

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

New York

FINAL REPORT

2024

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Final Report: New York Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the New York Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and submitted to the CB on July 18, 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 65 cases (40 foster care and 25 in-home), conducted via a CB-Led Review process at New York City, and Chautauqua and Jefferson counties, in New York during September 16–20, 2024, and examining case practices occurring September 2023 through September 2024.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Administrative Review Board
 - Attorneys for the agency
 - Attorneys for children/youth
 - Attorneys for parents
 - Child welfare caseworkers and supervisors
 - Child welfare regional managers
 - Contractors and service providers
 - Director of NY's Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics
 - Foster and adoptive parents, relative caregivers, and resource (foster) parents
 - Judges
 - Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) and Voluntary Agency (VA) home finders
 - LDSS leadership and VA program directors
 - Parents
 - Representatives from the courts and Court Improvement Program (CIP)
 - Representatives from other public agencies and federal partners
 - Tribal representatives
 - Youth

Background Information

The Round 4 CFSR assesses state performance with regard to substantial conformity with 7 child and family outcomes and 7 systemic factors. Each outcome incorporates 1 or more of the 18 items included in the case review, and each item is rated as a Strength or Area Needing Improvement based on an evaluation of certain child welfare practices and processes in the cases reviewed in the state. With two exceptions, an item is

assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90% or more of the applicable cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies to those items. For a state to be in substantial conformity with a particular outcome, 95% or more of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome. In addition, for Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's RSP on applicable statewide data indicators must be better than or no different than national performance. This determination for substantial conformity is based on the data profile transmitted to the state to signal the start of that state's CFSR. The state's RSP in subsequent data profiles will be factored into the determination of indicators required to be included in the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

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

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

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

New York 2024 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

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
		Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability
Permanency Outcome 2	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 1	Items 12, 13, 14, and 15	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 2	Item 16	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 3	Items 17 and 18	N/A

New York 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

New York operates a state-supervised, county-administered child welfare system. The OCFS serves as the title IV-B and IV-E agency for NY. Services are locally administered through 57 LDSS, the five boroughs of New York City, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and county youth bureaus. OCFS is responsible for programs and services involving foster care; adoption and adoption assistance; child protective services, including operating the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment; preventive services for children and families; and protective programs for vulnerable adults. While OCFS is responsible for the direct oversight of services and program development, the LDSS and the VA are responsible for serving clients that are accessing the available services within the LDSS's jurisdictions and New York City.

In 2016, OCFS participated in a Round 3 Traditional CFSR. New York was found to be in substantial conformity with 1 of the 7 outcomes—Safety Outcome 1, “Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.” Of the 7 systemic factors, only one, “Agency Responsiveness to the Community,” met federal requirements for substantial conformity. New York’s Round 3 CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on March 27, 2018, and the 2-year implementation period began on April 5, 2018. On August 15, 2019, the Children’s Bureau determined that New York had successfully met all of its PIP measurement goals. On May 20, 2020, the state was notified that it had completed all the benchmarks and action steps identified in the PIP.

New York’s Round 4 CB-Led Review onsite review was conducted September 16–20, 2024. Stakeholder interviews were conducted on September 10 and 12, and throughout the onsite review week. The CB found that New York was not in substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes:

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect;
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate;
- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations;
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children;
- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs;
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; and
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

New York was found not to be in substantial conformity with the following 4 of the 7 Systemic Factors: Statewide Information System; Case Review System; Service Array and Resource Development; and Staff and Provider Training. The state was found to be in substantial conformity with three systemic factors: Quality

Assurance System; Agency Responsiveness to the Community; and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

The highest performing item based on case review performance was Safety Outcome 1, Item 1, “Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment.” This item was rated as a Strength in 96.1% of applicable cases. In the cases reviewed, 100% of investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with New York’s policy. Safety Outcome 1 also includes performance on 2 statewide data indicators. New York’s performance on the Recurrence of Maltreatment statewide data indicator was statistically worse than national performance for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2019 through 2022. The performance of the Maltreatment in Foster Care statewide data indicator was statistically worse than that of the national performance for FFY 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The next highest performing outcome was Well-Being Outcome 2, “Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs,” with 85% of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. For Well-Being Outcome 2, performance for in-home cases was slightly lower than for foster care cases, with the agency meeting the educational needs of children in 87.5% of the foster care cases and 75% of the in-home services cases.

As in Round 3, New York continues to face challenges in achieving permanency for children in foster care. Of the 40 foster care cases reviewed, Permanency Outcome 1 was substantially achieved in 15% (6 of 40) of the applicable foster care cases. For Item 4, Placement Stability, 82.5% (33 of 40) of the cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Most children had one placement during the period under review (PUR), which is a positive practice. Timely and appropriate permanency goals remain a challenge, contributing to the overall outcome rating. Additionally, New York’s performance on three statewide data indicators—Permanency in 12 months for children entering care, in care 12–23 months, and in care 24+ months—falls statistically below national performance. These practice areas require significant attention in the PIP by OCFS and legal and judicial professionals.

Although initial permanency goals were generally appropriate and established timely, the agency and courts were slow to change these goals to ones that accurately reflected the case circumstances and the child’s need for permanency. In 7 cases, the current permanency goal of reunification, adoption, and/or guardianship, including concurrent goals, was not appropriate and had been in place between 2 and 5 years at the time of review. In several cases, the reunification goal was kept in place for years despite the parents’ lack of progress, parents not visiting, or parents’ whereabouts unknown. In 12 cases, adoption and guardianship goals were not established timely, and specifically, in three cases, the adoption goal was not established until parental rights were terminated. For eight of these children, they had been in foster care between 18 months and 43 months before the adoption or guardianship goal was established. When appropriate permanency goals are not established timely, efforts made toward those goals are futile in achieving appropriate permanency.

Additionally, children are remaining in foster care for extensive periods of time, and for most cases reviewed, there was a lack of urgency to achieve permanency. Among the cases reviewed, nine children, all under 10 years old, had been in care for over 3 years as of the review date. Most of these children had an adoption goal and had been placed continuously with a committed resource parent or relative caregiver throughout the review period, dedicated to achieving permanency. New York’s supplemental context data to the statewide data indicators confirms this observation with higher percentages of children still in care compared with national levels for children who were followed 3 to 7 years after entry into foster care.

There was a lack of concerted efforts toward achieving permanency in 28 of the 40 foster care cases. In most of these cases, children had a permanency goal of either reunification or adoption. For reunification cases, the case reviews generally found that the agency did not effectively engage parents to address why they were only minimally complying with services, or there was minimal to no contact between the agency and parents. In some cases, more frequent reviews were not scheduled in between the 6-month permanency hearings to assess efforts in moving children to permanency sooner. For 5 adoption cases where the children were legally free for adoption, finalization took between 11 to 18 months. There were delays in completing the adoption paperwork, and there was minimal court oversight to ensure timely resolution. Court adjournment and calendaring practices also contributed to delays. Permanency and other hearings were continued for months.

In some cases, the termination of parental rights (TPR) trial was continued several times for long periods, including 1 case taking 3 years to commence the TPR trial and another case that was adjourned without a new trial date. Additionally, TPR petitions were filed outside federal timelines in 7 cases. In another 3 cases, children had been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, but a TPR petition had not been filed and there was no exception to filing. Strong collaboration between OCFS and legal and judicial professionals is essential for moving children and families toward timely and appropriate permanency and improving the “Permanency in 12 months” data indicators. The PIP should clearly outline the critical factors that support and impede the achievement of timely and appropriate permanency, along with strategies to effectively address barriers in both OCFS and the legal and judicial system.

Permanency Outcome 2 was substantially achieved in 65% (26 of 40) of the applicable foster care cases. Of the 5 items assessed in this outcome, the highest performing item was Item 7, Placement With Siblings. In 88.5% of applicable cases, New York received a Strength rating for placing siblings together in foster care, except when separation was necessary to meet one sibling’s needs, which is a positive practice. Regarding Item 10, Relative Placement, in 15 of the applicable 39 cases, the child’s current or most recent placement was with a relative, and that placement was appropriate, which are also positive practices. For 13 children not placed with relatives, efforts were made during the PUR to identify and evaluate maternal and paternal relatives as potential placements. Another positive practice was noted in Item 11, Relationship of Child in Care With Parents, which assesses the agency’s efforts to promote and support a child’s relationship with his or her parents through activities other than visitation, such as attendance at school events and medical appointments, where 81.5% of the applicable 27 cases received a Strength rating.

Well-Being Outcome 1, “Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs,” was the second lowest-performing outcome, with 43.1% of cases rated as substantially achieved. In many of the cases applicable to Item 12, it was determined that the agency did not make concerted efforts to assess the needs of the child(ren) and parents and provide the appropriate services. Regardless of case type, performance in working with parents was lower than it was with children. Also notable was the agency’s performance for fathers, which was lower than that of mothers for Sub-Item 12B, Needs Assessment and Services to Parents. While 72.9% of the applicable cases received a Strength rating for effectively assessing the needs of foster or pre-adoptive parents and providing them with appropriate services, performance in areas such as Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, and Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, indicates a need to identify and implement strategies for improving practices related to parent engagement. As noted, parent engagement is foundational for improving safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families involved in the New York child welfare system. This will be a key practice area for OCFS to address in its PIP. Improving how caseworkers assess parents’ needs, ensuring that they are provided necessary and appropriate services and engaging them in case planning, is essential to achieving better outcomes.

The performance for the 2 items under Safety Outcome 2, which focuses on keeping children safely in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, indicates a need for improvement, with 56.9% of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. Specifically, for Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care, just 40.7% of cases were rated as a Strength. The low performance on Item 2 was primarily due to a lack of concerted efforts to provide risk and safety services to prevent children from entering foster care. For Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, 61.5% of the cases were rated as a Strength. While foster care cases had a higher percentage of Strength ratings as compared to in-home services cases—70% compared with 48%—safety and risk assessment and management-related practices for both foster care and in-home services cases requires improvement. Areas of practice to further assess include the use of informal and formal safety assessments; assessment of risk and safety ongoing throughout the PUR; assessment of the home environment when children are visiting or being placed; and safety planning and monitoring of safety plans. Practices related to the initial assessment of risk and safety had the highest performance for both case types, with strong practice seen in 86% of applicable cases. Practices around the ongoing assessments of risk and safety for both in-home services and foster care cases was less strong as the agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all the risk and safety concerns for the target child in foster care and/or any child(ren) in the family remaining in the home in 63% of the cases. Child safety is of the utmost importance and should be a primary focus area for the PIP.

The CB recommends that New York identify strategies to strengthen caseworkers' abilities to assess the risk and safety of children accurately and comprehensively and to develop, implement, monitor, and adjust appropriate safety plans that mitigate threats to child safety.

Well-Being Outcome 3 assesses the agency's concerted efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's physical and dental health needs in Item 17 and the child's mental/behavioral needs in Item 18. 57.6% of the cases were rated as Substantially Achieved for this outcome. Reasons that negatively affected performance on this outcome included the lack of addressing physical and dental health needs, the lack of ongoing assessment of the children's mental and behavioral health needs, and the provision of services to meet identified needs.

Service Array is a significant systemic factor that affects safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes, and this should be a focus of the state's PIP. The case review and stakeholder interviews indicated that accessing critical services, such as mental health services/evaluations, substance use disorder treatment, supervised visitation services, and housing, throughout the state is difficult. Additionally, service availability is affected by waitlists that vary across the state. Transportation, especially in the rural areas, can be a barrier in families accessing services as well. There are insufficient placement resources to meet the needs of children currently in or entering foster care. Children are placed in more restrictive placements, lingering in hospitals, or staying at hotels or offices while awaiting appropriate placements. Foster homes are needed for children with special needs and to accommodate large sibling groups. The case review and stakeholder interviews also revealed that individualized services were not always provided for children and families with disabilities and families whose primary language is not English. This highlights the importance of services that are responsive to developmental and special needs along with culturally competent services and services available in various languages.

As New York begins to address the concerns highlighted in the CFSR, the state should look to further engage people with lived experience, its legal and judicial partners, and other community partners in the process of PIP development to ensure that any systemic change is meaningful across the state. Involving partners and stakeholders in a collaborative way has been shown to contribute to authentic and lasting change for those who interact with the child welfare system.

Equity Observations and Considerations

Ensuring that child welfare is serving all people equitably and with respect for all individuals is essential to the work in child welfare and is a focused priority at the Children's Bureau. To create a system that is effective and equitable for all, states must pay particular attention to variation in performance metrics because disparity in outcomes could signal inequity that should be explored and addressed. During Round 4 of the CFSR, there is a focus on using data and evidence to identify disparities in services and outcomes; to understand the role that child welfare programs, policies, and practices may play in contributing to those disparities; and to inform and develop systemic improvements to address them.

As noted below in the sections on notable changes and observations in performance on the Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1 data indicators during Round 4 (see those sections for specific value-based differences), available data for some of these statewide indicators shows the following notable performance-related information by race/ethnicity in New York:¹

- While New York's foster care entry rate is lower than the nation's, children who are Black or African American alone, or Black or African American and another race,² are disproportionately represented in foster care entries relative to their proportion in the general child population. These children are more

¹ The data described here are available in the Statewide Data Indicators Supplementary Context Data for February 2024 and August 2024.

² Typically, the CB reports Black or African American (B/AA) race data based on children who identify as only B/AA; children who identify as B/AA and another race are grouped into the "two or more" race category, and B/AA children who are identified as Hispanic are grouped into the Hispanic category. Here and in other sections of this report, data are presented for children who identify as B/AA alone, as well as B/AA and another race, and B/AA and Hispanic.

than twice as likely to enter foster care than children of other races and comprise more than half of all children entering foster care in New York.

- Black or African American children in care 1 year or more are less likely than children of other racial groups³ to exit to permanency. These children are also more likely to reenter foster care compared to children of other racial groups.
- Black or African American children in New York experience higher rates of maltreatment in care than children of other racial and ethnic groups.
- Children of two or more races are consistently more likely to experience a recurrence of abuse within 12 months than children of other racial and ethnic groups.
- Hispanic children (of any race) in foster care 12 to 23 months have the lowest percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months. They are also at greater risk of maltreatment in care and experiencing a higher rate of placement moves than children of other racial groups, with the exception of Black or African American (single race) children. It is worth noting that more than half of these Hispanic children are also Black or African American.

³ Comparison is limited to races/ethnicities that comprise 2% or more of the measured population.

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.

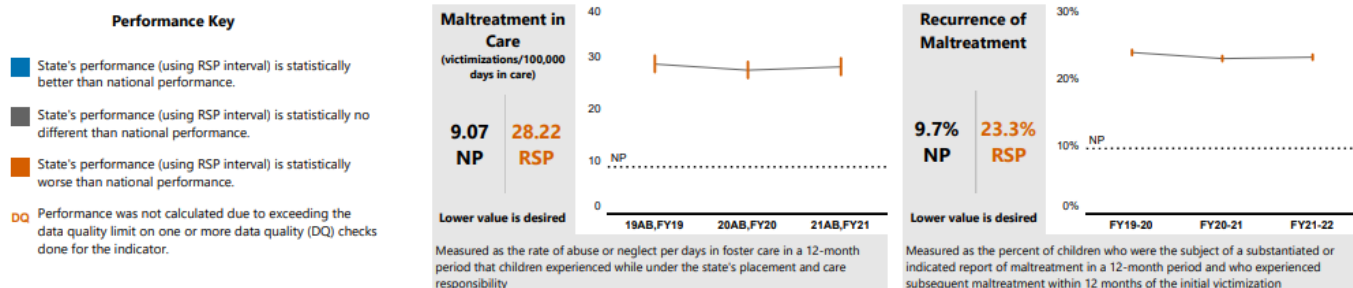
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that OCFS initiate an investigation of a child maltreatment report within 24 hours of receipt by conducting a face-to-face or telephone contact with the subject(s) and/or other persons named in the report, or other persons, including the source of the report, if known, who may be able to provide information about whether the child may be in immediate danger of serious harm. Within one day of the oral report, child protective service must review all prior records involving members of the family, including legally sealed reports where the current report involves a subject of the legally sealed report, a child named in the legally sealed report, or a sibling of a child named in the legally sealed report.

Statewide Data Indicators

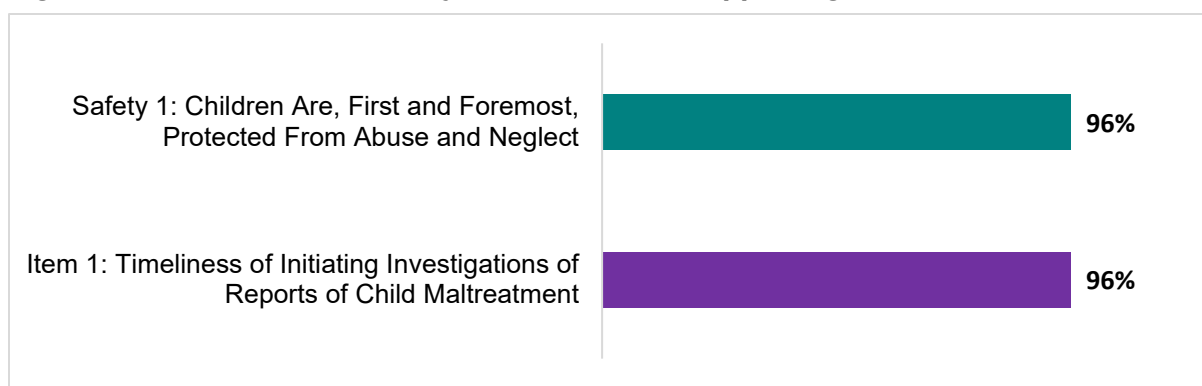
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



New York 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.
- More 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	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	Worse	Worse	Yes
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	Worse	Worse	Yes

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

New York consistently performs statistically worse than national performance on the statewide data indicator for maltreatment in care. The state has the third highest rate of maltreatment in care in the nation. While the rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days in care is worse than national performance, performance showed some improvement in the most recent reporting year—decreasing from 21.3 (FY 2021) victimizations per 100,000 days in care to 19.4 in FY 2022.

The total number of days children in New York were in foster care decreased over the last 3 reporting years, as did the number of victimizations, 10% and 16%, respectively.

- Similar to the nation, youth aged 11 to 16 years in New York comprise the greatest percentage (34%) of all victimizations in care. Children aged 6 to 10 years and 11 to 16 years' experience the highest rates of maltreatment in care per 100,000 days in care compared to children in other ages with rates of 24.0 and 22.8 for the most recent reporting year (FY 2022).
- Black or African American children (21.9 per 100,000 days in care) and Hispanic children (of any race) (20.5 per 100,000 days in care) consistently experience the highest victimization rates in care compared to children of other races.
- Children in New York County are disproportionately represented in the percentage of victimizations in foster care. For the most recent reporting year, they comprised 20% of the state's total days in foster care but 26% of all victimizations in care with a maltreatment rate of 24.6 per 100,000 days in care. Bronx and Kings counties also have high rates of maltreatment in care, with rates of 25.4 and 22.7 per 100,000 days in care across those counties. Together, New York, Bronx, and Kings counties comprise 42% of all days in care and 53% of the victimizations in the state.
- There is substantial variation in performance on this indicator among New York's 62 counties. For example, Oswego County accounts for 1% of the state's total days in foster care but reported a greater number of victimizations in care and substantially higher rates of maltreatment in care than Suffolk County, despite Suffolk County having nearly 2.5 times more days in care.

New York consistently performs statistically worse than national performance on the statewide data indicator for recurrence of maltreatment. New York has the highest percentage in the nation of children experiencing recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months. While the state's performance on this indicator has been relatively stable, the most recent reporting period shows some improvement and is the lowest it has been in the past 4 reporting years, at 16.5% (FY 2022).

The number of initial substantiated or indicated maltreatment reports and the number of children experiencing recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months in New York has decreased over the last 3 reporting years, by 15% and 18%, respectively.

- Children aged 11 to 16 years in New York are the age group with the greatest number of victimizations and recurring victimizations, accounting for about one-third of the state's total initial victimizations and recurring victimizations. Nationally, the most victimizations and recurring victimizations are observed for children aged 1 to 5 years.
- Children of two or more races, followed by White children, experience a higher percentage of recurrence within 12 months compared to child of another race/ethnicity.
- There is substantial variation by county in the number and percentage of children experiencing recurrence of maltreatment. For example, among the five counties with the most initial victims, the percentage of children who experienced recurrence in FY 2022 ranged from a low of 9.3% in Queens County to a high of 17.8% in Erie County. In 7 counties in New York, 30 percent or more of children who were victims of maltreatment experienced a second victimization within 12 months: Essex, Oswego, Cortland, Delaware, Washington, and Seneca counties. Of those 7 counties, Essex, Oswego, and Cortland counties consistently had the greatest percentage of children experiencing recurrence

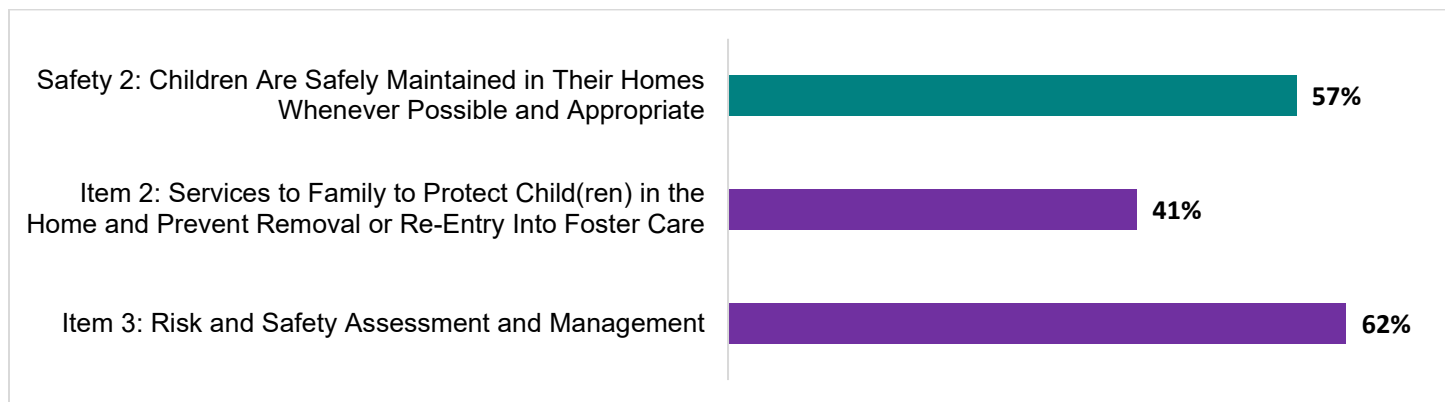
within 12 months of initial victimizations, and those percentages increased over the past 3 reporting years.

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



New York 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.

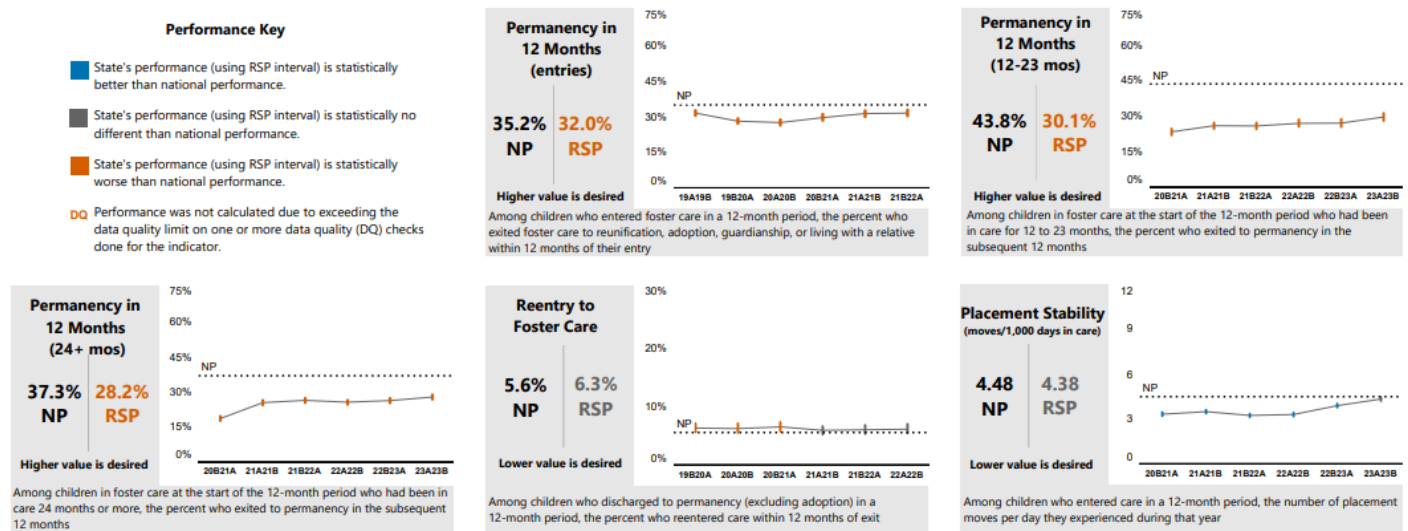
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

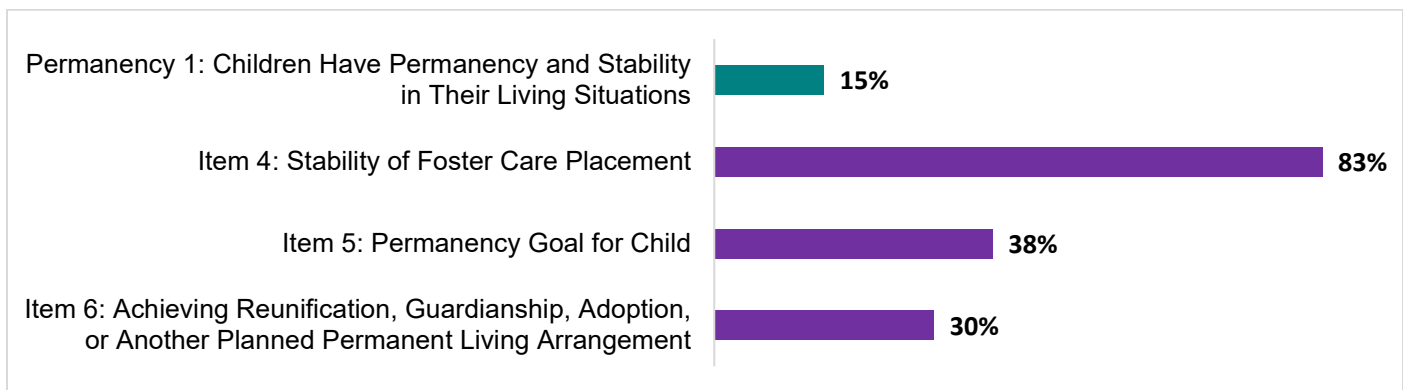
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



New York 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 worse 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 worse than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "reentry to foster care in 12 months" data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "placement stability" data indicator was statistically no different 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	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Worse	Worse	Yes
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Worse	Worse	Yes
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Worse	Worse	Yes
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	No Different	Worse	No
Placement stability	No Different	Better	No

All results reported here are based on the August 2024 data profile and supplementary context data and may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 4 because that is from the February 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

New York consistently performs statistically worse than national performance on all three of the “Permanency in 12 months” statewide data indicators across all reporting periods. Despite the state’s low performance on all three of these indicators, there has been steady incremental improvement over time.

The rate at which children enter foster care affects performance on permanency in 12 months for children entering care and thus is included in the analysis that follows.

- New York’s foster care entry rate per 1,000 child population is consistently lower than the nation’s.
- The number of children in New York’s general child population decreased 6% over the past 5 years, while the number of children entering foster care fluctuated, with an overall decrease of 16%, first decreasing from approximately 7,500 children entering care to a low of 5,500, then increasing to 6,400. In comparison, nationally, the child population decreased by 2% and the number of children entering foster care steadily decreased by 28%.
- Similar to the nation, infants under 1 year old in New York have the highest entry rate into foster care, at 5.4 entries per 1,000 children in the general child population. Although their entry rate has decreased over the last 5 years, it is consistently at least 3 times higher than the state’s overall entry rate of 1.6. Additionally, infants have the lowest percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months of entry and the highest percentage of exits to adoption.
- Children who are Black or African American alone, or Black or African American and another race, are disproportionately represented in New York’s foster care entries relative to their proportion of the general child population. While they comprise 15% of the child population, they account for 32% of all entries into foster care. These children are more than twice as likely to enter foster care than children of other races and comprise more than half of all children entering foster care in New York.

- The most recent available data for county-level entry rates disaggregated by race is for FY 2020.⁴ It shows that New York City, which comprises the five boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island, had a dramatically high foster care entry rate for Black and African American children of 45.7 per 1,000 Black or African American children. For that same year, the foster care entry rate per 1,000 Black or African American children in the state of New York was 4.0.
- Hispanic children are disproportionately represented in the number of foster care entries in New York. They account for 25% of the child population but 29% of the entries. Notably, more than half of the Hispanic children are also Black or African American.
- Despite differences in the proportion of children entering foster care by race/ethnicity, there are not notable differences in the proportion of children exiting to permanency, except for Black or African American children (single race), who account for 32% of all entries and 36% of all exits to permanency within 12 months of entry.
- New York County consistently has the greatest number of children entering foster care, and the second highest entry rate in the state, and is disproportionately represented in the percentage of foster care entries. The county's entry rates over the past 4 years of single-county data reporting⁵ ranged between 4.9 and 6.2 entries per 1,000 child population. While the county comprises 6% of the child population in the state of New York, it accounts for 19% of the state's foster care entries.
- Entry rates vary substantially across New York's 62 counties, with a low of 0.2 to a high of 7.0 entries per 1,000 child population. Four counties in New York have foster care entry rates that are higher than the state across all 5 reporting periods: New York, St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Cortland. While some have relatively small child populations, they have comparatively large numbers of foster care entries.
- There is also considerable variation in county performance in achieving permanency within 12 months of a child's entry into care. Among the counties with more than 200 children entering care each year (ordered highest to lowest count of entries)—New York, the Bronx, Kings, Queens, Erie, Onondaga, and Monroe—the percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months ranged from a low of 21% in Queens County to a high of 40% in Monroe County.

As noted above, New York's performance for permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months and 24 months or more is statistically worse than national performance for both indicators across all reported time periods. The number of children in care 12–23 months in New York decreased by 25% in the past 3 reporting years, while the number in care 24 months or more decreased by 10%.

- While New York's performance in achieving permanency for children in care 12–23 months improved 20% over the past 3 reporting periods from 26% to 32%, the state continues to be among those with the lowest percentage (32%) of exits to permanency for this group of children. Comparatively, the national level for the same period was 43%.
- Children in care for 1 year or more in New York who are Black or African American and Hispanic (of any race) are consistently less likely to exit to permanency compared to children of other races. Specifically, 24% of Hispanic and 28% of Black children in care 12–23 months, and 33% of Hispanic and 28% of Black children in care 24 months or more, exited to permanency within 12 months compared with state levels of 32–33%.
- Similar to the nation, children in New York aged 1 to 5 years and in care 1 year or more consistently exit to permanency at a substantially higher percentage than children in other age groups. Notably, the 32–33% of exits to permanency for this group of children is substantially lower than the national level of 49% (12–23 months) and 53% (24 months or more). While the percentage of these children exiting to permanency remains low, the percentage increased by 30% and 10%, respectively, over the past 3 reporting years.

⁴ Source: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18a2508574774b948a5b3fb771c822a4>

⁵ New York County historically included the five counties of New York, the Bronx, Kings, Queens, and Richmond. Reporting for disaggregated single-county entry rates for these counties began with FY 2021.

- Similar to the nation, children aged 11 to 16 years and in care 24 months or more are less likely to exit to permanency in 12 months, with the exception of youth aged 17.
- Children entering care in New York are less likely to be reunified and adopted, and more likely to exit to living with a relative, be emancipated, or remain in care after 5 years, compared to the nation. The percentage of children exiting to reunification and adoption in New York after 5 years of entry is 42% and 12%, respectively, which is comparatively less than national figures of 48% and 22%.
- Similar to other indicators, there is substantial variation in performance on these indicators across counties. Among the top 5 counties with the greatest number of children in care 1 year or more, performance in achieving permanency within 12 months ranged from a low of 22% in New York County for children in care 12–23 months and a low of 25% in Queens County for children in care 24 months or more, to a high of 38% (12–23 months) and 50% (24 months or more) in Erie County.

New York performance on reentry to foster care has fluctuated between statistically no different and worse than national performance over the past 6 reporting periods, with the most recent reporting period being worse. The number of children reentering care has remained relatively stable over the past 6 reporting periods.

- Children under 1 year old in New York have the highest percentage of children exiting and reentering foster care within 12 months. This age group is disproportionately represented in reentries, accounting for 5% of all exits and 11% of all reentries. Nationally, exits and reentries for this age group and the same reporting period were 5% and 7%, respectively.
- Black or African American children are more likely to reenter foster care within 12 months of exit compared to children of other races/ethnicities. These children are also disproportionately represented in the proportion of reentries as they comprised 35% of the exits and 44% of the reentries.
- Among the 10 counties in New York with 100 children or more exiting to foster care per year, Queens County had the lowest percentage of reentries at 4% and Erie County had the highest percentage at 12%. Notably, Erie County also had the highest percentage of children in care for more than 1 year exiting to permanency.

New York's placement stability rate is statistically better than national performance. However, performance was statistically no different than national performance in the prior period, and the trendline shows an overall increase in the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care.

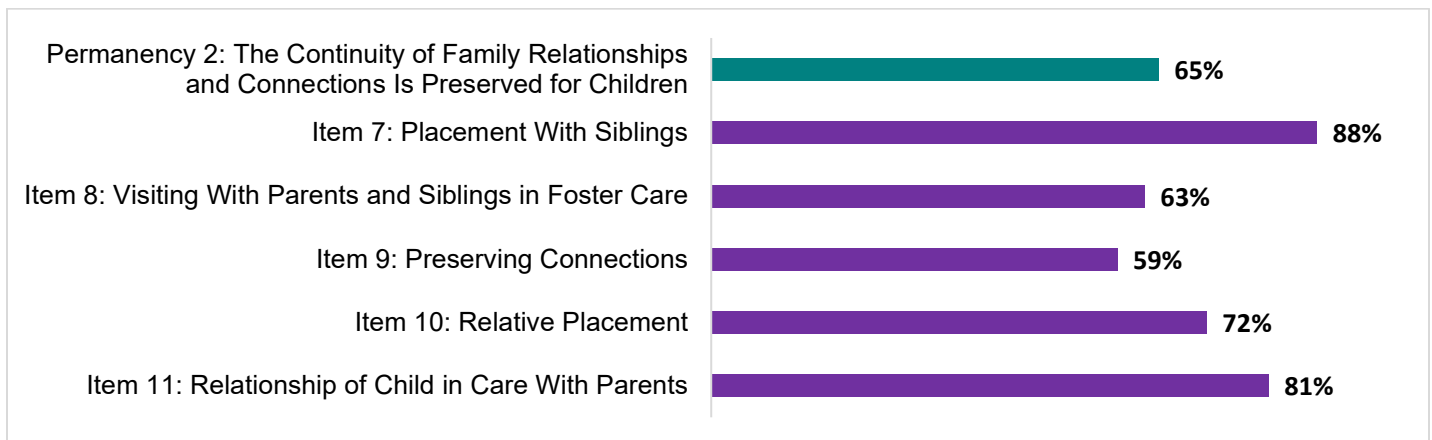
- The total number of placement moves for children in care in the first 12 months of entry decreased 24% in the past 3 reporting years; however, the total number of days in care decreased by just 2%.
- Children who are Black or African American and Hispanic (of any race) who enter foster care, followed by children of two or more races, consistently experience higher rates of placement moves per 1,000 days in care compared to the state overall. Notably, more than half of the Hispanic children are Black or African American (56%), and nearly all the children who are two or more races are Black or African American (91%).
- There is substantial variation in the rate of placement moves for children in care in the first 12 months of entry. Among the top 5 counties with the greatest number of days in care, the rate of moves per 1,000 days in care ranged from a low of 1.8 in Suffolk County to a high of 5.8 in Queens County. Another example of variability is Richmond County, which has a substantially smaller number of days during which children are in care their first 12 months than Suffolk and Erie counties; however, Richmond has a similar number or more placement moves than those counties.

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



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

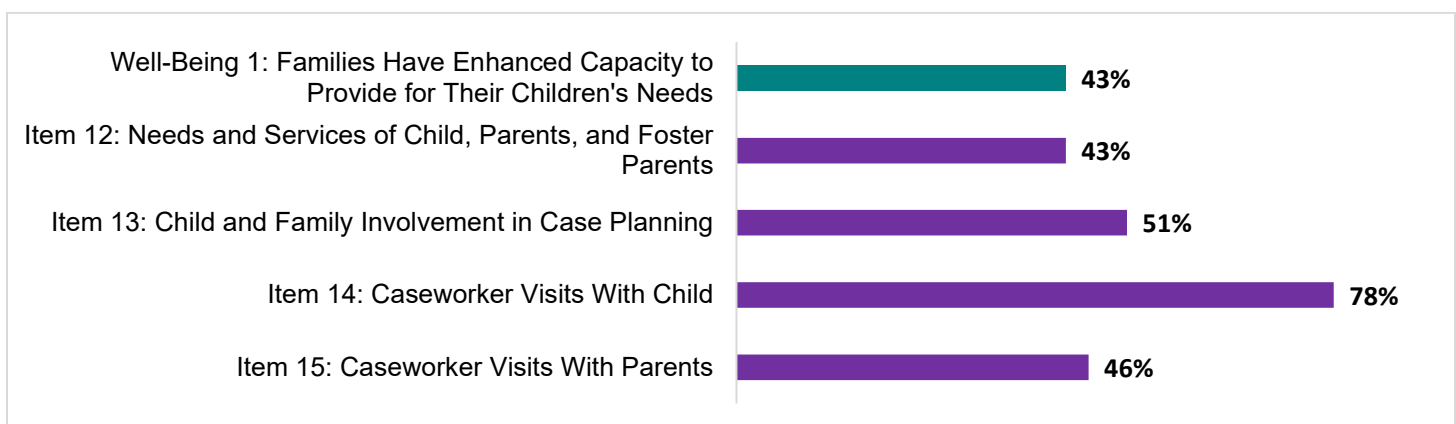
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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

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

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

Case Review

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



New York 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.

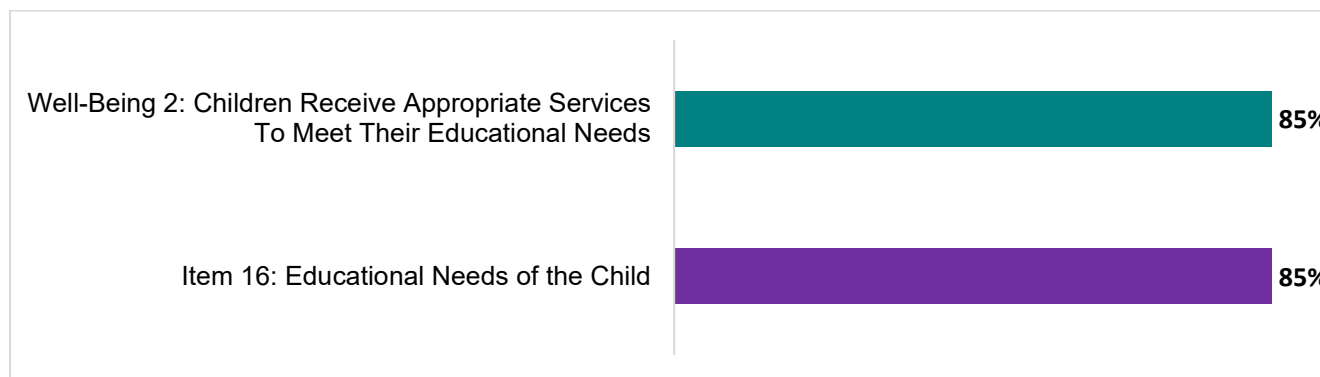
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 13.
- Less than 90% of the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



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

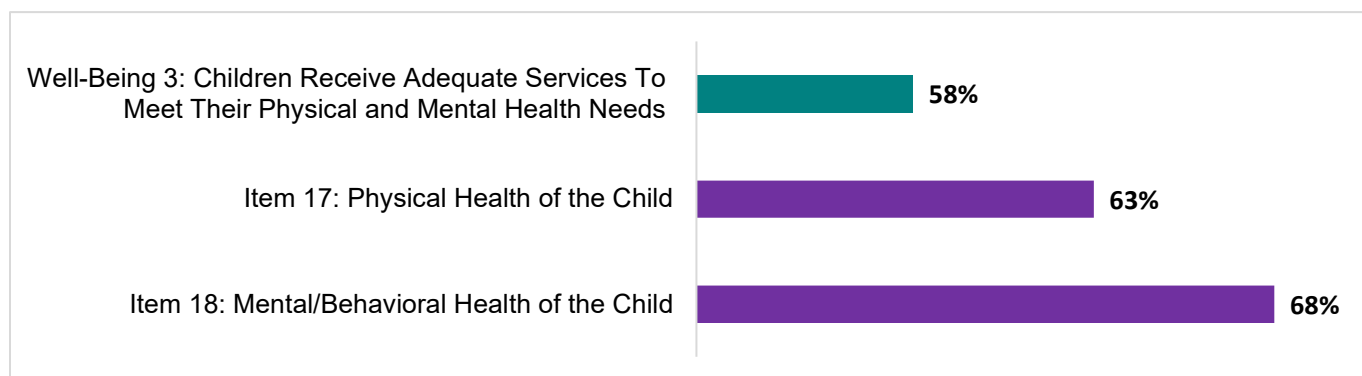
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



New York 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

New York 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New York has a child welfare information system that is not used uniformly statewide as intended. NY does not have processes to assess the accuracy of the data entered and has challenges with timeliness of data entry. New York's system cannot readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is or has been in foster care within the last preceding 12 months.

Case Review System

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

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

New York 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New York 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 were jointly developed with 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided did not demonstrate that for each child a periodic review occurs within 6 months of entry into foster care and every 6 months thereafter. Periodic reviews occur most often via court permanency hearings and administrative service plan reviews. New York's case management system can track the timeliness of both types of periodic reviews; however, service plan reviews are not consistently entered into the case management system.

Item 22: Permanency Hearings

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

- New York received an overall rating of Strength for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information collected demonstrated that permanency hearings are routinely being held within 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and at least 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions were filed in accordance with federal timeframes. Additionally, New York does not have processes to track and monitor whether TPR petitions are 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New York does not have statewide data or a statewide process to demonstrate that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers are provided notice of periodic reviews and permanency hearings, and that the notice includes the 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

New York 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information collected demonstrated that New York's quality assurance (QA) system is functioning statewide to ensure it is operating statewide, has standards in place to evaluate the quality of services, identifies strength and needs, provides relevant reports, and evaluates implemented improvement measures. OCFS's QA and continuous quality improvement (CQI) system operates in all six regions of the state. The Department's CQI functions operate within the division of Child Welfare and Community Services and are co-administered by the Continuous Quality Improvement and Oversight and Monitoring Bureaus in partnership with the 6 regional offices.

Staff and Provider Training

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

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

New York 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.

- New York does have standardized training for child protective service workers that meets their basic needs to carry out their duties. New York does not have job-specific training for preventive and foster care workers. Those trainings need to be developed, implemented, and evaluated for effectiveness. New York does not have training requirements for caseworkers other than Child Protective Services (CPS) staff or a tracking system for the completion of training for contracted and non-contracted staff. New York lacks (1) an ongoing evaluation system regarding the effectiveness of training provided, (2) policy and procedures specifying requirements for assigning cases to new staff, and (3) specification of what training must be completed before staff are assigned cases.

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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New York does not have ongoing training requirements for non-CPS staff. While New York reported that LDSS Staff Development Coordinators are expected to track compliance with the ongoing training requirements for CPS workers and supervisors, no data regarding compliance or evaluation of the effectiveness of the ongoing CPS training were available.

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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information from the Statewide Assessment showed inconsistencies across the state concerning foster and adoptive parent training and concerns with the adequacy of the training used to prepare foster and adoptive parents to carry out their duties regarding foster and adopted children. New York does not have a set curriculum for childcare institution staff, but the training must support the services and practice that the program they are working operates. New York agrees that they do not have reliable data on training requirements being met or ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of the training. The state reported varied experiences with the effectiveness of ongoing training and that ongoing training requirements, access to training, and monitoring of training varied across the state.

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

New York 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided indicates that the availability and accessibility of services varies statewide. There is a lack of available and accessible mental and behavioral health services, particularly counseling, psychological and other types of evaluations, and mental health crisis services. In addition, there are insufficient placement resources, resulting in children being placed in more restrictive placements, lingering in hospitals while awaiting an appropriate placement, or staying at hotels or offices. Lack of visitation services for families, domestic violence services for victims and perpetrators, residential substance use treatment programs that allow children to stay with their parents, and waitlists for affordable housing as well as other service availability issues create barriers to service engagement and reunification efforts. Rural areas lack service availability; many families must travel to access services and the lack of transportation can be a barrier. In addition, service accessibility is affected by waitlists, which can vary depending on which part of the state the children and families are located.

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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- New York has policies and flex funding available to address the specific needs of children and families. However, there are shortcomings in providing individualized services to children and parents, especially in the rural parts of the state. Gaps remain in services for Spanish speakers as well as for speakers of other languages, and in connecting children and parents to services that are culturally competent. Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities do not routinely receive individualized services, and it is difficult to individualize mental health services for parents who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. In addition, there is a lack of appropriate individualized services that meet the needs of those who identify as LGBTQIA2S+.

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

New York 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- New York has several processes in place to engage stakeholders and partners, including those with lived experience, in individual initiatives, program changes, and particular projects. However, the data and information collected did not show that New York routinely engages these groups as well as judges and attorneys in ongoing consultation in the development and implementation of the goals, objectives, and measures for the provisions of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and annual updates through the Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSRs), and how major concerns of these stakeholders are addressed in the CFSP and APSRs.

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.

- New York received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided demonstrated that New York collaborates with many federal and federally assisted programs throughout the state to ensure that the delivery of CFSP services is responsive to the needs of the community. New York demonstrated regular, ongoing communication with the Office of Mental Health, Department of Health, State Education Department, Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, Office of Victim Services, and Division of Criminal Justice Services. Much of this collaboration occurs through New York State's Council on Children and Families, which comprises 12 commissioners and directors of New York State's health, education, and human services agencies. The Council works to identify and resolve issues that impede access to services for children and youth who have complex needs and are receiving services from multiple agencies.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

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

New York 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.

- New York received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- New York has an Administrative Code, policies, and practices to ensure that foster homes and Child Caring Institutions (CCIs) maintain consistent licensing standards. Information obtained showed that licensing standards are applied equally across the state. The state has an internal audit system in place to monitor and ensure that requirements in place are applied equally. A feedback loop is in place to ensure that missing information is obtained. New York has a process for waivers of the regulatory requirements and an exceptions process.

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.

- New York received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- New York has a statewide system in place 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.

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.

- New York received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided in the Statewide Assessment shows that data are not being used to ensure that the recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families reflects the ethnic and racial diversity of the children in the state. New York provided data only for 2022.

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.

- New York received an overall rating of Strength for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- New York has a functioning system for ensuring the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children statewide. New York has a range of resources for both intrastate and interstate adoptive and permanent placements of children waiting.

Data provided confirmed that incoming Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children requests/home studies were completed timely.

IV. APPENDIX A

Summary of New York 2024 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	96% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Strength	96% 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	28.22	26.64–29.89	21A–21B, FY21–22
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	23.3%	22.9%–23.7%	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	57% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	41% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	62% 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	15% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	83% 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	30% 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%	Worse	Higher	32.0%	30.8%–33.3%	21B–23B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Worse	Higher	30.1%	28.5%–31.7%	23A–23B
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Worse	Higher	28.2%	27.2%–29.2%	23A–23B
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	No Different	Lower	6.3%	5.6%–7.2%	22A–23B
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	No Different	Lower	4.38	4.25–4.51	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	65% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	88% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	63% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	59% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	81% 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	43% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	43% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	71% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	45% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	73% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	51% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	46% 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	85% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	85% 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	58% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	63% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

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

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

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

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

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	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 and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

New York CFSR (CB-Led) 2024

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

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

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

Practice Description	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	100% (26 of 26)
(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.	96.15% (25 of 26)
(Question 1C) Reasons for delays in initiation of investigations or assessments and/or face-to-face contact were due to circumstances beyond the control of the agency.	0% (0 of 1)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	96.15% (25 of 26)

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.	25% (3 of 12)	33.33% (5 of 15)	29.63% (8 of 27)

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.	25% (3 of 12)	Not Applicable	25% (3 of 12)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	25% (3 of 12)	Not Applicable	25% (3 of 12)
(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.	25% (3 of 12)	66.67% (10 of 15)	48.15% (13 of 27)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	50% (6 of 12)	33.33% (5 of 15)	40.74% (11 of 27)

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.	100% (40 of 40)	100% (25 of 25)	100% (65 of 65)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (40 of 40)	96% (24 of 25)	98.46% (64 of 65)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	100% (8 of 8)	66.67% (4 of 6)	85.71% (12 of 14)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	70% (28 of 40)	52% (13 of 25)	63.08% (41 of 65)
(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% (2 of 3)	46.67% (7 of 15)	50% (9 of 18)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	84.62% (11 of 13)	85.71% (12 of 14)	85.19% (23 of 27)

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.	100% (32 of 32)	Not Applicable	100% (32 of 32)
(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.	95% (38 of 40)	Not Applicable	95% (38 of 40)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	70% (28 of 40)	48% (12 of 25)	61.54% (40 of 65)

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

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4B) Placement changes for the child were planned by the agency in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child.	42.86% (3 of 7)	42.86% (3 of 7)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	92.5% (37 of 40)	92.5% (37 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	82.5% (33 of 40)	82.5% (33 of 40)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	100% (39 of 39)	100% (39 of 39)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	56.41% (22 of 39)	56.41% (22 of 39)
(Question 5C) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were appropriate to the child's needs for permanency and to the circumstances of the case.	69.23% (27 of 39)	69.23% (27 of 39)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	56.41% (22 of 39)	56.41% (22 of 39)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	5.88% (1 of 17)	5.88% (1 of 17)

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.	68.18% (15 of 22)	68.18% (15 of 22)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	38.46% (15 of 39)	38.46% (15 of 39)

Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner.	30.77% (4 of 13)	30.77% (4 of 13)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	66.67% (2 of 3)	66.67% (2 of 3)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	18.75% (3 of 16)	18.75% (3 of 16)
(Questions 6A4 and 6C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to place a child with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) in a living arrangement that can be considered permanent until discharge from foster care.	0% (0 of 1)	0% (0 of 1)
(Questions 6A4 and B or 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved.	42.86% (3 of 7)	42.86% (3 of 7)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	30% (12 of 40)	30% (12 of 40)

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

Item 7: Placement With Siblings

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 7A) The child was placed with all siblings who also were in foster care.	50% (13 of 26)	50% (13 of 26)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	76.92% (10 of 13)	76.92% (10 of 13)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	88.46% (23 of 26)	88.46% (23 of 26)

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.	26.92% (7 of 26)	26.92% (7 of 26)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	23.08% (6 of 26)	23.08% (6 of 26)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	3.85% (1 of 26)	3.85% (1 of 26)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	15.38% (4 of 26)	15.38% (4 of 26)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	15.38% (4 of 26)	15.38% (4 of 26)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	15.38% (4 of 26)	15.38% (4 of 26)
(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.	84.62% (22 of 26)	84.62% (22 of 26)
(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.	77.27% (17 of 22)	77.27% (17 of 22)
(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.	76.92% (20 of 26)	76.92% (20 of 26)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	50% (5 of 10)	50% (5 of 10)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	20% (2 of 10)	20% (2 of 10)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 10)
(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 10)	0% (0 of 10)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 10)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	30% (3 of 10)	30% (3 of 10)
(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.	90% (9 of 10)	90% (9 of 10)

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% (7 of 7)	100% (7 of 7)
(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.	90% (9 of 10)	90% (9 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	15.38% (2 of 13)	15.38% (2 of 13)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	15.38% (2 of 13)	15.38% (2 of 13)
(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.	7.69% (1 of 13)	7.69% (1 of 13)
(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.	23.08% (3 of 13)	23.08% (3 of 13)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	7.69% (1 of 13)	7.69% (1 of 13)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	30.77% (4 of 13)	30.77% (4 of 13)
(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.	53.85% (7 of 13)	53.85% (7 of 13)
(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.	50% (6 of 12)	50% (6 of 12)
(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.	46.15% (6 of 13)	46.15% (6 of 13)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	63.33% (19 of 30)	63.33% (19 of 30)

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).	58.97% (23 of 39)	58.97% (23 of 39)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 9 Strength Ratings	58.97% (23 of 39)	58.97% (23 of 39)

Item 10: Relative Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative.	38.46% (15 of 39)	38.46% (15 of 39)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (15 of 15)	100% (15 of 15)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	14.29% (1 of 7)	14.29% (1 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	71.43% (5 of 7)	71.43% (5 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	85.71% (6 of 7)	85.71% (6 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	85.71% (6 of 7)	85.71% (6 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (8 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (8 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (8 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives.	100% (8 of 8)	100% (8 of 8)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	71.79% (28 of 39)	71.79% (28 of 39)

Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 11A) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.	80.77% (21 of 26)	80.77% (21 of 26)
(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.	90% (9 of 10)	90% (9 of 10)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	81.48% (22 of 27)	81.48% (22 of 27)

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	47.5% (19 of 40)	36% (9 of 25)	43.08% (28 of 65)

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.	80% (32 of 40)	64% (16 of 25)	73.85% (48 of 65)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	72.41% (21 of 29)	52.63% (10 of 19)	64.58% (31 of 48)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	77.5% (31 of 40)	60% (15 of 25)	70.77% (46 of 65)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the mother's needs	70% (21 of 30)	62.5% (15 of 24)	66.67% (36 of 54)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	51.72% (15 of 29)	58.33% (14 of 24)	54.72% (29 of 53)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	53.33% (16 of 30)	50% (12 of 24)	51.85% (28 of 54)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	39.13% (9 of 23)	50% (9 of 18)	43.9% (18 of 41)

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.	36.36% (8 of 22)	43.75% (7 of 16)	39.47% (15 of 38)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	34.78% (8 of 23)	50% (9 of 18)	41.46% (17 of 41)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	45.16% (14 of 31)	44% (11 of 25)	44.64% (25 of 56)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12C1) The agency adequately assessed the needs of the foster or pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care on an ongoing basis.	86.49% (32 of 37)	86.49% (32 of 37)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	70% (21 of 30)	70% (21 of 30)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	72.97% (27 of 37)	72.97% (27 of 37)

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 13A) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the child in the case planning process.	86.67% (13 of 15)	61.11% (11 of 18)	72.73% (24 of 33)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	56.67% (17 of 30)	66.67% (16 of 24)	61.11% (33 of 54)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	40% (8 of 20)	55.56% (10 of 18)	47.37% (18 of 38)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	52.78% (19 of 36)	48% (12 of 25)	50.82% (31 of 61)

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.	7.5% (3 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	4.62% (3 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	15% (6 of 40)	8% (2 of 25)	12.31% (8 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	30% (12 of 40)	60% (15 of 25)	41.54% (27 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	45% (18 of 40)	28% (7 of 25)	38.46% (25 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	2.5% (1 of 40)	4% (1 of 25)	3.08% (2 of 65)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 of 65)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	97.5% (39 of 40)	88% (22 of 25)	93.85% (61 of 65)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	85% (34 of 40)	68% (17 of 25)	78.46% (51 of 65)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	85% (34 of 40)	68% (17 of 25)	78.46% (51 of 65)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week.	3.33% (1 of 30)	0% (0 of 24)	1.85% (1 of 54)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	3.33% (1 of 30)	16.67% (4 of 24)	9.26% (5 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 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	33.33% (10 of 30)	41.67% (10 of 24)	37.04% (20 of 54)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	13.33% (4 of 30)	29.17% (7 of 24)	20.37% (11 of 54)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	43.33% (13 of 30)	12.5% (3 of 24)	29.63% (16 of 54)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	3.33% (1 of 30)	0% (0 of 24)	1.85% (1 of 54)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	63.33% (19 of 30)	91.67% (22 of 24)	75.93% (41 of 54)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	51.72% (15 of 29)	62.5% (15 of 24)	56.6% (30 of 53)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	50% (15 of 30)	62.5% (15 of 24)	55.56% (30 of 54)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	5% (1 of 20)	0% (0 of 18)	2.63% (1 of 38)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	5% (1 of 20)	11.11% (2 of 18)	7.89% (3 of 38)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	20% (4 of 20)	16.67% (3 of 18)	18.42% (7 of 38)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	5% (1 of 20)	16.67% (3 of 18)	10.53% (4 of 38)

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.	40% (8 of 20)	38.89% (7 of 18)	39.47% (15 of 38)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	25% (5 of 20)	16.67% (3 of 18)	21.05% (8 of 38)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	50% (10 of 20)	55.56% (10 of 18)	52.63% (20 of 38)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	46.67% (7 of 15)	60% (9 of 15)	53.33% (16 of 30)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	40% (8 of 20)	44.44% (8 of 18)	42.11% (16 of 38)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	41.94% (13 of 31)	52% (13 of 25)	46.43% (26 of 56)

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

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	93.75% (30 of 32)	87.5% (7 of 8)	92.5% (37 of 40)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	83.33% (20 of 24)	75% (6 of 8)	81.25% (26 of 32)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	87.5% (28 of 32)	75% (6 of 8)	85% (34 of 40)

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

Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	90% (36 of 40)	75% (6 of 8)	87.5% (42 of 48)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	90% (9 of 10)	Not Applicable	90% (9 of 10)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	78.38% (29 of 37)	50% (3 of 6)	74.42% (32 of 43)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	84.85% (28 of 33)	0% (0 of 1)	82.35% (28 of 34)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	80% (24 of 30)	0% (0 of 1)	77.42% (24 of 31)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	65% (26 of 40)	50% (4 of 8)	62.5% (30 of 48)

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.	73.91% (17 of 23)	78.57% (11 of 14)	75.68% (28 of 37)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	100% (4 of 4)	Not Applicable	100% (4 of 4)

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.	71.43% (15 of 21)	61.54% (8 of 13)	67.65% (23 of 34)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	69.57% (16 of 23)	64.29% (9 of 14)	67.57% (25 of 37)