

# CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

## Texas

# FINAL REPORT

## 2024

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# Final Report: Texas Child and Family Services Review

## INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and submitted to the CB on January 31, 2024. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The August 2023 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 100 cases [60 foster care, 30 in-home, and 10 differential/alternative response], conducted via a State-Led Review process in Texas during April-June 2024, examining case practices occurring during April 2023 through June 2024.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Attorneys for the agency
  - Attorneys and Guardians Ad Litem for children and youth
  - Attorneys for parents
  - Child welfare caseworkers and supervisors
  - Child welfare contractors and service providers
  - Child welfare agency statewide leadership
  - Child welfare agency regional and program managers
  - Foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers
  - Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) agency staff
  - Information System Agency staff
  - Judges and judicial officers
  - Residential care providers
  - Persons with Tribal membership and experience

## 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

Texas 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 Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more

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

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

The following 4 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Statewide Information System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

## CB Comments on State Performance

The Texas DFPS works with communities to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In 2017, the 85th Texas Legislature established the grounds to further advance the system through the establishment of the Community-Based Care (CBC) model. Under the CBC model, DFPS is required to purchase case management and substitute care services from the Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) for children, youth, and young adults who are in the department's conservatorship, or who are receiving services through the extended foster care program. Substitute care includes all foster care, relative/kinship care, family reunification, and adoption services. Implementation of the CBC model transitions the Texas child welfare system from a statewide system to a community-based model designed to meet the individual and unique needs of children, youth, and families in Texas at the local level. In 2021, the 87th Texas Legislature formally established the Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT); the office is administratively attached to DFPS and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and works together with the OCBCT on the statewide implementation of CBC.

In 2016, DFPS completed a State-Led Review for Round 3 of the CFSR. Texas was not in substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes. Three of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity with the federal requirements: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, and Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

Texas' Round 3 Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on October 19, 2018, with an effective date of October 1, 2018, for a 2-year implementation period. On January 28, 2021, the state was notified that they had completed all the benchmarks and action steps identified in the PIP. On May 17, 2021, the CB determined that Texas had successfully met all of the PIP measurement goals.

The Round 4 CFSR, conducted by DFPS with support from the Children's Bureau, was conducted from April 2024 to June 2024. Stakeholder interviews were conducted April 22–26, 2024. As noted above, Texas was found not to be in substantial conformity with any of the 7 outcomes and was found to be in substantial conformity with 4 of the 7 systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, Staff and Provider Training, and Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

The CFSR found that DFPS has a strong collaborative relationship with the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission) and other key child welfare partners from the Texas child welfare system in the engagement and ongoing support of the CFSR. DFPS also has a highly functioning internal Learning and Organizational Excellence program to support its

workforce, in addition to its quality assurance system, which is foundational to helping DFPS and community partners make meaningful advances in achieving positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families in Texas.

The highest-performing outcome for Texas was Well Being Outcome 2, “Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs,” at 86% substantially achieved. The agency performed better in assessing children’s educational needs than in ensuring that identified needs were appropriately addressed in case planning and case management activities. Although both foster care and in-home services cases can be applicable for assessment of this item, in the sample of cases reviewed, only foster care cases were found to be applicable.

The next highest-performing outcome for Texas was Safety Outcome 1, “Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.” Safety Outcome 1 consists of Item 1, Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment, and two Statewide Data Indicators (SWDI), Recurrence of Maltreatment and Maltreatment in Care. Item 1 was substantially achieved in 75% of the applicable cases. In the cases reviewed, 85% of the investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with Texas policy, and in 69% of the cases reviewed, face-to-face contact was made with children who were the subject of the maltreatment reports within the required timeframe. Texas performed statistically worse than the national performance on Maltreatment in Care but showed some improvement for the most recent reporting period. Texas will be required to include the Maltreatment in Care SWDI in its PIP and PIP Measurement Plan. Texas consistently performed better than national performance on the Recurrence of Maltreatment SWDI.

Well-Being Outcome 3, “Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs,” assesses the agency’s concerted efforts to assess and provide services to meet children’s physical and dental health needs (Item 17) and mental health/behavioral needs (Item 18). 74% of the cases were rated as substantially achieved for this outcome. The agency accurately assessed and provided services to meet the physical and dental needs of children in foster care in 84% of the cases reviewed. Efforts to assess and provide services to meet the physical and dental health needs of children in in-home cases were rated as a Strength in 89% (in-home and alternative response cases) of the applicable cases reviewed. The state performance was lower for the agency’s efforts to assess and provide services to meet the children’s mental and behavioral health needs, with 73% of applicable cases rated as a Strength. Texas demonstrated appropriate oversight of prescription medications for children in foster care in 95% of applicable cases reviewed.

Safety Outcome 2, “Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate,” includes two items. For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, 72% of the cases were rated as a Strength, and for Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, 76% of the cases received a Strength rating. The agency’s performance was better for assessing initial risk and safety concerns, with 84% of the cases receiving a Yes response, than assessing ongoing risk and safety concerns, where 80% of the cases received a Yes response. There were no safety-related concerns for the target children in foster care during visitation with parent(s) or other family members that were not adequately or appropriately assessed. When safety concerns were present, the agency developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continued to monitor the plan in 95% of the cases reviewed.

Permanency Outcome 2, “The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children,” was substantially achieved in 70% of the foster care cases reviewed. Of the five items assessed for this outcome, Item 7, Placement With Siblings, was the highest performing, with 94% of cases rated as a Strength. The agency demonstrated concerted efforts to keep siblings in the same placement whenever appropriate. Item 10, Relative Placement, was rated as a Strength in 85% of the applicable cases. Approximately 40% of children in foster care cases reviewed were placed with relatives, and 100% of those placements were appropriate to meet the child’s needs. Item 9, Preserving Connections, was rated as a Strength in 78% of the cases. The two lowest-performing items in this outcome were Item 8, Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, with

58% of cases rated as a Strength, and Item 11, Relationship of Child in Care With Parents, with 50% of the cases rated as a Strength. A notable number of children had no visits with their mothers or fathers while in care, while others received visits fewer than once per month. For each of these two items, performance was better for mothers than it was for fathers.

Well-Being Outcome 1, “Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs,” which includes four items, was one of the lowest-performing outcomes, with 48% of the cases rated as Substantially Achieved. There were practice challenges around engagement of parents in assessing and addressing their needs, which was rated as a Strength in 52% of the cases reviewed. Practices with mothers was stronger than practices with fathers across multiple items within this outcome. Specifically, in Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, mothers were engaged in 80% of the cases and fathers were engaged in 61% of the cases reviewed. Frequent and quality caseworker visitation with children was seen across all case types except alternative response cases in which 50% of the cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Continued attention should be placed on alternative response cases as only 30% of these cases were rated as a Strength for caseworker visits with parents. Practices assessed in this outcome are fundamental to ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of the children and families served.

Texas’ lowest-performing outcome in CFSR Round 4 was Permanency Outcome 1, “Children have permanency and stability in their living situations,” with 25% of the cases rated as Substantially Achieved. This outcome contains three items that address Stability of Foster Care Placement (Item 4), Permanency Goal for Child (Item 5), and Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (Item 6). 72% of the cases reviewed were found to be a Strength for placement stability. While 93% of the current placements were stable, for children who experienced changes in placement, 30% of those changes were made in furtherance of the child’s needs or the case goals. Texas’ performance on the Permanency SWDIs could not be calculated due to data quality issues. However, the state has resolved these concerns with its most recent submissions, and the CB expects to calculate Texas’ performance for the February 2025 data profile. Historically, Texas has consistently performed better than national performance in achieving permanency within 12 months for children in foster care for 12–23 months and in reducing reentry to foster care. Texas’ performance has fluctuated between statistically better, no different than, and worse than national performance for achieving permanency within 12 months for children entering foster care or for children in care for 2 years or more, as well as in maintaining placement stability for children entering care.

Item 5 was rated as a Strength in 62% of the 60 foster care cases reviewed. Nearly all the foster care cases in the sample reviewed had concurrent permanency goals established upon the onset of the case. Most of the time, the goals were reunification and either adoption or guardianship. Of the cases reviewed, it was noted that often reunification was in place for too long given the circumstances of the case. Similarly, there were cases in which the adoption goal was in place too long given the parent’s progress and willingness to work to achieve return of their child. In cases where the permanency goal wasn’t appropriate to case circumstances, most often permanency was not achieved timely.

Texas generally moves swiftly to termination of parental rights (TPR), as evidenced by nearly half of the cases reviewed having termination completed prior to the federal timeframe for filing petitions for termination when the child has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months. Texas asserts that they file for termination in every case where a child comes into care in an initial petition alleging abuse or neglect by the parents. The practice is referred to as “pleading in the alternative.” Texas asserted 100% timeliness with respect to filing TPR. While this practice often results in TPR occurring swiftly, it does not afford parents proper due process especially when significant time passes without moving forward with a TPR. In several instances in the case sample, children had been in care for up to 6 years without TPR. Seeking TPR based on language from an original petition filed years earlier fails to consider the parents’ rights. It also does not align with the intent of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), which aims to ensure accountability in filing for termination to prevent children from remaining in foster care for extended periods.

Texas’ lowest-performing item was Item 6. Item 6 measures the timely achievement of permanency and whether the agency and the court made concerted efforts to do so. In the sample of 60 foster care cases, only four cases achieved permanency by reunification. Most children in the cases reviewed were either adopted or

achieved permanency through guardianship, and a small number were legally emancipated through Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) (although the number was more than those who achieved reunification). In approximately 50% of cases reviewed, concerted efforts were made toward achieving the child's permanency goals. In the remaining 50%, there were delays that prevented timely permanency. Reasons for the delays included worker turnover, failure to discuss permanency with the resource family, adoption paperwork and documents not received timely, untimely completion of hearings, and the exercise of due process rights by the parents.

Legal and judicial professionals and the agency share a mutual responsibility for the timely achievement of permanency for children and youth. Ratings are based on both the agency and courts making concerted efforts toward achieving permanency, and the lack of these efforts contributed to low performance for this outcome. The cases reviewed demonstrated evidence of quality legal representation. There were examples of attorneys making objections, directly requesting specific services, and submitting motions to the court on behalf of their clients. The judges appeared to thoughtfully review cases that came before them and were holding timely permanency hearings. However, it's important to note that when reunification and adoption goals are in place too long, this is a shared responsibility of agency and legal and judicial system partners. Although it was noted that judges are thoughtfully reviewing cases, judges generally appeared to approve the agency's recommended goals. While permanency and review hearings appeared to be timely, other hearings sometimes contributed to delays. Delays existed in some cases in completing final TPR hearings, sometimes up to 18 months. There were also delays resulting from the exercise of due process rights including motions for re-hearings, the filing of appeals, and the exploration of Native American heritage pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Those delays, while contributing to untimeliness, were appropriate.

Engaging with families to accurately assess needs and link families to appropriate services and supports is a critical practice in child welfare. Even when needs and services are appropriately identified, children and families being served by Texas face an uneven array of available services. Lack of services, including waitlists, exist for services for children with complex behavioral needs, transportation services, mental health services, domestic violence services, housing for youth transitioning out of care, independent living services, services for children and parents who have developmental delays, services to families providing kinship care, in-home services to meet identified safety-related issues, and substance use treatment.

The CB recognizes the noteworthy efforts of DFPS to reduce the overall population of children in care, with a special focus on Children Without Placement (CWOP), which has been a statewide effort resulting in a marked reduction in children throughout the state who are without placement and prioritizing their safety and well-being.

### **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 system improvements to address them.

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

- While Texas' foster care entry rate is lower than the nation's and has decreased over time, children who are Black or African American alone, or Black or African American and another race, are

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



disproportionately represented in foster care entries relative to their proportion of the general child population. These children are almost twice as likely to enter foster care than children of other races.

- Black or African American children are less likely than children of other racial groups<sup>2</sup> to exit to permanency regardless of their length of stay, with greater disparity for those in care 1 year or more. They also have higher rates of placement moves than the state overall.
- Nearly half of Texas' general child population is Hispanic, and they comprise the greatest percentage of children entering and in foster care. Similar to Black or African American children, Hispanic children have a slightly lower percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months during their first 2 years in care. They are also disproportionately represented among children reentering care, based on the most recent available data.
- Hispanic children tended to be at greater risk of maltreatment in care than non-Hispanic children; however, that changed when the rate decreased in the most recent reporting period.

## 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 DFPS initiate Priority I reports within 24 hours and Priority II investigations within 72 hours. Priority II reports that are assigned to the alternative response pathway must have initial contact within 24 hours, with assessment to begin by the fifth day.

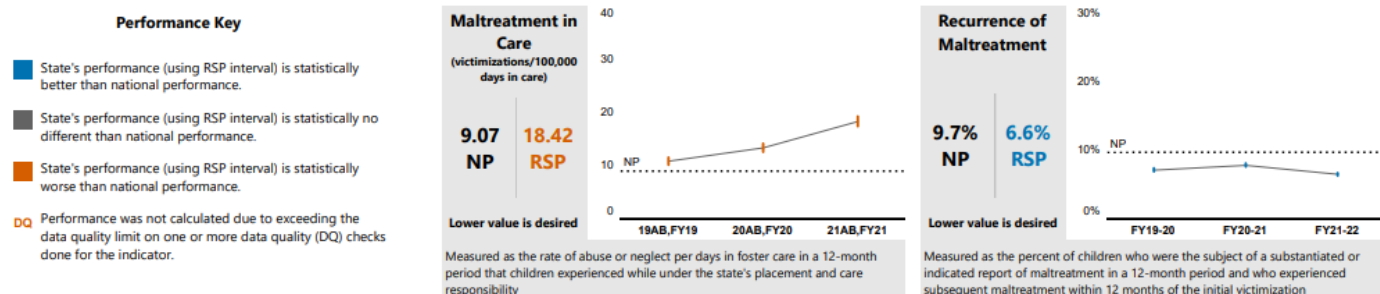
### **Statewide Data Indicators**

The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2023 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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<sup>2</sup> Comparison limited to races/ethnicities that comprise 1% or more of the measured population.

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



**Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items**



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

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

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

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

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 and August 2024 data profiles and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the August 2023 data profile, which was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1 in the CFSR Final Report.

Texas consistently performs statistically worse than the nation on the statewide data indicator for maltreatment in care. While the rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days in care is worse than national performance and steadily worsened over the first 3 of the last 4 reporting years, there was notable improvement in the most recent reporting year (fiscal year [FY] 2022), with a 24% decrease from the previous year.

The total number of days children in Texas were in foster care steadily decreased 25% over the last 4 reporting years. However, the number of victimizations fluctuated substantially during that same period, increasing approximately 60% from FY 2019 to FY 2021, then decreasing 40% in FY 2022. This sharp decline coincides with timing of legislation enacted in Texas in September 2021 that redefined the definition of “neglect.” Texas does not currently report victimization incident dates in its National Child Abuse and Neglect System (NCANDS) submissions, which would strengthen the accuracy of this measure as the state reported that some of the victimizations were maltreatment that occurred before the child entered foster care that was reported during the child’s foster care episode.

- Similar to the nation, youth aged 11 to 16 years in Texas comprise the greatest percentage (34%) of all victimizations in care.
- Hispanic children (of any race) tended to be at greater risk of maltreatment in care than children of other races; however, that changed when the rate decreased from 15.00 per 100,000 days in care in FY 2021 to 10.63 in FY 2022.
- Bexar County accounts for the most days in foster care and the greatest number of victimizations in care. Children in Bexar County experienced higher rates of maltreatment in care than the state, and the rate in Bexar County increased from 9.8 in FY 2020 to 13.6 in FY 2022. Children in this county are disproportionately represented in the percentage of victimizations. For the most recent reporting year, they comprised 12% of the total days in foster care but 15% of the maltreatment-in-care victimizations.
- There was significant variation in performance on this indicator among Texas’ 254 counties. For example, Taylor County accounts for less than 2% of the state’s total days in foster care but reported the same number of victimizations in care as Dallas County in FY 2022, despite Dallas County having 4.5 times more days in care. Taylor County’s rates of maltreatment in care steadily increased over the past 3 reporting years, from 23.8 (FY 2020) to 33.2 (FY 2022) per 100,000 days in care.

Texas consistently performs statistically better than national performance on the statewide data indicator for recurrence of maltreatment. Texas’ performance on this indicator has remained relatively stable, with FY 2019 performance at 5.5% and FY 2022 at 5.4%. However, the number of initial substantiated or indicated maltreatment reports and the number of children experiencing recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months substantially decreased over the last 3 reporting years, by 20% and 28%, respectively. This decline coincides with timing of legislation enacted in Texas in September 2021 that redefined the definition of “neglect.”

- Similar to the nation, children aged 1 to 5 years in Texas are the age group with the greatest number of victimizations. They also experience a higher percentage of recurrence within 12 months compared to other age groups, except for infants aged 4 to 11 months. This age group is disproportionately represented in recurring victimizations, accounting for 36% of initial victimizations but 42% of all recurring victimizations.
- There is substantial variation by county in the number and percentage of children experiencing recurrence of maltreatment. Although Harris County has the greatest number of initial victimizations, it has 20% to 40% fewer children experiencing repeat maltreatment within 12 months compared to Dallas, Tarrant, and Bexar counties. As a result, Harris has the lowest rate of recurrence among the 20

counties with the most initial victimizations. In contrast, El Paso, Taylor, and Nueces counties have the highest percentages of children experiencing recurrence within 12 months.

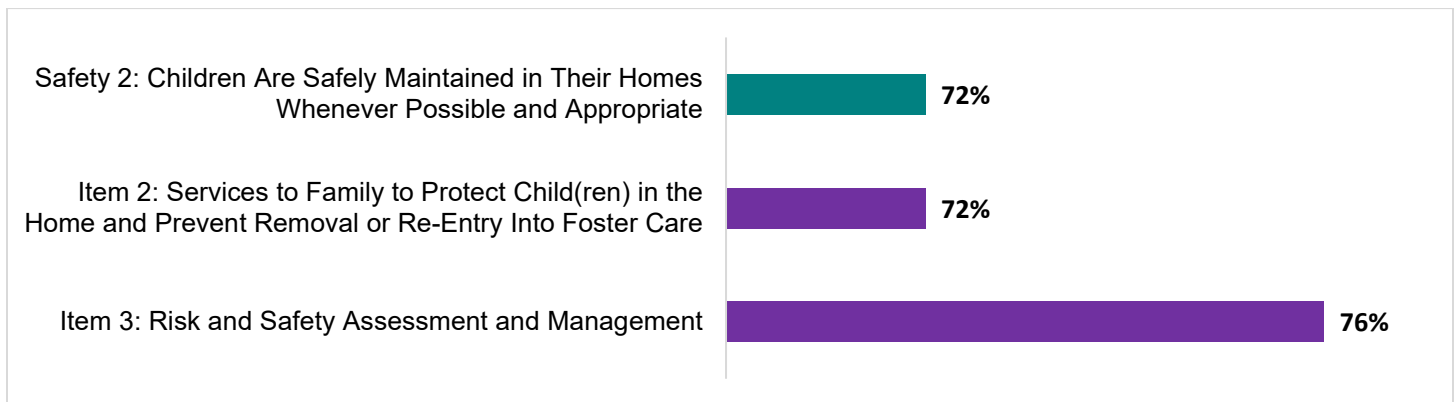
- There are no notable differences across racial/ethnic groups.

## **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**



Texas 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.

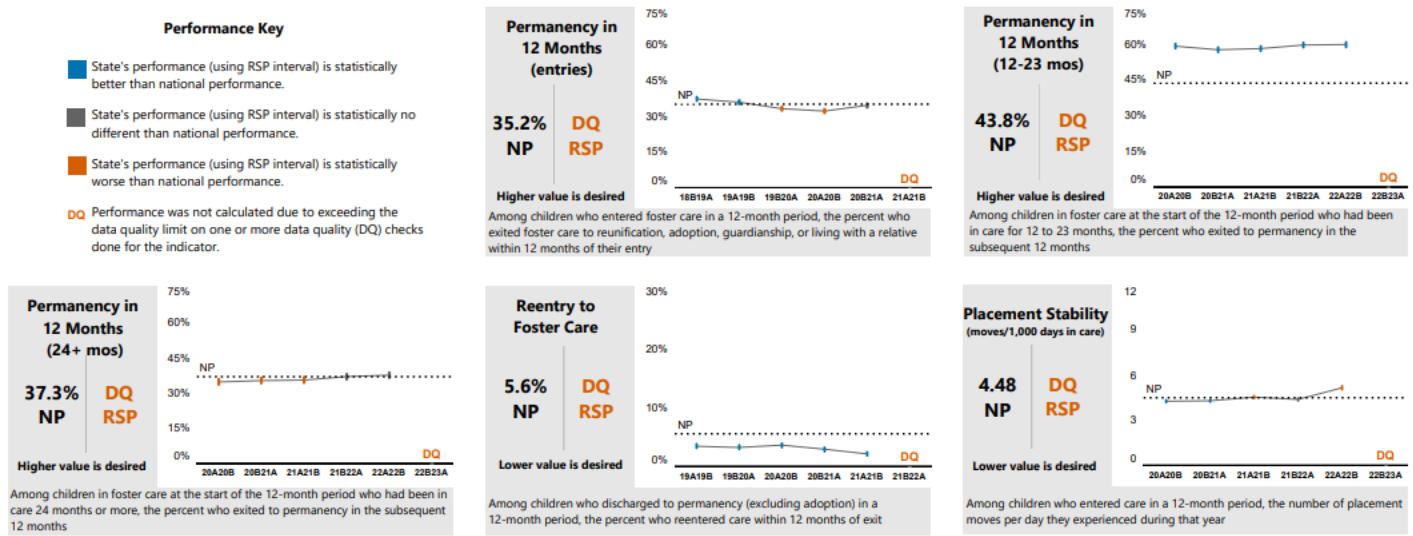
## **Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.**

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**

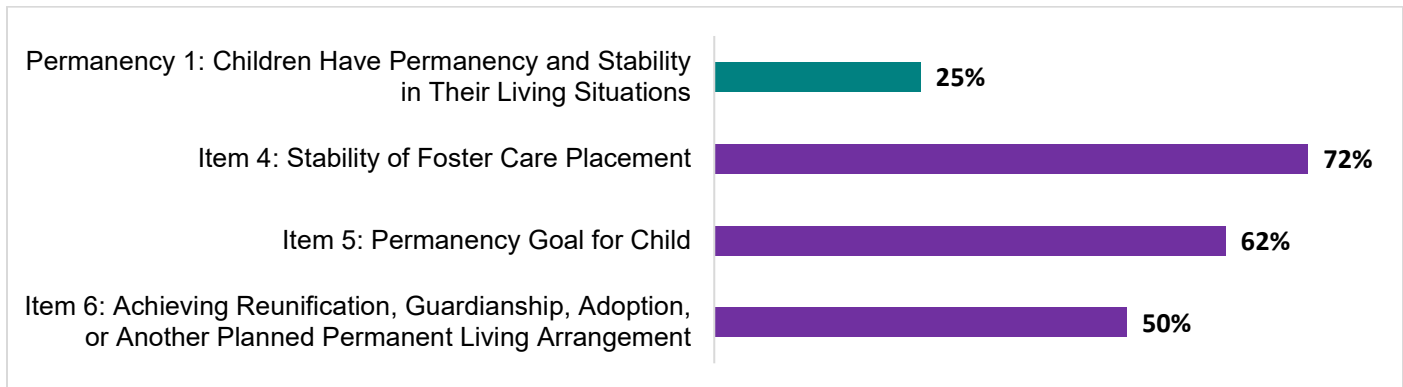
The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2023 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



## Case Review

**Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items**



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

- Due to data quality issues, the state's performance on the indicators below was unable to be calculated:
  - Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care
  - Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months
  - Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more
  - Reentry to foster care in 12 months
  - Placement stability
- 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	February 2024 Profile	August 2024 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Yes
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Yes
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Yes
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Yes
Placement stability	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Unable to be calculated due to data quality issues	Yes

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 and August 2024 data profiles and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the August 2023 data profile, which was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1 in the CFSR Final Report.

Texas' performance on the Permanency SWDIs has not been calculated for the past 3 reporting periods due to data quality issues with the state's AFCARS submissions. However, the state recently addressed the CFSR-related data quality concerns for those submissions, and the Children's Bureau anticipates that Texas' data will meet the necessary quality standards to calculate performance for the February 2025 data profile. Therefore, the trend analysis and key observations provided are based on the most recent available state performance data from the files identified above.

Texas' RSP on achieving permanency in 12 months for children entering care is generally close to national performance. Over the last 4 available reporting periods, there has been some fluctuation, with Texas' performance shifting from statistically better than national performance to worse, and then to no significant difference from national performance.

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.

- Texas' foster care entry rate per 1,000 child population is consistently lower than the nation. (The state's data quality concerns do not affect the ability to show changes in entry rates over time.)
- The number of children entering foster care in Texas has markedly decreased by approximately 50% over the past 5 years. In 2019, more than 18,000 children entered care, dropping to 14,500 in 2021, around 9,000 in 2022, and down to 8,500 children in 2023. This sharp decline coincides with the timing of legislation enacted in Texas in September 2021 that redefined the definition of "neglect" and restricted child removals to cases where the child is deemed to be in immediate danger.

- Similar to the nation, infants under 1 year old have the highest entry rate into care, at 5.9 entries per 1,000 children in the general child population. Although their entry rate has decreased over the last 5 years, it is consistently 5 times higher than the state's overall entry rate of 1.2 per 1,000 children in the general child population. Additionally, infants have the lowest percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months of entry and the highest percentage of exits to adoption.
- Black or African American children in Texas enter foster care at a rate that is disproportionate to their overall representation in the child population. While they comprise 12.9% of the child population in Texas, they account for 22.2% of all entries into foster care. Additionally, these children are less likely to achieve permanency than children of other racial groups,<sup>3</sup> with greater disparity observed among those who have been in care for 1 year or longer.
- Entry rates vary significantly across Texas counties. Although Harris County has the largest child population—more than double that of any other county—the county has a lower rate and fewer entries into care compared to Bexar and Dallas counties. Bexar County consistently has the greatest number of children entering foster care. Bell, Nueces, Lubbock, McLennan, Taylor, Jefferson, and Smith counties are notable because they have relatively small child populations but comparatively large numbers of foster care entries.
- There is also considerable variation in county performance regarding achieving permanency within 12 months of entry. Among the top 5 counties with the greatest number of children entering care—Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Bell, and Travis—the percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months ranged from a low of 12% in Harris County to a high of 52% in Bell County.
- A lower percentage of children are reunified in Texas than nationally; approximately 41% in Texas and 48% nationally.

Texas has consistently performed statistically better than national performance for permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months, and the state's RSP for permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more tends to be similar to that of the nation.

- Texas has consistently been among the top 4 states with the highest percentage (60%) of children in care 12–23 months exiting to permanency in 12 months, which is substantially higher than national performance for the same periods (44%).
- In Texas, Black or African American children in care are consistently less likely to exit to permanency compared to children of other races/ethnicities,<sup>4</sup> with the disparity growing for those who remain in care for longer periods.
- Children in Texas aged 1 to 5 years and in care for 12 to 23 months consistently exit to permanency at a substantially higher percentage than such children nationally, with approximately 70% achieving permanency compared to the national level of 49%.
- Similar to the nation, children aged 11 to 16 years and in care 1 year or more are less likely to exit to permanency in 12 months, with the exception of youth aged 17.
- A substantially larger proportion of children entering foster care in Texas exit to adoption and guardianship compared to the nation. In Texas, 19% of children were adopted and 17% were placed in guardianship within 3 years of entry; after 5 years in care, these figures increased to 26% and 24%, respectively. In contrast, nationally, 13% of children exited to adoption and 9% to guardianship within 3 years of entry, increasing to 22% and 11%, respectively, after 5 years in care. The percentage of children exiting to guardianship in Texas is more than double the national percentage.

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<sup>3</sup> Comparison limited to races/ethnicities that comprise 1% or more of the measured population.

<sup>4</sup> Comparison limited to races/ethnicities that comprise 1% or more of the measured population.

- Among the top 5 counties with the greatest number of children in care for 12 to 23 months, the percentage achieving permanency in 12 months ranged from 54% in Harris County to 64% in Travis County. For children in care 24 months or more, there was more variation across counties, with Tarrant County achieving permanency at 28%, Harris County at 30%, and Travis County at a high of 53%.

Texas has consistently performed statistically better or no different than the nation on reentry to foster care.

- Across the three most recent reporting periods with available data, the state's reentry rate decreased 40% overall.
- The largest numbers of children exiting and reentering foster care were children aged 1 to 5 years. This age group was disproportionately represented in reentries, accounting for 44% of all exits and 48% of all reentries. Nationally, exits and reentries for this age group for the same reporting period were 36% and 35%, respectively.
- Hispanic children were disproportionately represented in the proportion of reentries as they comprised 41% of the exits and 46% of the reentries for the most recent reporting period with available data.
- Harris, Dallas, Bexar, and Bell counties had the largest number of exits and reentry rates at or below the state's reentry rate of 2.7%. Some counties with a substantially smaller number of exits had higher reentry rates, such as McLennan, Hidalgo, Taylor, and Travis counties, with reentry rates ranging between 4% and 6.5%.

Texas' placement stability rate was statistically worse than national performance in the most recent reporting period with available data.

- The total number of days children were in care in the first 12 months of entry decreased 45% from FY 2021 to FY 2022, and yet the relative decrease in moves was greater with a 40% decrease in the number of placement moves per 1,000 days in care.
- Similar to the nation, children aged 11 to 16 years entering care in Texas experienced a higher rate of placement moves per days in care compared to other age groups, except for the small percentage of youth aged 17. Children entering care in this age group accounted for 17% of the total days in care during a 12-month period and 31% of all placement moves.
- Infants and children aged 1 to 5 years in Texas accounted for a greater proportion of days spent in care during their first 12 months of entry, as well as a greater proportion of placement moves in that year compared to national figures. In Texas, infants comprised 27% of the entry days in care and 16% of total moves, while national figures were 22% and 13%, respectively. Similarly, children aged 1 to 5 years in Texas represented 34% of entry days in care and 29% of total moves, compared to national figures of 30% and 26%.
- Black or African American children have higher rates of placement moves than the state overall. The difference is not substantial but is consistent across reporting years with available data.
- Children in Harris and Tarrant counties experienced slightly higher rates of placement moves during their first year of entry among the top 5 counties with the greatest number of days and placement moves.

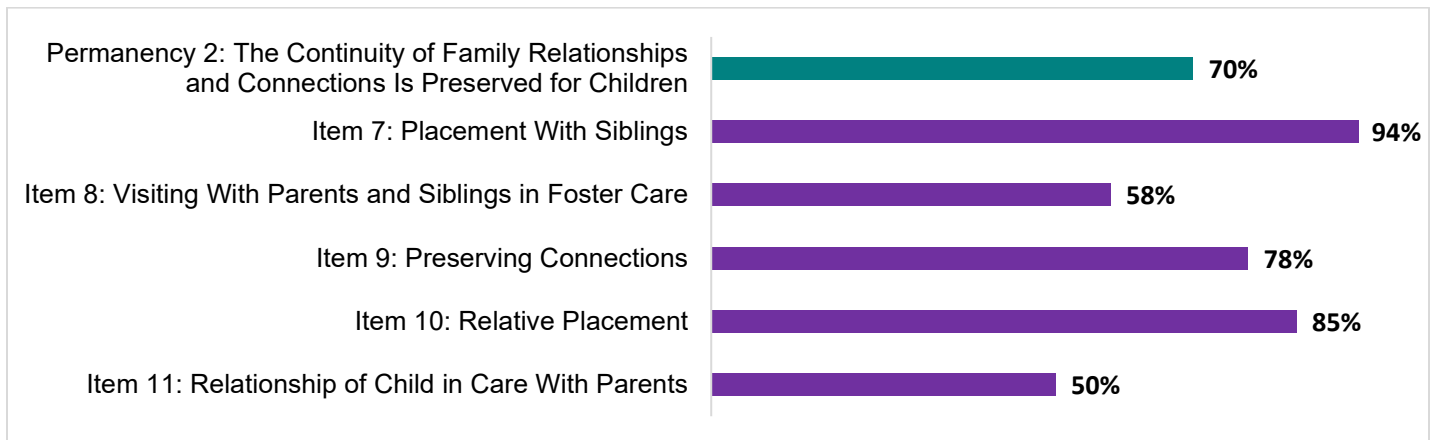
## **Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.**

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.



## Case Review

**Figure 6. Performance on Permanency Outcome 2 and Supporting Items**



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

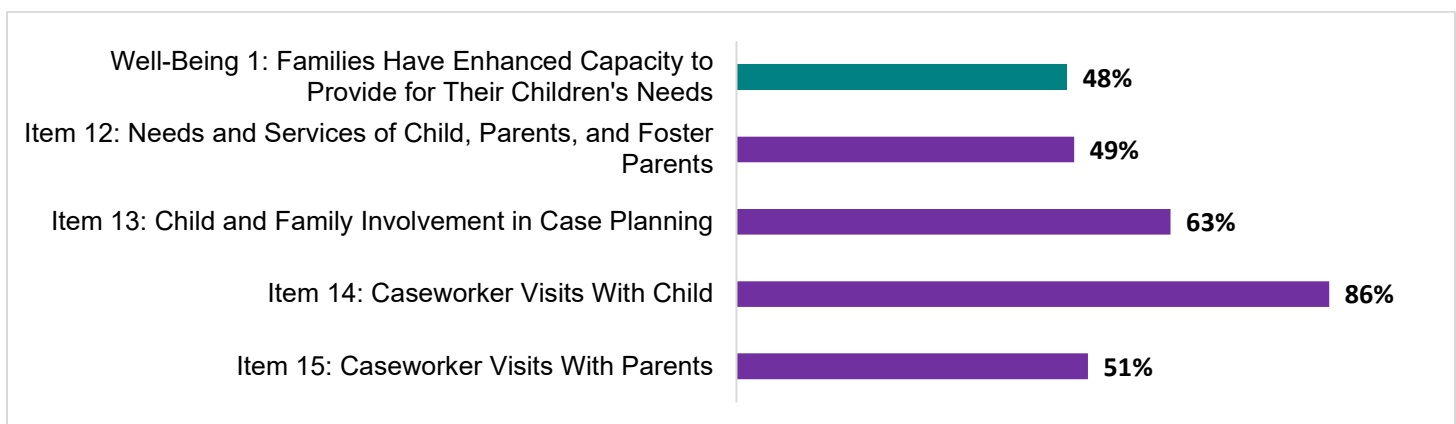
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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



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

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.

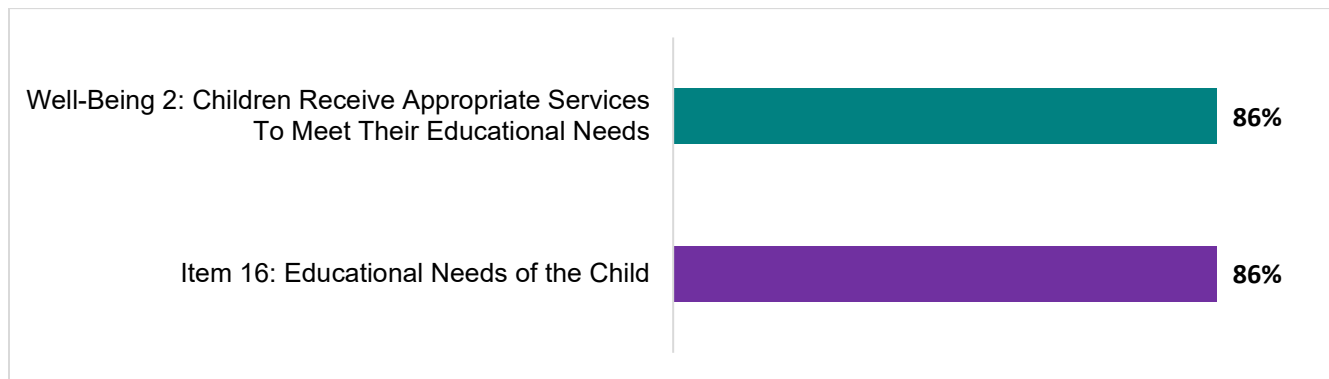
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90%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



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

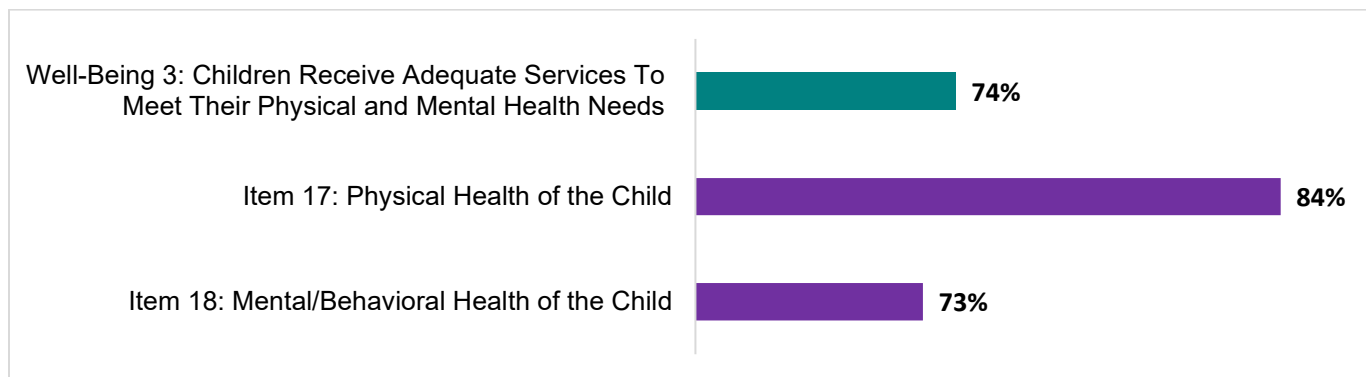
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

## 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**



Texas 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	Strength

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

#### Item 19: Statewide Information System

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

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT), the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System, is a comprehensive case management tool used in Texas by child welfare staff for documentation. The IMPACT application functions as a case management system that serves as the electronic case file for children and families served by DFPS and Community-Based Care Providers. Information provided indicated that IMPACT is functioning statewide to ensure that the status, demographic characteristics, placement location, and placement goals are readily identifiable for children in foster care. Data provided by the state indicated that the required data elements are documented and accurate. DFPS' Management Reporting and Statistics division tests the efficacy of the data captured in IMPACT through various data warehouse reports and federal data submissions and reports when discrepancies occur.

#### Case Review System

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

Items	Rating
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Strength

Items	Rating
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

Texas 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Texas described state policy that outlines the required elements of all case plans. Data and Information indicated that while each child in foster care had a case plan, most case plans were not developed jointly with the child's parents. Data revealed that fathers were less engaged by the agency in the development of children's case plans.

## Item 21: Periodic Reviews

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

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

## 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information received indicated that permanency hearings were routinely held for children no later than 12 months from the date a child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter. Initial and subsequent permanency hearings were often held much more frequently.

## 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.

- Data and Information provided did not demonstrate that the filing of termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings occurred in accordance with required provisions, and no exceptions or compelling reasons were documented or tracked. The practice of filing a TPR petition by pleading in the alternative at the initial filing for removal did not meet the requirements that a state files or joins a petition to TPR when a child has been in care for 15 of 22 months, absent exceptions and/or compelling reasons to do so.

## 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information indicated that Texas did not routinely provide notices to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of periodic reviews and permanency hearings as required. Texas did not have a process to track whether foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers had been notified of periodic reviews or permanency hearings related to the children in their care.

## 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

Texas 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Information in the Statewide Assessment indicated that Texas' quality assurance (QA) system was functioning statewide and operating in all the regions. The structure of the State CQI Program team is centrally administered and operating in all jurisdictions of the state. The state utilizes established standards, an array of performance outcomes and reports, and success indicators to evaluate the quality of services provided and implemented program improvement strategies. The state uses aggregate and case review data reports to improve practice, monitor practice metrics, and identify areas where further evaluation and improvement are needed. The Division of Accountability generates relevant reports and utilizes ongoing case reviews and targeted case reviews to identify and evaluate strengths and needs of the service delivery system. The state routinely shares and discusses child welfare system performance with internal and external partners.

## 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	Strength
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Strength
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Strength

Texas was found 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Texas' initial staff training program was functioning statewide. Measures of evaluation included knowledge assessment scores, evaluation data, tracking of completion, and staff surveys. The model ensures that staff receive classroom training along with on-the-job training with their mentor and includes an individualized training plan. The state tracks training to ensure completion of requirements for all applicable staff. Trainees must successfully complete all training before being promoted to a full-time case-carrying specialist.

### 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Texas described the ongoing training programs in place and recent efforts to update supervisory training. Texas described the ongoing training requirements for child welfare staff responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect and ongoing training for case management staff, in addition to optional training opportunities for all staff. Texas offers ongoing training to staff that allows them to obtain advanced certifications as a caseworker or supervisor. Quality assurance measures have been put into place that allow training staff to monitor compliance and quality standards to enhance various curricula on an ongoing basis.

### 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.

- Texas described the pre-service training requirement for foster parents. Pre-service training includes 35 hours of Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (PRIDE) training covering an array of topics. Additional training is required for caregivers of children with more complex needs, children under 2 years, and those taking psychotropics. Most foster care placements are contracted with child-placing and residential agencies in Texas. DFPS monitors a percentage of the child-placing contracts each year. The state has training requirements for staff of facilities that provide group and shelter care. Information demonstrated that the staff and provider training system was functioning statewide to ensure training was occurring statewide for prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities.

## 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

Texas 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Texas described programs and efforts to assess children and families for an array of services to achieve case plan goals and address gaps in services. However, both the Statewide Assessment and interviews indicated that the state did not have an adequate array of services accessible to children and families in all jurisdictions of the state. Gaps in services or waitlists were noted in the following areas: transportation, mental health services, domestic violence services, housing for youth transitioning out of care, independent living services, services for children and parents who have developmental delays, services to families providing kinship care, in-home services to meet identified safety-related issues and other identified family needs, and substance use treatment services.

### 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Texas did not demonstrate that the service array and resource development system was functioning statewide to ensure services can routinely be individualized to meet the unique needs of the children and families served by the state. Information gathered reported a lack of assessing for and providing



individualized and culturally/linguistically appropriate services, placement resources, and specialized services to address the complex needs of children.

## Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

Texas 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Texas identified a wide range of partners and stakeholders who are consulted in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the CFSP/APSR. These included a wide variety of regional partners, including Tribal representatives, youth, parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, relative caregivers/kinship, the Children's Commission, legal/judicial partners, service providers, and other community-based services for children and families. Consultation and engagement include community forums and listening sessions, advisory groups, oversight committees, focus groups, and targeted meetings with collaborative groups, and information from these sessions was used as a foundational element in development of the state's CFSP and providing input to inform annual updates through the APSR.

### Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs

**Description of Systemic Factor Item:** The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state's services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Texas described regular, ongoing communication with other state agencies administering federally funded/assisted programs and services to increase communication, understanding, and collaboration strategies across service systems. Collaborating agencies or programs include the Children's Commission, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Office of Court Administration, Behavioral Health, Department of Health, Department of Education, University of Texas, three federally recognized American Indian Tribes, HHSC Medicaid/CHIP and Behavioral Health, STAR Health, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Military Department, the Texas Workforce Commission, and Early Childhood Support, as well as many others. The state noted specific examples that demonstrate how the state

coordinates services or benefits with other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

## Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

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

Texas was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

### Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

**Description of Systemic Factor Item:** The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that state standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Texas standards are applied equally across licensed foster family homes and child care institutions. Licensing and license renewal are completed and monitored by DFPS residential contract managers. The state described the process for issuing and renewing licenses. Texas demonstrated that tracking processes were in place to monitor that standards were applied equally, assessment processes and required documentation were clear, and the licensing documentation was reviewed annually. The standards and process were applied equally to each provider and institution type. The state has an established process for issuing and documenting waivers and exceptions for both licensed and kinship homes. Texas has minimum standards written in statute and has a centralized licensing agency to ensure that all applications are held to the same standard.

### 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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Stakeholder interviews were not conducted.
- Texas described state policy that outlines criminal background check regulations and standards for the various types of foster and adoptive placements. The state provided data to demonstrate which criminal background check requirements were met for the various types of foster and adoptive placements. Texas provided documentation that demonstrated compliance with federal requirements for criminal background check clearances related to licensing foster and adoptive homes. Each child-placing agency (CPA) must request a background check for each current or prospective foster/adoptive parent. The Centralized Background Check Unit monitors criminal background check clearances for Out-of-

State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check (OSAN) and the Out-of-State Sex Offender (OSSO) Registry Checks.

### **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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The Texas Diligent Recruitment Plan did not demonstrate a statewide 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. The state did not describe how relevant foster/adoptive parent and child demographic data were used to drive and target diligent recruitment efforts.

### **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.

- Texas received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Texas outlined its internal process and procedures to ensure effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources but did not provide evidence on the effectiveness of these resources. The state did not provide data to demonstrate the use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoption or permanent placement within or outside of the state. Data provided indicates that ICPC home study requests received by the state were not consistently completed timely.

## IV. APPENDIX A

### Summary of Texas 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
<b>Safety Outcome 1:</b> <b>Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.</b>	Not in Substantial Conformity	75% Substantially Achieved
<b>Item 1:</b> <b>Timeliness of investigations</b>	Area Needing Improvement	75% Strength

## DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
<b>Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)</b>	9.07	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	18.42	17.51–19.39	21A–21B, FY21–22
<b>Recurrence of maltreatment</b>	9.7%	Better Than National Performance	Lower	6.6%	6.4%–6.8%	FY 21–22

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
<b>Safety Outcome 2:</b> Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	72% Substantially Achieved
<b>Item 2:</b> Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
<b>Item 3:</b> Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	76% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
<b>Permanency Outcome 1:</b> Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	Not in Substantial Conformity	25% Substantially Achieved
<b>Item 4:</b> Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
<b>Item 5:</b> Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength
<b>Item 6:</b> Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	50% 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%	Unable to calculate due to data quality issues	Higher	DQ	DQ	21A–23A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Unable to calculate due to data quality issues	Higher	DQ	DQ	22B–23A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Unable to calculate due to data quality issues	Higher	DQ	DQ	22B–23A
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	Unable to calculate due to data quality issues	Lower	DQ	DQ	21B–23A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Unable to calculate due to data quality issues	Lower	DQ	DQ	22B–23A

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
<b>Permanency Outcome 2:</b> The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Not in Substantial Conformity	70% Substantially Achieved
<b>Item 7:</b> Placement with siblings	Strength	94% Strength
<b>Item 8:</b> Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	58% Strength
<b>Item 9:</b> Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength
<b>Item 10:</b> Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	85% Strength
<b>Item 11:</b> Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	50% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
<b>Well-Being Outcome 1:</b> Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	48% Substantially Achieved
<b>Item 12:</b> Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	49% Strength
<b>Sub-Item 12A:</b> Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	80% Strength
<b>Sub-Item 12B:</b> Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	52% Strength
<b>Sub-Item 12C:</b> Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	89% Strength
<b>Item 13:</b> Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	63% Strength
<b>Item 14:</b> Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength
<b>Item 15:</b> Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	51% Strength

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

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
<b>Well-Being Outcome 2:</b> Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	86% Substantially Achieved
<b>Item 16:</b> Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength

**WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.**

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
<b>Well-Being Outcome 3:</b> Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	74% Substantially Achieved
<b>Item 17:</b> Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	84% Strength
<b>Item 18:</b> Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	73% 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**

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

### **CASE REVIEW SYSTEM**

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

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM**

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

### **STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING**

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Source of Data and Information</b>	<b>State Performance</b>
<b>Staff and Provider Training</b>	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
<b>Item 26: Initial Staff Training</b>	Statewide Assessment	Strength
<b>Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training</b>	Statewide Assessment	Strength
<b>Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training</b>	Statewide Assessment	Strength



### **SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

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

### **AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY**

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

### **FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION**

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

## APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

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

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

Practice Description	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	84.75% (50 of 59)
(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.	69.49% (41 of 59)
(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.	16.67% (3 of 18)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	74.58% (44 of 59)

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

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care.	50% (11 of 22)	72.41% (21 of 29)	14.29% (1 of 7)	56.9% (33 of 58)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Questions 2A and 2B) Although the agency did not make concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry into foster care, the child(ren) was removed from the home because this action was necessary to ensure the child's safety.	40.91% (9 of 22)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	40.91% (9 of 22)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	4.55% (1 of 22)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	4.55% (1 of 22)
(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.	4.55% (1 of 22)	27.59% (8 of 29)	85.71% (6 of 7)	25.86% (15 of 58)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	90.91% (20 of 22)	72.41% (21 of 29)	14.29% (1 of 7)	72.41% (42 of 58)

### Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services — Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/assessed.	100% (60 of 60)	100% (30 of 30)	100% (10 of 10)	100% (100 of 100)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (60 of 60)	100% (30 of 30)	100% (10 of 10)	100% (100 of 100)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services — Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	93.75% (15 of 16)	90.48% (19 of 21)	50% (4 of 8)	84.44% (38 of 45)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	88.33% (53 of 60)	73.33% (22 of 30)	44.44% (4 of 9)	79.8% (79 of 99)
(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.	100% (12 of 12)	92% (23 of 25)	0	94.59% (35 of 37)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	97.22% (35 of 36)	92% (23 of 25)	100% (5 of 5)	95.45% (63 of 66)
(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% (38 of 38)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100% (38 of 38)
(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.	98.33% (59 of 60)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	98.33% (59 of 60)
<b>Item 3 Strength Ratings</b>	<b>88.33% (53 of 60)</b>	<b>63.33% (19 of 30)</b>	<b>40% (4 of 10)</b>	<b>76% (76 of 100)</b>

## 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.	30% (6 of 20)	30% (6 of 20)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	93.33% (56 of 60)	93.33% (56 of 60)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	71.67% (43 of 60)	71.67% (43 of 60)

### 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% (60 of 60)	100% (60 of 60)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	85% (51 of 60)	85% (51 of 60)
(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.	66.67% (40 of 60)	66.67% (40 of 60)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	63.33% (38 of 60)	63.33% (38 of 60)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 22)
(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.	100% (35 of 35)	100% (35 of 35)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	61.67% (37 of 60)	61.67% (37 of 60)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner.	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	33.33% (1 of 3)	33.33% (1 of 3)

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 adoption in a timely manner.	33.33% (3 of 9)	33.33% (3 of 9)
(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.	83.33% (5 of 6)	83.33% (5 of 6)
(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.	48.78% (20 of 41)	48.78% (20 of 41)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	50% (30 of 60)	50% (30 of 60)

## 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.	62.5% (20 of 32)	62.5% (20 of 32)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	83.33% (10 of 12)	83.33% (10 of 12)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	93.75% (30 of 32)	93.75% (30 of 32)

### 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.	3.13% (1 of 32)	3.13% (1 of 32)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	25% (8 of 32)	25% (8 of 32)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	15.63% (5 of 32)	15.63% (5 of 32)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	9.38% (3 of 32)	9.38% (3 of 32)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	28.13% (9 of 32)	28.13% (9 of 32)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	18.75% (6 of 32)	18.75% (6 of 32)
(Question 8A) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	71.88% (23 of 32)	71.88% (23 of 32)
(Question 8C) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	96.15% (25 of 26)	96.15% (25 of 26)
(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.	71.88% (23 of 32)	71.88% (23 of 32)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 23)	0% (0 of 23)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	13.04% (3 of 23)	13.04% (3 of 23)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	13.04% (3 of 23)	13.04% (3 of 23)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	8.7% (2 of 23)	8.7% (2 of 23)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	39.13% (9 of 23)	39.13% (9 of 23)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	26.09% (6 of 23)	26.09% (6 of 23)
(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.	60.87% (14 of 23)	60.87% (14 of 23)
(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.	88.24% (15 of 17)	88.24% (15 of 17)
(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.	60.87% (14 of 23)	60.87% (14 of 23)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 11)	0% (0 of 11)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	45.45% (5 of 11)	45.45% (5 of 11)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 11)	0% (0 of 11)
(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.	27.27% (3 of 11)	27.27% (3 of 11)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	0% (0 of 11)	0% (0 of 11)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	27.27% (3 of 11)	27.27% (3 of 11)
(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.	72.73% (8 of 11)	72.73% (8 of 11)
(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.	77.78% (7 of 9)	77.78% (7 of 9)
(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.	63.64% (7 of 11)	63.64% (7 of 11)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	57.89% (22 of 38)	57.89% (22 of 38)

### 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).	78.33% (47 of 60)	78.33% (47 of 60)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	78.33% (47 of 60)	78.33% (47 of 60)

### 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.	36.67% (22 of 60)	36.67% (22 of 60)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (22 of 22)	100% (22 of 22)



Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to <b>Identify</b> 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 <b>Locate</b> 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 <b>Inform</b> maternal relatives.	57.14% (4 of 7)	57.14% (4 of 7)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to <b>Evaluate</b> maternal relatives.	57.14% (4 of 7)	57.14% (4 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to <b>Identify</b> paternal relatives.	87.5% (7 of 8)	87.5% (7 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to <b>Locate</b> paternal relatives.	75% (6 of 8)	75% (6 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to <b>Inform</b> paternal relatives.	62.5% (5 of 8)	62.5% (5 of 8)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to <b>Evaluate</b> paternal relatives.	62.5% (5 of 8)	62.5% (5 of 8)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	85% (51 of 60)	85% (51 of 60)

#### 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.	56.25% (18 of 32)	56.25% (18 of 32)
(Question 11B) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.	47.83% (11 of 23)	47.83% (11 of 23)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	50% (17 of 34)	50% (17 of 34)

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

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 12 Strength Ratings	46.67% (28 of 60)	56.67% (17 of 30)	40% (4 of 10)	49% (49 of 100)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12A1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the children's needs.	90% (54 of 60)	93.33% (28 of 30)	60% (6 of 10)	88% (88 of 100)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	75.47% (40 of 53)	87.5% (14 of 16)	100% (1 of 1)	78.57% (55 of 70)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	76.67% (46 of 60)	93.33% (28 of 30)	60% (6 of 10)	80% (80 of 100)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/Dr— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the mother's needs	72.5% (29 of 40)	90% (27 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	76.25% (61 of 80)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	81.08% (30 of 37)	80% (24 of 30)	66.67% (2 of 3)	80% (56 of 70)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	72.5% (29 of 40)	80% (24 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	72.5% (58 of 80)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	46.88% (15 of 32)	65.52% (19 of 29)	44.44% (4 of 9)	54.29% (38 of 70)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/Dr— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	62.07% (18 of 29)	65.52% (19 of 29)	33.33% (1 of 3)	62.3% (38 of 61)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	46.88% (15 of 32)	62.07% (18 of 29)	44.44% (4 of 9)	52.86% (37 of 70)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	50% (21 of 42)	60% (18 of 30)	40% (4 of 10)	52.44% (43 of 82)

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

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(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.	98.15% (53 of 54)	98.15% (53 of 54)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	86.67% (39 of 45)	86.67% (39 of 45)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	88.89% (48 of 54)	88.89% (48 of 54)

### **Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning**

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 13A) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the child in the case planning process.	93.75% (30 of 32)	88.24% (15 of 17)	66.67% (6 of 9)	87.93% (51 of 58)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	75% (30 of 40)	96.67% (29 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	80% (64 of 80)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	53.33% (16 of 30)	70.37% (19 of 27)	57.14% (4 of 7)	60.94% (39 of 64)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	63.64% (35 of 55)	70% (21 of 30)	40% (4 of 10)	63.16% (60 of 95)

#### **Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child**

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week.	1.67% (1 of 60)	0% (0 of 30)	0% (0 of 10)	1% (1 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0% (0 of 60)	0% (0 of 30)	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	1.67% (1 of 60)	40% (12 of 30)	0% (0 of 10)	13% (13 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	91.67% (55 of 60)	53.33% (16 of 30)	40% (4 of 10)	75% (75 of 100)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	5% (3 of 60)	6.67% (2 of 30)	60% (6 of 10)	11% (11 of 100)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 60)	0% (0 of 30)	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 100)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	95% (57 of 60)	96.67% (29 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	91% (91 of 100)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	96.67% (58 of 60)	86.67% (26 of 30)	70% (7 of 10)	91% (91 of 100)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	93.33% (56 of 60)	83.33% (25 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	86% (86 of 100)

#### **Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents**

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 30)	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 80)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	2.5% (1 of 40)	0% (0 of 30)	0% (0 of 10)	1.25% (1 of 80)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	7.5% (3 of 40)	30% (9 of 30)	0% (0 of 10)	15% (12 of 80)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	40% (16 of 40)	53.33% (16 of 30)	30% (3 of 10)	43.75% (35 of 80)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	32.5% (13 of 40)	16.67% (5 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	28.75% (23 of 80)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	17.5% (7 of 40)	0% (0 of 30)	20% (2 of 10)	11.25% (9 of 80)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	67.5% (27 of 40)	83.33% (25 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	71.25% (57 of 80)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	96.97% (32 of 33)	100% (30 of 30)	75% (6 of 8)	95.77% (68 of 71)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	67.5% (27 of 40)	83.33% (25 of 30)	50% (5 of 10)	71.25% (57 of 80)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 30)	0% (0 of 27)	0% (0 of 7)	0% (0 of 64)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	0% (0 of 30)	0% (0 of 27)	0% (0 of 7)	0% (0 of 64)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	6.67% (2 of 30)	11.11% (3 of 27)	0% (0 of 7)	7.81% (5 of 64)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	26.67% (8 of 30)	44.44% (12 of 27)	14.29% (1 of 7)	32.81% (21 of 64)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	46.67% (14 of 30)	33.33% (9 of 27)	57.14% (4 of 7)	42.19% (27 of 64)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	20% (6 of 30)	11.11% (3 of 27)	28.57% (2 of 7)	17.19% (11 of 64)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	46.67% (14 of 30)	62.96% (17 of 27)	42.86% (3 of 7)	53.13% (34 of 64)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	91.67% (22 of 24)	91.67% (22 of 24)	100% (5 of 5)	92.45% (49 of 53)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	46.67% (14 of 30)	62.96% (17 of 27)	42.86% (3 of 7)	53.13% (34 of 64)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	50% (21 of 42)	60% (18 of 30)	30% (3 of 10)	51.22% (42 of 82)

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

### Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	97.67% (42 of 43)	0	0	97.67% (42 of 43)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	87.18% (34 of 39)	0	0	87.18% (34 of 39)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	86.05% (37 of 43)	0	0	86.05% (37 of 43)

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

### Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	95% (57 of 60)	87.5% (14 of 16)	100% (3 of 3)	93.67% (74 of 79)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	97.37% (37 of 38)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	97.37% (37 of 38)



<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	87.27% (48 of 55)	84.62% (11 of 13)	100% (1 of 1)	86.96% (60 of 69)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	91.67% (55 of 60)	100% (5 of 5)	0	92.31% (60 of 65)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	89.09% (49 of 55)	0% (0 of 1)	0	87.5% (49 of 56)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	81.67% (49 of 60)	87.5% (14 of 16)	100% (3 of 3)	83.54% (66 of 79)

#### **Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child**

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs.	91.11% (41 of 45)	82.61% (19 of 23)	71.43% (5 of 7)	86.67% (65 of 75)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	95.24% (20 of 21)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	95.24% (20 of 21)

<b>Practice Description</b>	<b>Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>In-Home Services AR/DR— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>	<b>All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases</b>
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	70.73% (29 of 41)	75% (9 of 12)	60% (3 of 5)	70.69% (41 of 58)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	71.11% (32 of 45)	78.26% (18 of 23)	71.43% (5 of 7)	73.33% (55 of 75)