessments rather than initial assessments seemed to be a principal reason for the lower ratings. Some reasons identified through case reviews for the insufficient ongoing assessments included caseworker visits not occurring monthly, children not being seen privately, and inaccurate case closure summaries. Through an analysis conducted by the state of its CFSR case review and case participant interview data, it was noted that workers were often unclear about requirements for assessments. Data and information obtained during stakeholder interviews noted that the Field Training Specialist (FTS) program has been instrumental in providing hands-on mentoring and making new workers feel more competent in doing their jobs. Kentucky might consider expanding this program to assist with engagement and modeling accurate assessments.

Kentucky achieved substantial conformity with 3 of the 7 systemic factors, and within each there were many notable areas of progress. One such area is Kentucky's well-functioning Quality Assurance System, which

facilitates data collection and analysis and ensures timely delivery of information on the system's functioning to child welfare professionals, leadership, stakeholders, community partners, and the community. This system consistently processes data and evidence, supports problem-solving, aids the implementation of short- and long-term goals, measures progress over time, and offers a mechanism for sharing feedback with all stakeholders. Additionally, in 2019, Kentucky took steps to ensure uniform application of licensing standards by amending regulations for both the department and private agencies by aligning foster and adoptive home standards with the federal Model Foster Home Standards. To further enhance alignment, Kentucky updated its Private Child Caring/Private Child Placing (PCC/PCP) contract in 2023 to incorporate the Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) home study, which is utilized by state foster homes. This focus on continuous quality improvement has been instrumental in Kentucky's achieving substantial conformity with the Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention systemic factor.

Also worth highlighting are several areas, although not in substantial conformity, where efforts are being made to make necessary improvements. Through data and information provided in Kentucky's Statewide Assessment, the Case Review System showed that almost all children in foster care had a case plan, and most children had their first permanency hearing within 12 months of entering care. Efforts were also being made to improve initial and ongoing staff training by entering a contract with a new university. Finally, although providing widespread service availability across the state is a challenge for Kentucky, three regions have piloted some successful in-home and reunification efforts. These efforts can continue to be leveraged in Round 4.

In summary, while Kentucky continues to face significant challenges in ensuring child safety and achieving timely permanency, efforts in areas such as quality assurance, foster and adoptive parent licensing, and relative placements reflect ongoing progress. Addressing safety and permanency as well as staffing, service availability, and timely casework will be essential in Kentucky's next PIP.

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

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

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

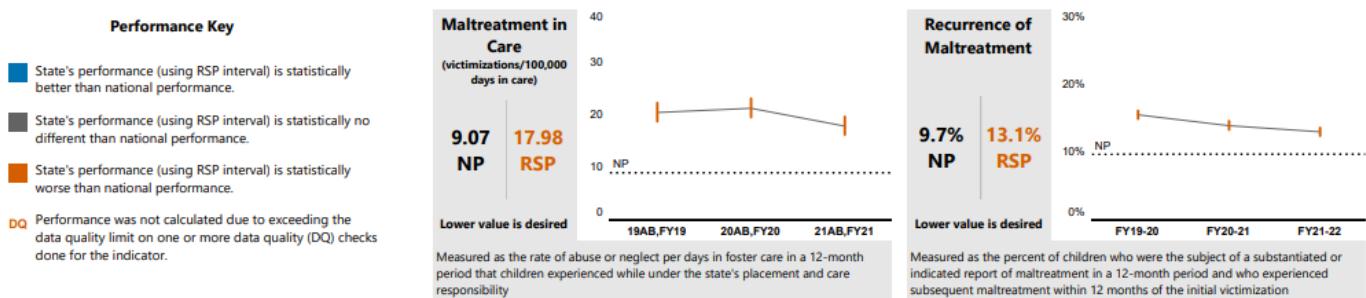
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that CHFS initiate investigations of alleged child maltreatment by having face-to-face contact with the child in accordance with the timeframe established based on the level of risk to the child. Cases may be assigned for a 4-, 24-, 48-, or 72-hour response. The state's multi-tiered response system also includes alternative response. Cases assigned for an alternative response require initiation within 5 business days.

Statewide Data Indicators

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

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

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

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2024 Profile	February 2025 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

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

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

The rate of maltreatment in care per 100,000 days in foster care has remained consistently statistically worse than national performance, with Kentucky's RSP rate of 20.23 in fiscal year (FY) 2022 more than double the national performance rate of 9.07. Observed performance from FY 2020 to FY 2022 shows a 12% decrease in the number of days in foster care and a 16% decrease in the number of victims. The rate of victimizations per 100,000 days in care decreased by 5%.

- Children aged 6 to 10 years comprised 21.1% of the days in care but 30.9% of the victimizations, and they also experienced the highest rate of maltreatment in care at 22.89 victimizations per 100,000 days in care.
- There was notable geographic variation in the rates of maltreatment in care, particularly in the larger counties. Campbell County had a 67% decrease in the number of days in care from FY 2020 to FY 2022, but a rate increase of more than double from 7.97 in FY 2020 to 18.86 in FY 2022. Conversely, Kenton County had a 90% increase in the number of days in care but a 43% decrease in the rate of maltreatment recurrence (from 22.08 in FY 2020 to 12.49 in FY 2022).

The percentage of children experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months has remained consistently statistically worse than national performance, with Kentucky's RSP rate of 15.9% in FY 2022–2023 more than 1.5 times the national performance of 9.7%. Observed performance on this measure shows that the number of children with an initial substantiated or indicated maltreatment report has steadily declined over the past 3 reporting years, while the rate and number of children who experienced recurrence fluctuated but increased overall by 13% between FYs 2020–21 and FYs 2022–23.

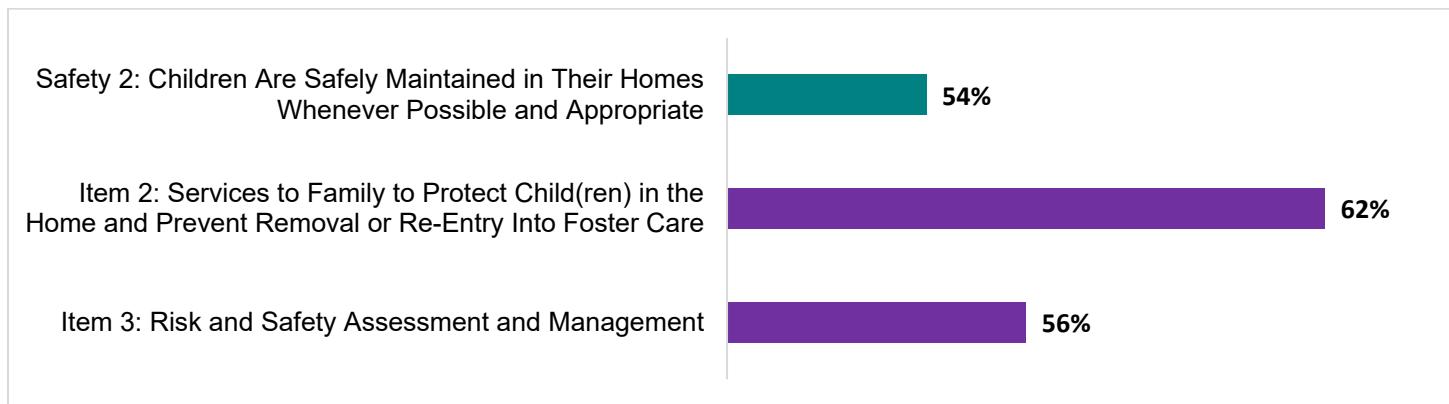
- Although the number of children aged 6 to 10 years with an initial victimization steadily declined over the last 3 reporting years, that age group had the largest percentage of maltreatment recurrence and an overall increase of 27%, from 10.6% in FYs 2020–21 to 13.5% in FYs 2022–23.
- Jefferson County had the largest number of initial victimizations across all 3 reporting years. Despite a steady decline in that number overall, the percentage of children experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment increased from 10.2% in FYs 2020–21 to 14.2% in FYs 2022–23. Fayette County, with another relatively large number of initial victimizations, also saw a steady decline in that number from FYs 2020–21 to FYs 2022–23, but the percentage of recurrence decreased from 14.1% to 11.8%.

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



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

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

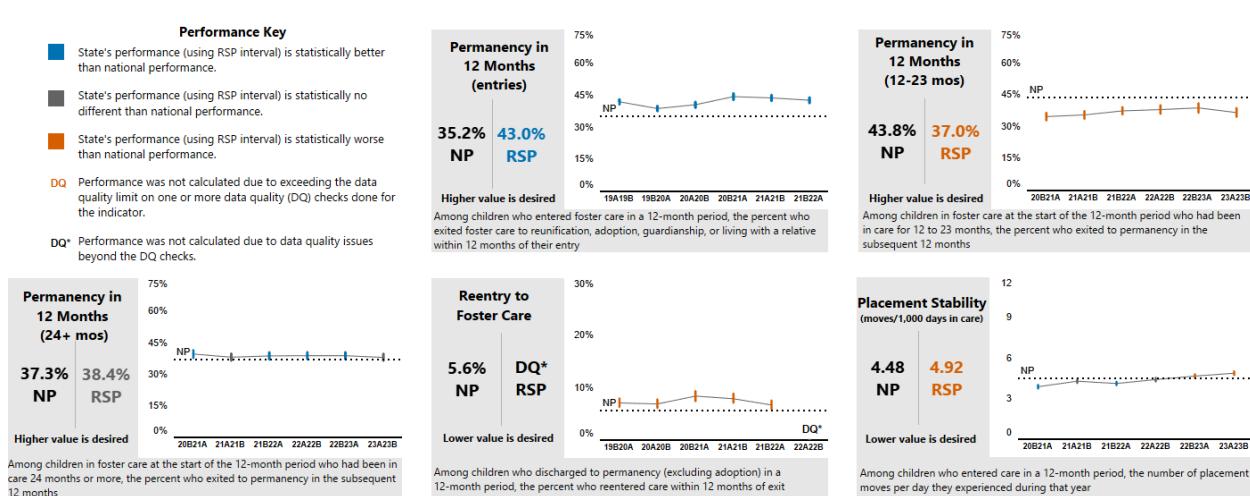
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

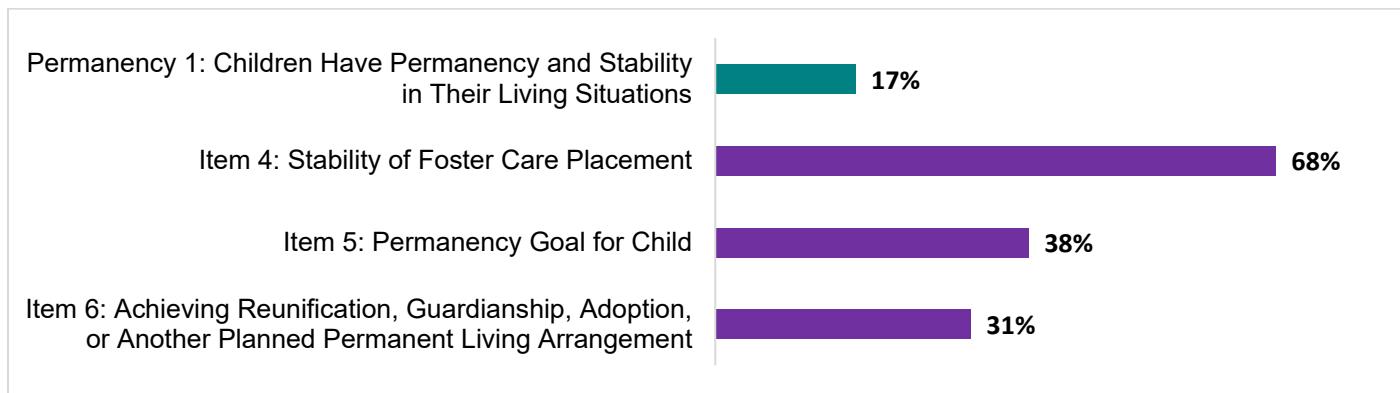
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

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

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

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2024 Profile	February 2025 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Better	Better	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	August 2024 Profile	February 2025 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	No Different	Better	Better	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	Data Quality	Data Quality	Data Quality	Yes
Placement stability	Worse	Better	Better	No

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

Kentucky performed statistically better than the nation in the achievement of permanency in a 12-month period for children who newly entered care and no different or better than the nation for children who had been in care for 24 or more months.

- Kenton County comprised 6.8% of the new entries and 7.8% of the exits to permanency, with a 91% increase in the percentage of entries exiting to permanency in 12 months across the 3 reporting years (from 28.5% to 54.4%). Conversely, Fayette County comprised 4.5% of the entries but only 2.9% of the exits and had a 15% decrease over the 3-year period (from 34.9% to 29.6%).
- Although youth aged 17 comprised 9.6% of the total number of children in care for 24 or more months, they comprised only 3.6% of the exits but had a 39% increase in the percentage exiting to permanency (from 11.8% in FY 2022 to 16.4% in FY 2024).
- Campbell County comprised 4.1% of the total number who had been in care for 24 or more months but comprised more than double that of exits (8.3%). The county saw a 29% increase in exits to permanency over the past 3 years (from 68.6% in FY 2022 to 88.5% in FY 2024). Conversely, Jefferson County comprised 5.9% of the total number in care but only 2.7% of the exits and saw a 19% decrease in the percentage exiting to permanency (from 39.4% in FY 2022 to 32.1% in FY 2024).

The state performed statistically worse than the nation on achieving permanency in a 12-month period for children who had been in care 12 to 23 months.

- Youth aged 17 comprised 6.7% of the total number of children in care for 12 to 23 months but comprised only 3.4% of the exits to permanency. This age group saw an increase in the percentage exiting to permanency from 15.3% in FY 2022 to 18.9% in FY 2024.
- Fayette County's performance declined over the 3 reporting periods, with 39.2% of children in care for 12 to 23 months exiting to permanency in FY 2022 and decreasing to 30.4% in FY 2024 (a 22% decrease). Conversely, the percentage of children exiting to permanency in Kenton County increased by 67% (from 21.5% in FY 2022 to 35.8% in FY 2024).

The state had data quality issues over the past 3 reporting periods, so performance on Reentry into Foster Care was not calculated. Kentucky's RSP, however, was statistically better than national performance on that measure in the prior 3 reporting periods (FYs 2020–21, FY 2021, and FYs 21–22).

Kentucky performed no different or better than national performance on the Placement Stability measure over the past 3 reporting periods. There was a slight, consistent improvement in observed performance with a decline from 4.95 moves per 1,000 days in care in FY 2022 to 4.65 moves per 1,000 days in FY 2024.

- Children aged 11 to 16 years had the most days in care and consequently had the most placement moves (over 6 moves) in all 3 report periods except FY 2022, where the 17-year-olds also had moved

6.85 times per 1,000 days in care. Children aged 11 to 16 also comprised 32.9% of the total days in care but 43.5% of the total moves.

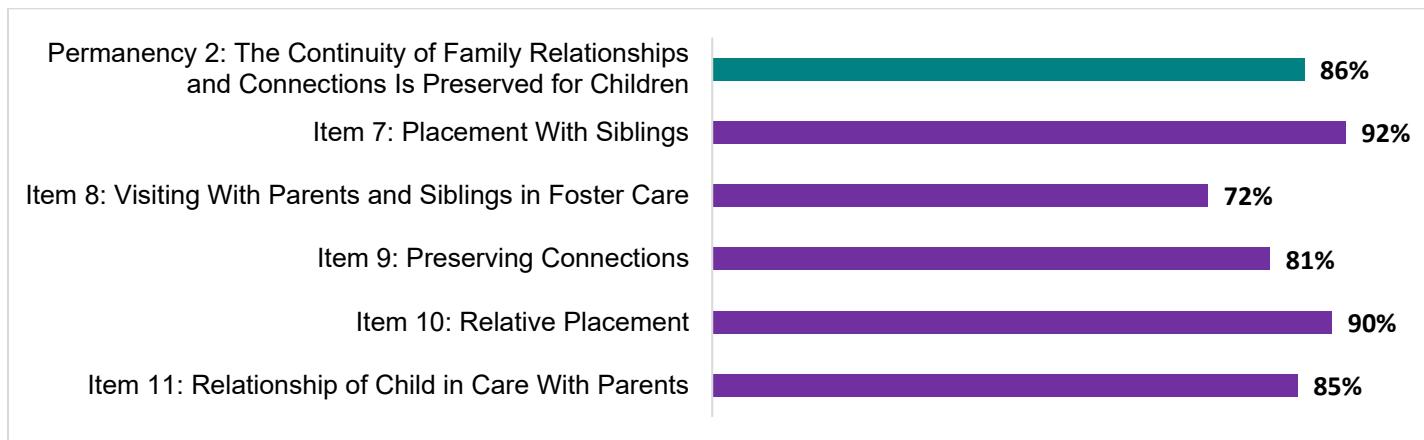
- Jefferson County performance improved over the most recent 3 years. Jefferson saw a consistent increase in the number of days in care but a consistent decrease in the number of placement moves and a 30% decrease from FY 2022 to FY 2024. Jefferson County also comprised 12.5% of the total days in care but 9.9% of the total number of moves.

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



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

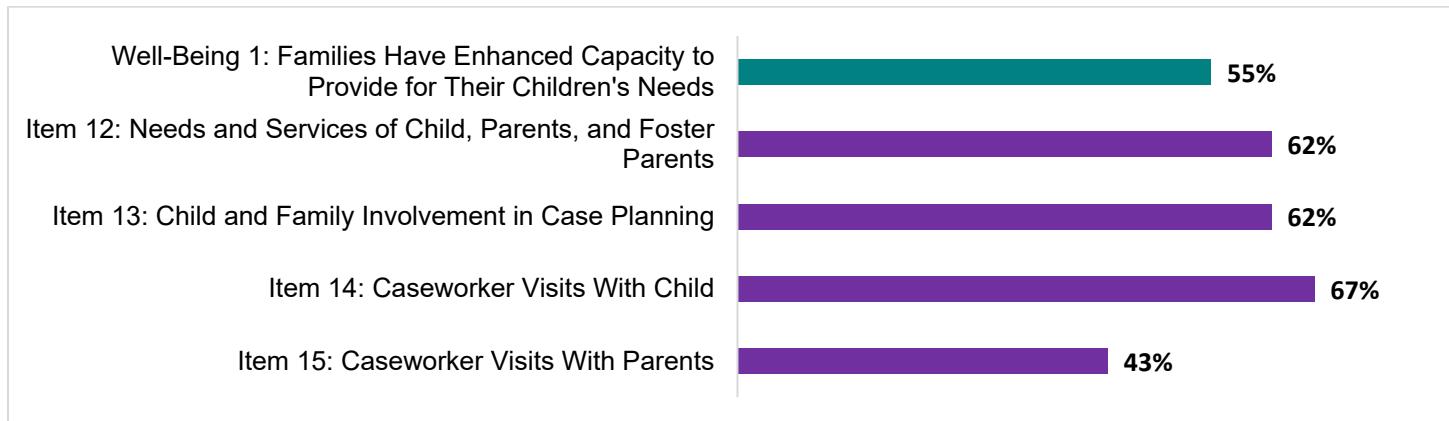
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

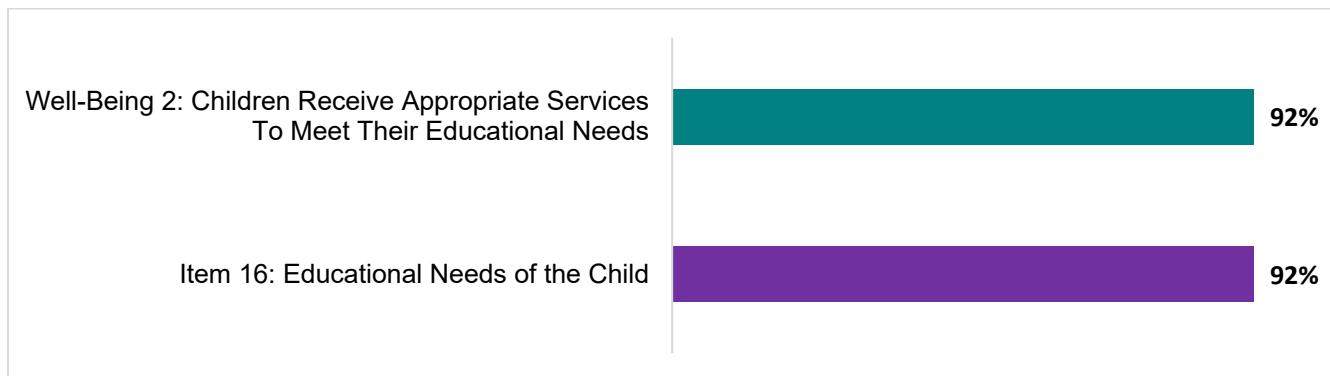
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
 - Less than 90% of the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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

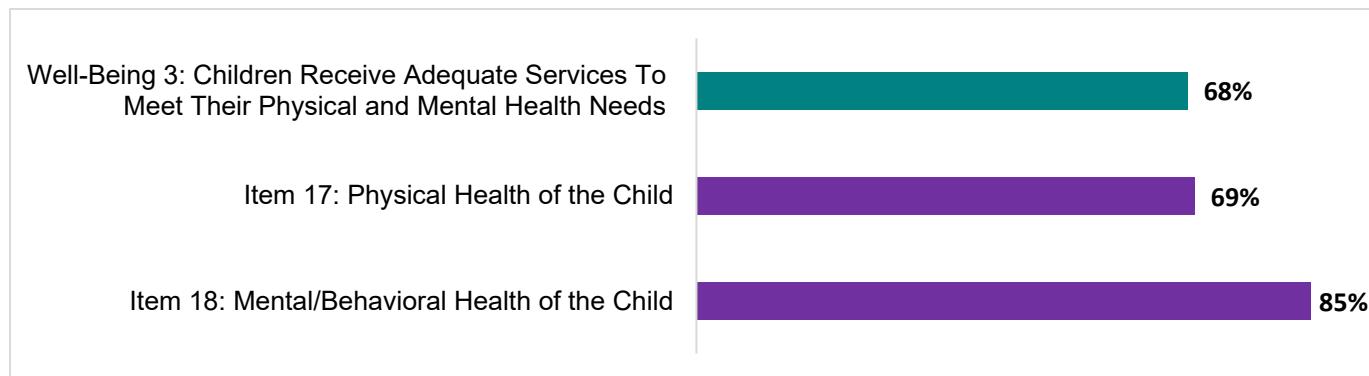
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



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

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

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Area Needing Improvement

Kentucky 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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Kentucky provided data and information to support that the agency has a Statewide Information System that operates statewide to capture and provide immediate, web-based access to data regarding a child's demographics, status, and goals. The system timestamps every table to record when data are entered into the system and is designed to promote thoroughness through a review and approval process for child welfare functions, which ensures accurate data entry. While data related to status, goals, and demographics are accurate and entered timely, there is no evidence demonstrating that the processes in place are working to ensure placement information is entered timely.

Case Review System

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

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

Items	Rating
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Area Needing Improvement

Kentucky 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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Kentucky provided data showing that most children in foster care have written case plans; however, the data and information provided did not demonstrate that case plans are jointly developed with parents. Case plans are often pre-written by the caseworker and presented to parents.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

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

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Strength for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information demonstrated that initial periodic reviews occurred for children no less frequently than within 6 months of entry into foster care and then every 6 months thereafter.

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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information received demonstrated that initial permanency hearings are routinely being held within 12 months from the date the child entered foster care. However, the data and information did not demonstrate that subsequent permanency hearings are routinely occurring every 12 months thereafter.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

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

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information did not demonstrate that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were filed in accordance with federal timeframes. Additionally, there were no processes to track and monitor whether TPR petitions were filed in accordance with federal law or a process to track exceptions, including documented compelling reasons not to file.

Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

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

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information showed that Kentucky does not routinely provide notices to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers as required. There is no process to ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers are notified of periodic reviews or permanency hearings related to the children in their care or information about whether any notice includes information about their right to be heard.

Quality Assurance System

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

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Strength

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

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

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

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information showed that Kentucky uses a statewide robust CQI system operating in all jurisdictions represented in the CFSP that includes standards to evaluate the quality of services, means to identify strengths and needs of the service delivery system, relevant reports, and evaluation of implemented program improvement measures. The agency's CQI process consists of a tiered teaming structure at the local, regional, and state levels inclusive of stakeholder involvement and incorporation of key performance data. Multiple types of case reviews, along with a system of weekly, monthly, and ad hoc data reports from the statewide information system, provide data on the strengths and needs of service delivery and system performance. These data points are used in a variety of meeting forums internally and with external stakeholders to problem-solve, implement potential solutions, and monitor progress on improvement efforts. The agency has also implemented tracking systems to manage the monitoring of strength and barrier identification and implementation of improvement efforts.

Staff and Provider Training

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

Items	Rating
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement

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

Kentucky 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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Kentucky launched a new initial training program in 2022 called Foundations, which incorporates Field Training Specialists (FTS) to enhance the knowledge and skills acquired during classroom training. Additionally, an evaluation program has been established for this initial training. However, many staff members who completed the Foundations training reported feeling unprepared to fulfill their job responsibilities, and the FTS program has not yet been implemented statewide.

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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information gathered demonstrated that Kentucky provides ongoing training for state agency caseworkers; however, caseworkers and supervisors do not consistently complete the required ongoing training. The state was not able to demonstrate that the ongoing training for caseworkers and supervisors provides trainees with the knowledge and skills needed to perform job duties.

Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

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

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided demonstrated that foster parents receive initial training and complete ongoing training requirements for contracted foster homes. However, information and data obtained did not support the same compliance with training content and hours among agency foster homes and confirmed that there is no consistent tracking mechanism in place to monitor the completion of required training hours and content for staff in state licensed or approved facilities. The data and information provided did not support that the ongoing training consistently provided foster and adoptive parents with the knowledge and skills needed to care for the children placed in their homes.

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

Kentucky 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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided demonstrated that Kentucky made improvements since Round 3 in service availability throughout the state, particularly in prevention services. However, service availability is not consistent statewide. There are greater service gaps in rural communities and in locations that lack cell phone and internet service. There are waitlists for critical services such as domestic violence, substance use issues, and mental health—particularly family therapy, autism spectrum, services for hearing-impaired youth and adults, and dental services. Transportation, especially for families in rural communities who must travel significant distances to access services, is a barrier. The availability of appropriate placements is challenging, resulting in frequent overnight stays for children in foster care in offices or hotels, especially for children and youth with high-acuity mental and behavioral health needs, those in large sibling groups, and male children.

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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information gathered showed that Kentucky faces challenges in meeting the individualized needs of families and youth involved with the child welfare system. There are challenges in identifying linguistically appropriate services; in particular, gaps remain in services for Spanish speakers as well as for speakers of other languages. Parents with intellectual or developmental disabilities do not routinely receive individualized services. Additionally, the availability of resources varies across counties, often requiring individuals to travel outside their home counties to access the specialized services they need.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

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

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

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

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided showed efforts to inform stakeholders of strengths, challenges, and initiatives within the child welfare agency. However, the agency struggled to engage all relevant parties, particularly birth parents and legal and judicial partners, as well as providers and community partners, in the ongoing development, implementation, and monitoring of the CFSP and APSR.

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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Kentucky reported that coordination with services or benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population as the CFSP occurs through centralized operations of the Cabinet, which includes public financial assistance, child support, community-based mental health, early childhood public health interventions, Medicaid, and childcare assistance. Cabinet leadership conducts regular meetings to ensure interface and coordination among the program areas. Program reporting for major and minor child welfare funding, titles IV-E and IV-B, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, the Social Services Block Grant, and the Children's Justice Act grant, are all reported from the Division of Protection and Permanency. Financial reporting from all programs is executed by the department's Division of Administrative and Fiscal Management.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

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

Kentucky was found 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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided demonstrated that to be approved as a foster home, all agency foster homes must complete the Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) home study process, which is aligned with the National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards except for the age requirement. Kentucky provided data that supported adherence to the SAFE home study standards for both agency and private provider foster homes.

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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Kentucky provided procedures and data to demonstrate compliance with required background checks for both agency and private provider foster homes. Any homes found out of compliance require corrective action plans, and data provided indicate that all of those plans are successfully monitored through completion. Kentucky demonstrated that it has a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children. Standard operating procedures are in place to address required timeframes for foster and adoptive parents to notify the agency of significant changes or events within their homes as well as expectations and timeframes for staff once notified of changes. Data from 2022 and 2023 showed that the number of foster or adoptive home closures due to a substantiated finding or safety concern was very low.

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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Kentucky reported a system for diligent recruitment that utilizes regional recruitment plans that feed into a statewide recruitment effort. Current regional and county-specific data informs the plan, which includes the number, race, and ethnicity of children in care; the number of foster homes (both agency and private); and a calculation of the need for additional homes. Each regional recruitment plan was data-driven and included identifying recruitment goals for caregivers to serve children with special medical and other needs.

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.

- Kentucky received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information demonstrated Kentucky's involvement in a variety of efforts to support interstate cross-jurisdictional adoptions for children in care without an adoptive home. However, the state agency did not provide any information or data regarding cross-jurisdictional efforts within the state to support permanent placement for children awaiting adoption, and the state was not able to show that Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children home studies for children from other states were completed timely.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Kentucky 2025 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Not in Substantial Conformity	62% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.07	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	17.98	16.35–19.7	21A–21B, FY21–22
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	13.1%	12.5%–13.7%	FY21–22

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	54% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	56% 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	17% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	38% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	31% 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	43.0%	41.7%–44.3%	21B–23B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Worse Than National Performance	Higher	37.0%	34.9%–39.2%	23A–23B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	No Different Than National Performance	Higher	38.4%	36.7%–40.2%	23A–23B
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	Data Quality	Lower	DQ	DQ	22A–23B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	4.92	4.77–5.08	23A–23B

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Not in Substantial Conformity	86% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Strength	92% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	81% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Strength	90% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	85% 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	55% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	79% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	58% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	67% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	43% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	92% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	92% 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	68% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	69% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	85% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

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

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

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

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

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment	Strength
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

Kentucky CFSR (State-Led) 2025

The Practice Performance Report provides an aggregated summary of practice performance for all 18 items in the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) for all approved and final cases from all the sites in the Kentucky CFSR (State-Led) and includes a breakdown of performance by case type. Please refer to the Rating Criteria section at the end of each item in the OSRI to identify which responses to questions will result in a Strength rating. For more information on the OSRI, see

<https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-instruments-tools-and-guides>

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

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

Practice Description	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	59.74% (46 of 77)
(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.	57.14% (44 of 77)
(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.	12.12% (4 of 33)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	62.34% (48 of 77)

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.	47.62% (10 of 21)	50% (17 of 34)	49.09% (27 of 55)

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) 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.	28.57% (6 of 21)	Not Applicable	28.57% (6 of 21)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	9.52% (2 of 21)	Not Applicable	9.52% (2 of 21)
(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.	9.52% (2 of 21)	50% (17 of 34)	34.55% (19 of 55)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	80.95% (17 of 21)	50% (17 of 34)	61.82% (34 of 55)

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/assessed.	98.89% (89 of 90)	97.78% (88 of 90)	98.33% (177 of 180)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (90 of 90)	96.67% (87 of 90)	98.33% (177 of 180)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	81.82% (9 of 11)	60.47% (26 of 43)	64.81% (35 of 54)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	70% (63 of 90)	48.89% (44 of 90)	59.44% (107 of 180)
(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.	66.67% (4 of 6)	63.64% (21 of 33)	64.1% (25 of 39)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	88.89% (16 of 18)	86.11% (31 of 36)	87.04% (47 of 54)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	98.04% (50 of 51)	Not Applicable	98.04% (50 of 51)
(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% (90 of 90)	Not Applicable	100% (90 of 90)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	70% (63 of 90)	42.22% (38 of 90)	56.11% (101 of 180)

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.	27.59% (8 of 29)	27.59% (8 of 29)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	83.33% (75 of 90)	83.33% (75 of 90)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	67.78% (61 of 90)	67.78% (61 of 90)

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% (90 of 90)	100% (90 of 90)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	54.44% (49 of 90)	54.44% (49 of 90)
(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.	78.89% (71 of 90)	78.89% (71 of 90)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	70% (63 of 90)	70% (63 of 90)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 27)	0% (0 of 27)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	74.19% (46 of 62)	74.19% (46 of 62)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	37.78% (34 of 90)	37.78% (34 of 90)

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.	43.33% (13 of 30)	43.33% (13 of 30)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	0	0
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	11.36% (5 of 44)	11.36% (5 of 44)
(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.	80% (8 of 10)	80% (8 of 10)
(Questions 6A4 and B or 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved.	33.33% (2 of 6)	33.33% (2 of 6)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	31.11% (28 of 90)	31.11% (28 of 90)

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.	54.05% (20 of 37)	54.05% (20 of 37)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	82.35% (14 of 17)	82.35% (14 of 17)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	91.89% (34 of 37)	91.89% (34 of 37)

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.	6.25% (2 of 32)	6.25% (2 of 32)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	34.38% (11 of 32)	34.38% (11 of 32)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	18.75% (6 of 32)	18.75% (6 of 32)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	6.25% (2 of 32)	6.25% (2 of 32)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	31.25% (10 of 32)	31.25% (10 of 32)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	3.13% (1 of 32)	3.13% (1 of 32)
(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.	84.38% (27 of 32)	84.38% (27 of 32)
(Question 8C) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	93.33% (28 of 30)	93.33% (28 of 30)
(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.	84.38% (27 of 32)	84.38% (27 of 32)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	14.29% (2 of 14)	14.29% (2 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	28.57% (4 of 14)	28.57% (4 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	28.57% (4 of 14)	28.57% (4 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	0% (0 of 14)	0% (0 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	21.43% (3 of 14)	21.43% (3 of 14)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	7.14% (1 of 14)	7.14% (1 of 14)
(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.	92.86% (13 of 14)	92.86% (13 of 14)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8D) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	100% (13 of 13)	100% (13 of 13)
(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.	92.86% (13 of 14)	92.86% (13 of 14)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 14)	0% (0 of 14)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	7.14% (1 of 14)	7.14% (1 of 14)
(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 14)	0% (0 of 14)
(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.	7.14% (1 of 14)	7.14% (1 of 14)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	64.29% (9 of 14)	64.29% (9 of 14)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	21.43% (3 of 14)	21.43% (3 of 14)
(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.	50% (7 of 14)	50% (7 of 14)
(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.	53.85% (7 of 13)	53.85% (7 of 13)
(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.	50% (7 of 14)	50% (7 of 14)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	72.09% (31 of 43)	72.09% (31 of 43)

Item 9: Preserving Connections

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 9A) Concerted efforts were made to maintain the child's important connections (for example, neighborhood, community, faith, language, extended family members including siblings who are not in foster care, Tribe, school, and/or friends).	81.11% (73 of 90)	81.11% (73 of 90)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 9 Strength Ratings	81.11% (73 of 90)	81.11% (73 of 90)

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.	20.24% (17 of 84)	20.24% (17 of 84)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (17 of 17)	100% (17 of 17)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	80% (4 of 5)	80% (4 of 5)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	80% (4 of 5)	80% (4 of 5)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	80% (4 of 5)	80% (4 of 5)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	80% (4 of 5)	80% (4 of 5)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	90.48% (76 of 84)	90.48% (76 of 84)

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.	84.38% (27 of 32)	84.38% (27 of 32)
(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.	92.86% (13 of 14)	92.86% (13 of 14)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	85.29% (29 of 34)	85.29% (29 of 34)

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	71.11% (64 of 90)	53.33% (48 of 90)	62.22% (112 of 180)

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.	92.22% (83 of 90)	68.89% (62 of 90)	80.56% (145 of 180)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	85.96% (49 of 57)	58.18% (32 of 55)	72.32% (81 of 112)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	90% (81 of 90)	68.89% (62 of 90)	79.44% (143 of 180)

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	69.05% (29 of 42)	73.26% (63 of 86)	71.88% (92 of 128)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	71.43% (30 of 42)	71.05% (54 of 76)	71.19% (84 of 118)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	69.05% (29 of 42)	69.77% (60 of 86)	69.53% (89 of 128)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	53.85% (14 of 26)	57.81% (37 of 64)	56.67% (51 of 90)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	60% (15 of 25)	55.93% (33 of 59)	57.14% (48 of 84)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	53.85% (14 of 26)	57.81% (37 of 64)	56.67% (51 of 90)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	57.78% (26 of 45)	58.43% (52 of 89)	58.21% (78 of 134)

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.	85.88% (73 of 85)	85.88% (73 of 85)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	56.52% (13 of 23)	56.52% (13 of 23)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	85.88% (73 of 85)	85.88% (73 of 85)

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.	88.57% (62 of 70)	61.9% (39 of 63)	75.94% (101 of 133)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	78.05% (32 of 41)	67.44% (58 of 86)	70.87% (90 of 127)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	60.87% (14 of 23)	53.13% (34 of 64)	55.17% (48 of 87)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	76.83% (63 of 82)	48.89% (44 of 90)	62.21% (107 of 172)

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 90)	0% (0 of 90)	0% (0 of 180)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0% (0 of 90)	0% (0 of 90)	0% (0 of 180)
(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.	1.11% (1 of 90)	0% (0 of 90)	0.56% (1 of 180)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	85.56% (77 of 90)	61.11% (55 of 90)	73.33% (132 of 180)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	13.33% (12 of 90)	36.67% (33 of 90)	25% (45 of 180)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 90)	2.22% (2 of 90)	1.11% (2 of 180)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	85.56% (77 of 90)	61.11% (55 of 90)	73.33% (132 of 180)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	94.44% (85 of 90)	70.45% (62 of 88)	82.58% (147 of 178)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	82.22% (74 of 90)	51.11% (46 of 90)	66.67% (120 of 180)

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 41)	0% (0 of 86)	0% (0 of 127)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	0% (0 of 41)	1.16% (1 of 86)	0.79% (1 of 127)

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 less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 41)	0% (0 of 86)	0% (0 of 127)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	53.66% (22 of 41)	58.14% (50 of 86)	56.69% (72 of 127)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	43.9% (18 of 41)	36.05% (31 of 86)	38.58% (49 of 127)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	2.44% (1 of 41)	4.65% (4 of 86)	3.94% (5 of 127)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	53.66% (22 of 41)	60.47% (52 of 86)	58.27% (74 of 127)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	82.5% (33 of 40)	85.37% (70 of 82)	84.43% (103 of 122)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	51.22% (21 of 41)	55.81% (48 of 86)	54.33% (69 of 127)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 23)	0% (0 of 64)	0% (0 of 87)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	0% (0 of 23)	0% (0 of 64)	0% (0 of 87)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 23)	0% (0 of 64)	0% (0 of 87)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	43.48% (10 of 23)	37.5% (24 of 64)	39.08% (34 of 87)

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 less than once a month.	52.17% (12 of 23)	57.81% (37 of 64)	56.32% (49 of 87)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	4.35% (1 of 23)	4.69% (3 of 64)	4.6% (4 of 87)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	43.48% (10 of 23)	37.5% (24 of 64)	39.08% (34 of 87)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	81.82% (18 of 22)	73.77% (45 of 61)	75.9% (63 of 83)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	39.13% (9 of 23)	34.38% (22 of 64)	35.63% (31 of 87)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	46.67% (21 of 45)	40.45% (36 of 89)	42.54% (57 of 134)

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.	95.18% (79 of 83)	93.33% (14 of 15)	94.9% (93 of 98)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	92.45% (49 of 53)	85.71% (12 of 14)	91.04% (61 of 67)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	92.77% (77 of 83)	86.67% (13 of 15)	91.84% (90 of 98)

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.	87.78% (79 of 90)	79.31% (23 of 29)	85.71% (102 of 119)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	77.27% (17 of 22)	Not Applicable	77.27% (17 of 22)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	86.08% (68 of 79)	74.07% (20 of 27)	83.02% (88 of 106)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	71.91% (64 of 89)	100% (1 of 1)	72.22% (65 of 90)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	68.35% (54 of 79)	100% (1 of 1)	68.75% (55 of 80)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	66.67% (60 of 90)	75.86% (22 of 29)	68.91% (82 of 119)

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.	95.95% (71 of 74)	76.47% (39 of 51)	88% (110 of 125)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	90.91% (40 of 44)	Not Applicable	90.91% (40 of 44)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	91.67% (66 of 72)	76% (38 of 50)	85.25% (104 of 122)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	91.89% (68 of 74)	74.51% (38 of 51)	84.8% (106 of 125)