

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Wyoming FINAL REPORT 2024

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Final Report: Wyoming Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

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

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS) and submitted to the CB on August 31, 2023. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The February 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 66 cases [41 foster care and 25 in-home], conducted via a State-Led Review process statewide in Wyoming during November 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, examining case practices occurring during November 2022 through January 2024.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Parents
 - Youth
 - Foster/Adoptive and Relative Caregivers
 - Foster/Adoptive Licensing Staff
 - Attorneys for the Agency
 - Attorneys for Parents
 - Attorneys for the Child/Guardians Ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
 - Judges/Judicial Officers and the Court Improvement Program (CIP)
 - Juvenile Justice/Probation Department Staff
 - Citizen's Review Panel and Children's Trust Fund members
 - Service Providers
 - DFS Central Office Leadership, District Managers, and Program Managers
 - DFS Supervisors and Caseworkers

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

Wyoming 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 Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability |

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

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

The following 1 of the 7 systemic factors was found to be in substantial conformity:

- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

CB Comments on State Performance

The DFS is the state's authority designated to serve children, youth, vulnerable adults, and families in need of temporary or ongoing financial assistance and/or social services. The social services programs include, but are not limited to, child protection, foster care, adoption, and juvenile justice.

In 2016, during its Round 3 CFSR, Wyoming was in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes and was in substantial conformity with 3 of the 7 systemic factors: Staff and Provider Training, Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

Wyoming's Round 3 CFSR PIP was approved on August 15, 2018, with an effective date of August 17, 2018, for a 2-year implementation period. On September 30, 2020, the state was notified that it had completed all the benchmarks and action steps identified in the PIP. At the end of the 18-month non-overlapping evaluation period, which ended on March 31, 2022, the CB determined that Wyoming had not achieved its goal for 1 of the 4 outcomes measured in the PIP: Permanency Outcome 1.

Budget cuts, which resulted in the loss of vital case management staff and funding for direct service programs such as mental health services, were an overarching challenge affecting performance and practice during the Round 3 PIP and non-overlapping evaluation period. Other factors affecting performance on Permanency Outcome 1 were untimely court reviews and delays in permanency for children in care more than 20 months, specifically children with a permanency goal of adoption.

During Wyoming's Round 3 PIP, WY Home Matters, a collaborative agency-wide initiative that aims to transform Wyoming's child welfare and juvenile system into a child well-being system, was launched. One benefit of Wyoming's Family Well-Being System is shared responsibility for serving families across the child welfare system, the community, and other partner organizations. In the Round 4 PIP, Wyoming can build upon this initiative and other practices—for example, Wyoming's Practice Model—to support the state in making systemwide improvements and achieving substantial conformity with the CFSR outcomes and systemic factors.

In the Round 4 CFSR, Wyoming was found to be not in substantial conformity with all 7 outcomes and 6 of the 7 systemic factors: Statewide Information System; Case Review System; Quality Assurance System; Staff and Provider Training; Service Array and Resource Development; and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. Wyoming was found to be in substantial conformity with 1 systemic factor: Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

The highest performing outcomes in the Round 4 CFSR were Well-Being Outcome 2 (Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs) and Permanency Outcome 2 (The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children), both with 76% of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. For Well-Being Outcome 2, performance in foster care cases was higher than in-home services cases—in 85% of the foster care cases, the agency made concerted efforts to assess and address the educational needs of children compared with 44% of in-home services cases. The absence of concerted efforts to ensure appropriate services for in-home cases was the primary reason for the lower performance. Of

the 5 items comprising Permanency Outcome 2, Item 7, Placement With Siblings, was the strongest area of practice with 92% of the cases rated as a Strength. Performance on Item 9, Preserving Connections, followed with 88% of cases rated as a Strength. The lowest performing items for this outcome were Items 8 and 10. For Item 8, Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, 68% of cases were rated as a Strength. The lack of parent-child visits contributed to Area Needing Improvement (ANI) ratings with case review data showing no substantial differences between child visits with mothers and child visits with fathers. For Item 10, Relative Placement, 73% of cases were rated as a Strength. Case reviews showed evidence that children's relatives were initially explored as a placement resource; however, the lack of follow-up in some cases after the initial relative placement option fell through contributed to ANI ratings.

In contrast, Well-Being Outcome 1 (Families have the enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs) and Safety Outcome 2 (Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate) were the two lowest performing outcomes with 33% and 29%, respectively, of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. For Item 12, children were more likely to have their needs adequately assessed and appropriate services provided in foster care cases, with 76% of applicable foster care cases having Strength ratings in comparison to 64% of in-home cases. In contrast to children, parents were more likely to have their needs adequately assessed and appropriate services provided in in-home cases, with 52% of applicable cases having a Strength rating in comparison to 26% of foster care cases. Regardless of case type, performance on cases related to efforts to work with children was stronger than performance related to working with parents. Also notable was the agency's performance for fathers being lower than for mothers for Item 12B, Needs Assessment and Services to Parents; Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning; and Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, signaling a need to identify and improve practices for working with fathers.

Wyoming performed better on Safety Outcome 1 (Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect) than on Safety Outcome 2 (Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate). For Safety Outcome 1, performance was statistically better or no different than national performance on recurrence of maltreatment for the last 3 years, and performance on maltreatment in foster care improved from being statistically worse than national performance to no different than national performance in the most recent reporting period. Wyoming attributes the higher rates of maltreatment in care to not collecting and reporting incident dates for the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) as the state believes most of the child abuse and neglect victimizations occurred prior to the children's entry to foster care. Wyoming's new information management system, WYOSAFE, will capture incident dates, and the state anticipates that this will result in a more accurate view of performance on that indicator. CFSR case review performance for Item 1, Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment, was 72%. The data showed Wyoming generally initiated reports of child maltreatment timely; however, the state did not consistently make face-to-face contact with alleged victims in accordance with state policy. Some reports requiring an immediate response did not have face-to-face contact for 1 to 2 weeks, and some reports requiring a 7-day assessment response had no face-to-face contact.

Practice for the two items that comprise Safety Outcome 2 requires substantial improvement. This outcome had the lowest performance, with 29% of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, 46% of applicable cases were rated as a Strength. A reason for low performance on Item 2 was that caseworkers were not providing or following up on safety-related services to address parents' substance use and mental health service needs. For Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, 30% of the cases were rated as a Strength. While foster care cases had a higher percentage of Strength ratings, safety-related practice for both foster care and in-home services cases needs substantial improvement. Areas of strong practice included the safety of children in foster homes and during visitation with parents, caregivers, and other family members.

Safety-related practice improvement needs in Wyoming include caseworkers conducting accurate assessments of child risk and safety, including obtaining and considering additional case information and case history, identifying all the risk and safety concerns present in the case, and assessing all children residing in the family home. Also noted was the need to conduct more timely caseworker visits with children and having those visits at their place of residence, with some of that time alone. The CFSR also revealed concerns regarding caseworkers' ability to accurately identify safety threats, develop appropriate safety plans to address

those threats, and sufficiently monitor those plans. Based on case review data, there appear to be inconsistencies when specific districts conduct safety assessments and develop and implement safety plans. The definition of “critical junctures” in the case varied depending on the district and affected when and if safety and risk re-assessments were completed. Most cases rated as an ANI on Item 3 were opened for less than 1 year and had been opened for reasons of neglect, substance use issues, and physical abuse.

Child safety is of the utmost importance and should be a primary focus area of Wyoming’s PIP. The CB recommends that Wyoming identify strategies to strengthen caseworkers’ ability to accurately and comprehensively assess the risk and safety of children and to develop, implement, monitor, and adjust appropriate safety plans that mitigate threats to child safety.

Statewide, 54% of the cases reviewed were rated as having substantially achieved Permanency Outcome 1. A review of the 41 applicable cases revealed that Wyoming demonstrated strong performance on placement stability. Most children and youth had one placement during the period under review, and most of children’s current placements at the time of review were stable. The placement stability statewide data indicator confirms this observation, with Wyoming consistently performing better than national performance. Also, Wyoming demonstrated the good practice of reuniting families, when safe to do so, within 12 months of children entering out-of-home care for the cases reviewed. In 36% of the 41 applicable cases, concerted efforts were made to achieve reunification, and in several cases, a trial home visit occurred within 1 to 3 months after the child or youth was removed. Wyoming’s performance on the statewide data indicator for permanency in 12 months of children entering foster care supports this observation, with Wyoming consistently performing better than national performance.

In most cases, initial permanency goals were established timely and were appropriate to the case circumstances. This is another positive practice. The case review showed that for most cases where permanency was achieved timely, there was either liberal visitation coupled with appropriate and timely services and parents actively working their case plans or parents relinquishing their parental rights or consenting to guardianship. However, in several cases, the case review revealed a lack of urgency in achieving timely permanency; i.e., the permanency goal of reunification was in place too long given the child or youth’s needs and case circumstances. The agency’s low performance on the Permanency 1 case review items should be considered with the agency’s strong performance on the 5 permanency statewide data indicators. Wyoming consistently performs statistically better or no different than the nation in achieving permanency in 12 months for children in foster care regardless of length of stay and preventing children’s reentry within 12 months of exiting foster care.

Similar to the state’s Round 3 CFSR, in its Round 4 Statewide Assessment, Wyoming identified challenges in ensuring timely periodic reviews and permanency hearings and filing of termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions within the required timeframes. Periodic reviews and permanency hearings are critical points for legal and judicial professionals in supporting the achievement of timely and appropriate permanency for children. These reviews/hearings provide an opportunity for the court to inquire about progress made on the case plan, make changes if needed, determine the appropriate permanency plan, and determine when reunification, guardianship, or adoption will likely be achieved. They also provide an opportunity for the court to inquire about filing of TPR in accordance with federal and state statutes or the status of a TPR petition when a child’s goal is adoption. Timely and consistently held periodic reviews and permanency hearings with a pointed focus on the critical aspects of the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and youth can assist in achieving timely and appropriate permanency. Wyoming is encouraged to examine the key factors impeding the timeliness and quality of periodic reviews and permanency hearings, and to develop strategies or interventions that address those barriers.

Wyoming was found to be in substantial conformity with one systemic factor: Agency Responsiveness to the Community. A bright spot was the use of the DFS as a centralized structure for easier coordination and collaboration between programs. Partnerships with multiple federal or federally assisted programs—such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs, Childcare Assistance, and Child Support—occurred through multi-level coordination efforts using Memoranda of Understanding and/or sharing of data to coordinate

services. Stakeholders reported that due to the agency's structure, collaboration with federal agencies came naturally. The Wyoming Home Matters Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from the Wyoming DFS, Children's Justice Project (CJP)/ CIP, and the Governor's Office, was convened in February 2020 to share observations and experiences and to elicit information on community needs. Another strength is Wyoming's continued engagement of persons with lived experience through Community Family Support Forums, Parent Cafes, and the Wyoming Youth Advisory Council to help identify improvement needs and strengthen the state child welfare system. An area Wyoming should continue to strengthen is their ongoing collaboration and consultation with stakeholders in the development and implementation of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR).

As in Round 3, Wyoming was not in substantial conformity with the Service Array systemic factor, and this will need to be another major focus of the state's PIP. The CB found ongoing issues centered on the substantial gaps in available services along with extensive challenges to accessing essential services. This was particularly evident in mental and behavioral health services, substance use issues, transportation, child care, and housing. Statewide, there are waitlists for accessing mental health counseling and substance use services for children, youth, and parents. Stakeholders noted that rural areas of the state face more challenges with the availability of services while metropolitan centers of the state face more challenges accessing services. Stakeholder interviews revealed that a consequence of an insufficient array of therapeutic placement resources for children with behavioral and mental health needs is that they are placed or stay in more restrictive placements instead of the least restrictive setting that meets their therapeutic needs.

As Wyoming develops and implements its PIP, it will be crucial for the state to act upon its commitment to strengthen the Quality Assurance System. Successfully making and sustaining practice and systemic improvements will require the collection and analysis of data evidence to examine contributing factors and root causes of strengths and challenges. It's also important that Wyoming prioritize strengthening and consistently applying these fundamental areas of practice: risk and safety assessment and management, assessment and services to address parents' needs, and caseworker visits with children and parents. In addition to strengthening the Quality Assurance System, Wyoming is encouraged to focus on plans to strengthen the Service Array, Case Review, and Staff and Provider Training systems, and consistently use waivers for licensed providers.

Engaging partners and stakeholders in the improvement process has been shown to contribute to authentic and lasting change for those who interact with the child welfare system. DFS's strong collaboration and coordination with stakeholders will be a solid foundation for the PIP. It is also important that the state continue to strengthen its engagement of persons with lived experience, legal and judicial communities, and other community partners in the PIP development and implementation process to ensure meaningful systemic change.

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, the data for some of these statewide indicators show the following notable performance-related information by race/ethnicity in Wyoming:

- While the child population of Black or African American children in Wyoming is small, they are disproportionately represented in foster care entries with a rate of 23 per 1,000 in the general child population. They comprise 1% of the general child population whereas they are 4% of entries.

- The small population of Black or African American children in care over 1 year experience a lower percentage of exits to permanency.
- Hispanic children are overrepresented in the percentage of children reentering foster care and child victims who experience recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months of their initial victimization.

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.

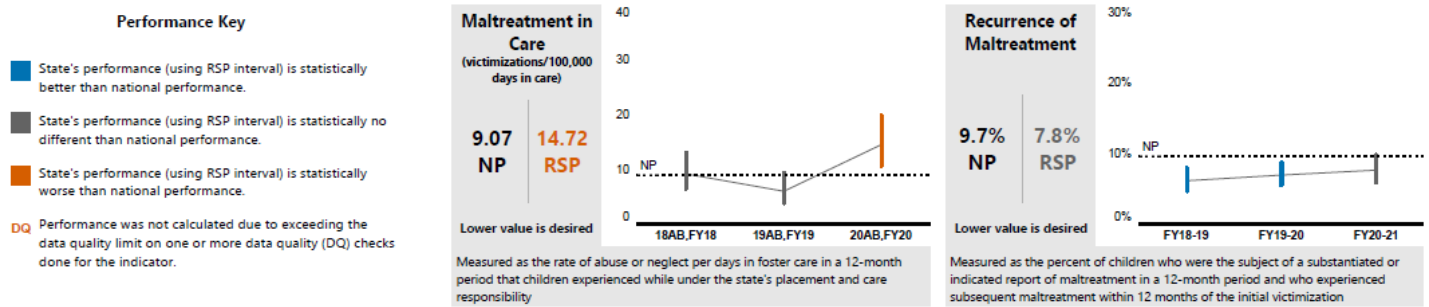
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that DFS initiate and have face-to-face contact with family members in investigations within 24 hours of being notified and initiated and have face-to-face contact with family members in assessments within 7 calendar days of receipt of a referral.

Statewide Data Indicators

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

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Wyoming 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 no different than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 1.

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

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

| Statewide Data Indicator | Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity | August 2023 Profile | February 2024 Profile | Inclusion in PIP? |
|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Maltreatment in Foster Care | Worse | No Different | No Different | No |
| Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months | No Different | Better | Better | No |

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 data profile and supplementary context data and may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the February 2023 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

Wyoming performed statistically no different than national performance on the statewide data indicator for maltreatment in care for the most recent reporting period (fiscal year [FY] 2021), which was an improvement from the prior period when performance was statistically worse than national performance.

The state's Observed Performance rate of maltreatment in care per 100,000 days in foster care fluctuated over the past 3 reporting years. During that time, the rate increased from 4.50 in FY 2019 to 11.70 in FY 2020, then decreased to 9.19. The fluctuation is due in part to the small number of victimizations in care.

The total number of days in care steadily decreased over the past 3 reporting years, with an overall decrease of over 20% from FY 2019 to FY 2021, while the total number of victimizations fluctuated from 17 in FY 2019 to 39 in FY 2020 and 27 in FY 2021.

Although the number of days children spent in care steadily decreased, the number of victimizations per year in FY 2020 and FY 2021 was greater than it was in 2019.

The number of victimizations in care is too small to reliably report on differences across subpopulations for age, race/ethnicity, and locality.

Wyoming consistently performs statistically better or no differently than national performance on the statewide data indicator for recurrence of maltreatment. The percentage of child victims experiencing recurrence of maltreatment decreased for the first time in 4 years—a decrease of nearly 35% in FY 2021–FY 2022 in comparison to FY 2020–FY 2021.

The percentage of victims with an initial substantiated or indicated maltreatment report and the number who experienced recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months also decreased over the past 3 reporting years.

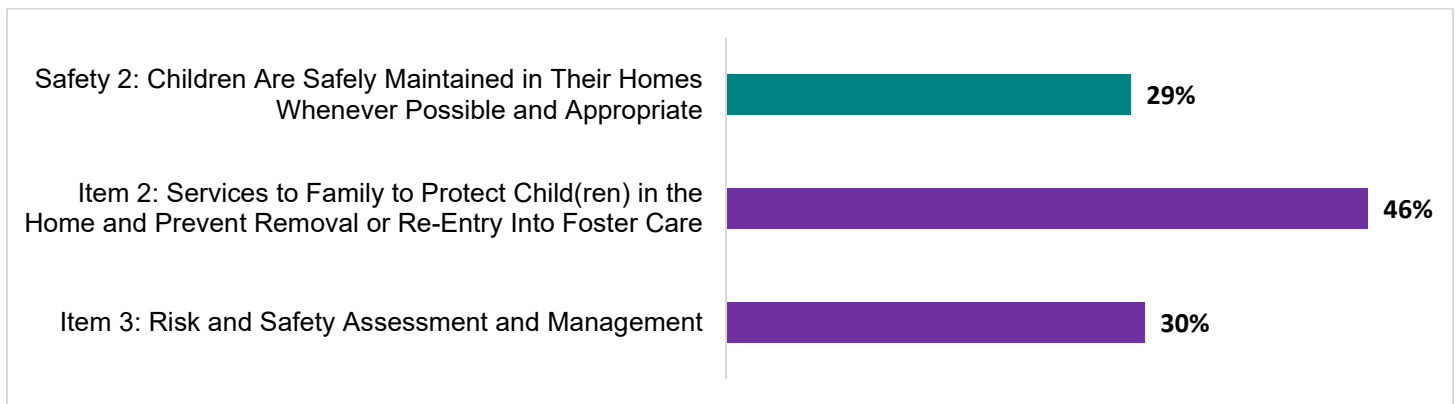
- Similar to the nation, children aged 5 years and under in Wyoming consistently comprised the age group with the greatest number of victimizations. Over the past 3 reporting years, the number of recurring victims for this age group declined.
- Children aged 6 to 11 are disproportionately represented in the percentage of recurring victims, comprising 26% of the initial victims whereas they are 36% of the recurring victims.
- Hispanic children are disproportionately represented in the percentage of recurring victims, comprising 13% of the initial victims whereas they are 31% of the recurring victims.
- Child victims who experienced maltreatment in the past 3 reporting years were primarily from four counties: Natrona, Campbell, Laramie, and Sweetwater. Natrona County consistently comprised the largest number of initial victimizations and experienced a decline in the percentage of victims experiencing recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months. Campbell and Laramie counties are disproportionately represented in the percentage of recurrent victimizations. While Natrona and Laramie counties experienced a small increase in the number of initial victimizations, Sweetwater experienced a 52% decrease.

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



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

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

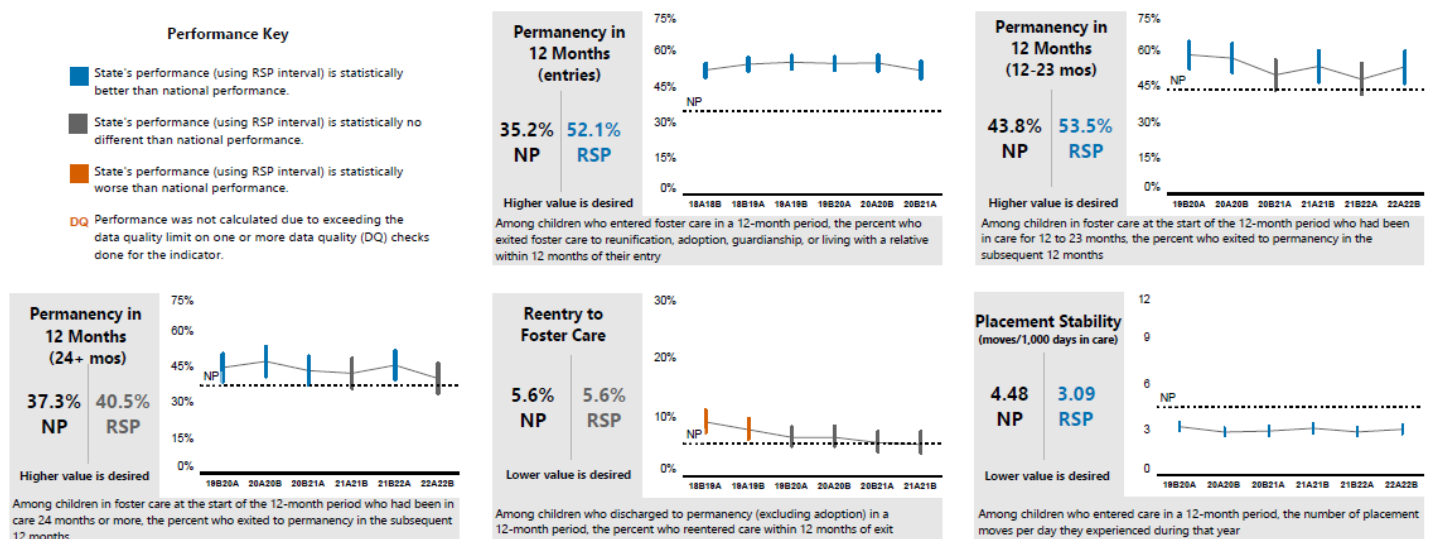
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

Statewide Data Indicators

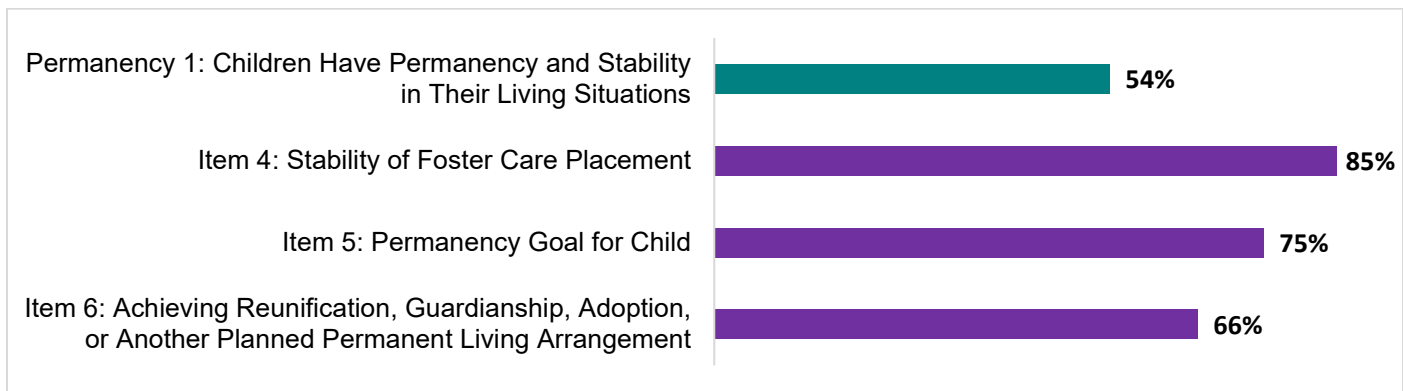
The chart below shows the state's performance from the February 2023 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



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

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

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

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

| Statewide Data Indicator | Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity | August 2023 Profile | February 2024 Profile | Inclusion in PIP? |
|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Permanency in 12 months for children entering care | Better | Better | Better | No |
| Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months | Better | Better | Better | No |

| Statewide Data Indicator | Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity | August 2023 Profile | February 2024 Profile | Inclusion in PIP? |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more | No Different | No Different | No Different | No |
| Reentry to foster care in 12 months | No Different | No Different | No Different | No |
| Placement stability | Better | Better | Better | No |

All results reported here are based on the February 2024 data profile and supplementary context data and may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 4 because that is from the February 2023 data profile which was transmitted with the statewide assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

Wyoming consistently performs statistically better than national performance for permanency in 12 months for children entering care.

- In FY 2022 and FY 2023, Wyoming had the 5th and 4th highest entry rate in the nation, respectively—more than 2 times the national entry rate.
- Like the nation, children removed as infants in Wyoming entered foster care at a higher rate than other age groups and exited to permanency within 12 months at the lowest percentage relative to children in other age groups with the exception of youth over 17 years. While Wyoming's entry rate for infants was higher than the nation, infants in Wyoming exited to permanency overall at a higher percentage than the nation.
- Black or African American children entered care in Wyoming at a rate that was disproportionate to their representation in the overall child population. Black or African American children in Wyoming were 1% of the general child population whereas they are 4% of the children entering foster care.
- While Laramie County has the largest child population, Natrona County consistently has the largest number of children entering foster care and the highest entry rate. The FY 2023 rate was 2 times higher than Laramie and Campbell counties.
- Carbon County, a small rural county with a child population of about 3,000 children, consistently had one of the highest entry rates at 15.8, which was 3 times higher than the state's entry rate.
- While entry rates were especially high in Wyoming, the state consistently also had the highest, or second highest, percentage of children exiting to permanency in the nation. FY 2022 AFCARS data showed that 24% of children who exited care were in care 5 months or less;¹ nationally that percentage was 18%. When compared to national performance, children of any age at entry in Wyoming had a high likelihood of exiting to reunification. Notably this included children who entered care as infants and youth who entered care at age 14 and older.
- Of the four counties with the highest number of entries in the most recent reporting year, Natrona County also had the highest percentage of children who exited to permanency in 12 months, while

¹ FY 2022 national and state AFCARS reports: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/afcars>

Laramie County had the lowest percentage. Sweetwater County's entry rate was the second highest among these four counties; however, it declined 60% from FY 2019 to FY 2023.

Wyoming consistently performed statistically better or no different than national performance for permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months and 24 months or more.

- Wyoming had a high percentage of children exiting to permanency within 12 months regardless of length of stay.
- The percentage of children in care 12–23 months and exiting to permanency within 12 months steadily increased. In contrast, the number of children in care 24 months or more remained relatively the same, and the percentage of these children who exited to permanency within 12 months steadily declined.
- Consistent with the nation, children in Wyoming in care 24 months or more aged 11–16 consistently experienced the lowest percentage of exits to permanency within 12 months, with the exception of the small number of youth aged 17. As with the nation, these children were disproportionately represented in the percentage of exits within 12 months. For the most recent reporting year, they comprised 32% of the children in care 24 months or more, whereas they were 25% of the exits.
- It is notable that the number of children in care 12–23 months in Natrona County substantially increased in the last reporting period, and the county had one of the highest percentages of children exiting to permanency within 12 months. In contrast, Laramie County consistently had the highest number of children in care 24 months or more and one of the lowest percentages of children in the state exiting to permanency within 12 months.

Wyoming's performance on reentry to foster care was consistently statistically no different than national performance and remained relatively unchanged in the past 6 reporting periods.

- The number of children exiting foster care in Wyoming decreased 25% in the last 3 reporting years, but the percentage of these exits who reenter has remained relatively unchanged.
- Infants under 1 year of age in Wyoming were most likely to reenter foster care. Children aged 11–16 tended to comprise the largest number of children reentering care within 12 months of discharge and were substantially overrepresented in the group of children reentering care.
- Hispanic children were disproportionately represented in the percentage of children reentering care within 12 months of exit, comprising 15% of the children exiting care whereas they are 34% of the reentries.

Wyoming's placement stability rate was consistently statistically better than national performance and remained relatively unchanged over the past 6 reporting periods.

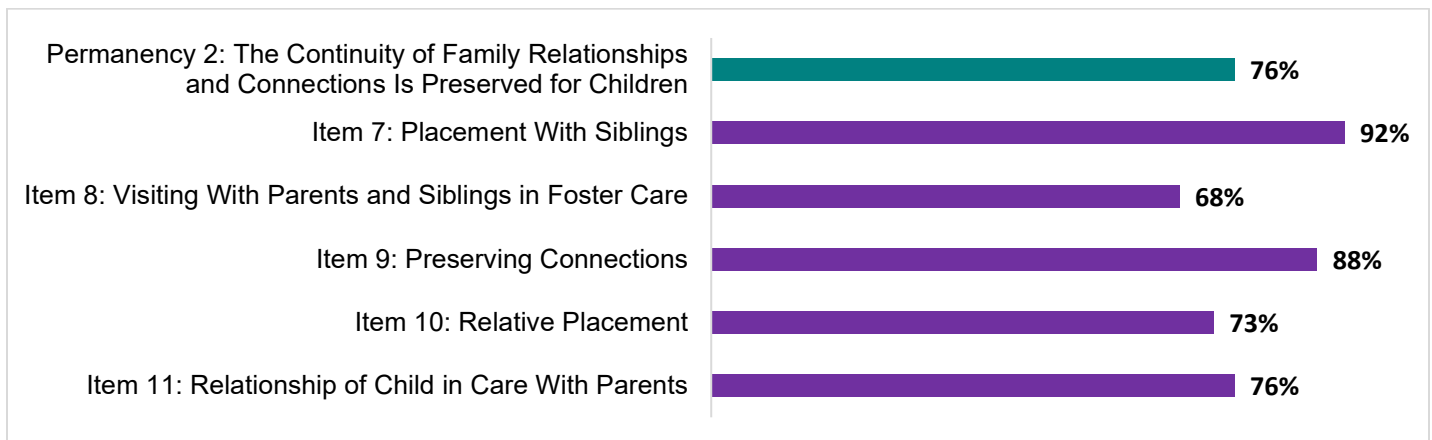
- Similar to the nation, children aged 11–16 experienced the highest rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care, with the exception of the small number of children aged 17.
- There were no notable differences based on race or county as differences and fluctuations were largely attributed to the relatively small number of children in foster care.

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



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

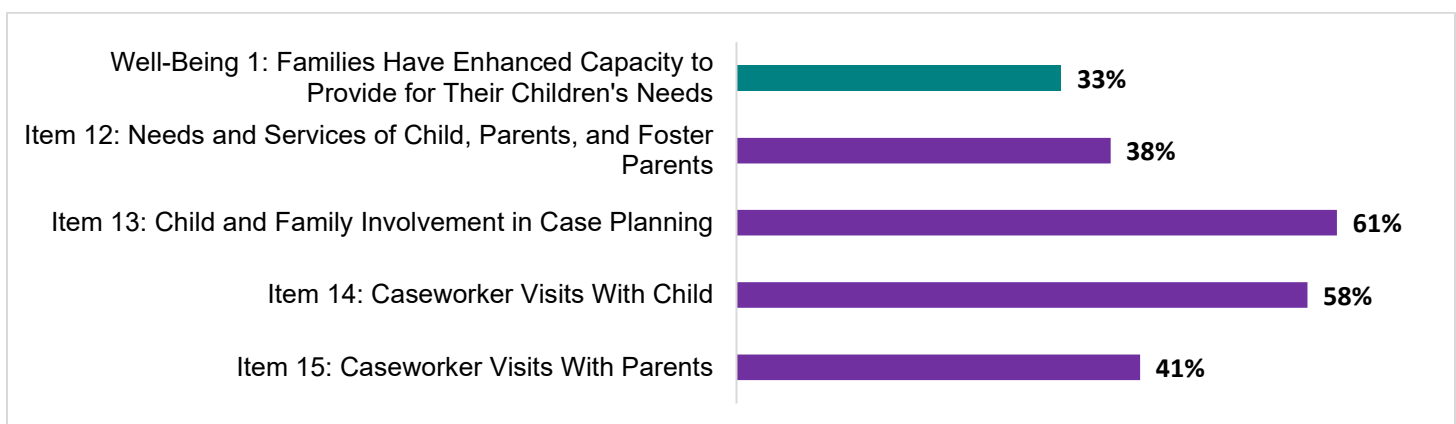
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were rated as substantially achieved.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were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

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

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

Case Review

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



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

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

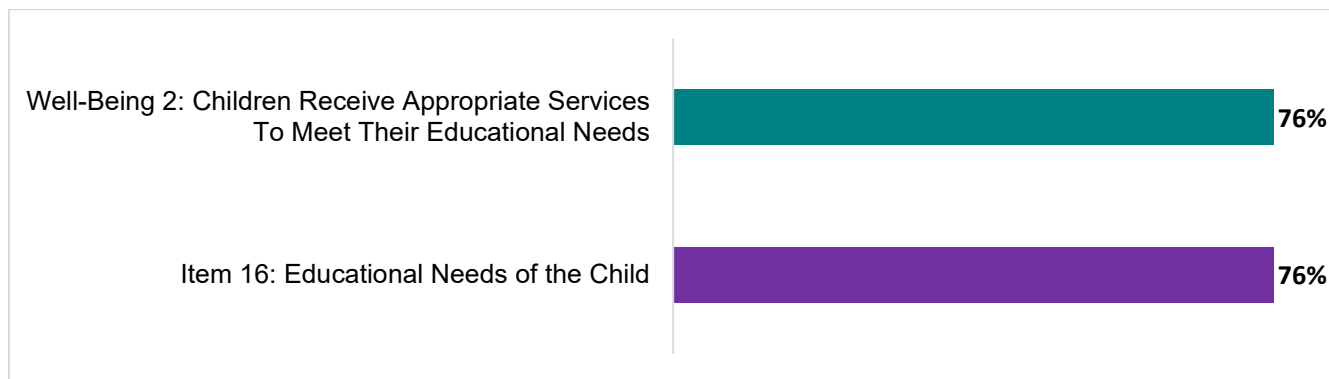
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of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



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

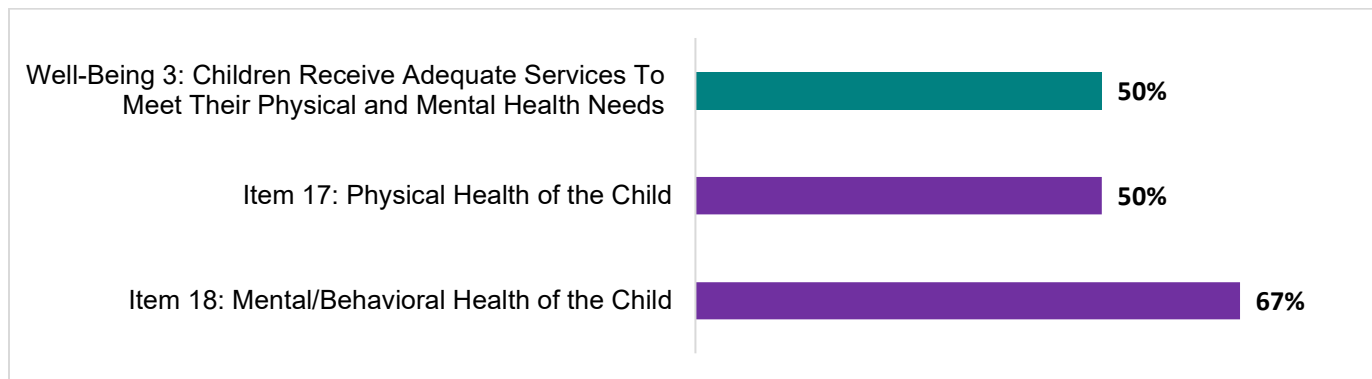
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



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

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

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

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

Statewide Information System

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

| Item | Rating |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Item 19: Statewide Information System | Area Needing Improvement |

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

Item 19: Statewide Information System

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

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- Wyoming's WYCAPS houses administrative data for children and families receiving services in the state's child welfare system. In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming provided an overview of its statewide information system as well as its policy and procedures for data entry. Several limitations were noted within WYCAPS, including that the state is unable to consistently and accurately track all placement types, ensure that demographic information is updated timely following an intake to accurately reflect the demographics of children being served, or record goals other than the primary permanency goal. Thus, concurrent goals are unable to be recorded in Wyoming's current information system. Additionally, although the statewide information system has the capability to record the child's legal status and each placement, consistent oversight is lacking across the state to ensure that this information is entered timely and accurately. These findings demonstrate that the statewide information system is not functioning to ensure Wyoming can readily identify the demographic characteristics, status, location, and permanency goals for the placement of every child in foster care.

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 |

| Items | Rating |
|---|--------------------------|
| Item 21: Periodic Reviews | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 22: Permanency Hearings | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers | Area Needing Improvement |

Wyoming 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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming described policy that outlines the required elements for all case plans. Data and information from the Statewide Assessment indicated that parents were not routinely and jointly developing the 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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment per agreement with the state. Stakeholder interviews were conducted to integrate judges and attorneys into the CFSR process.
- Information provided in the Statewide Assessment demonstrates that the state is not routinely conducting periodic reviews at least every 6 months for children in foster care in Wyoming. While the agency does have a mechanism to track hearing timeliness, there is variation in the quality of the data entry in their case management system. The Juvenile Court does not have standardized practices and data reports to implement and monitor hearing timeliness.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment per agreement with the state; stakeholder interviews were conducted to integrate judges and attorneys into the CFSR process.
- Information in the Statewide Assessment did not demonstrate that initial and subsequent permanency hearings were occurring throughout the state on a timely basis and did not distinguish between the timeliness of initial and subsequent permanency hearings. While the agency does have a mechanism to track hearing timeliness, there is variation in the quality of data entry in its case management system. The Juvenile Court does not have standardized practices or data reports to implement and monitor hearing timeliness.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- The Statewide Assessment did not provide sufficient data or information to demonstrate that the state's case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions are filed in accordance with required provisions. Wyoming does not have a systematic process to identify and track children who have been in care for 15 of the most recent 22 months. In addition, the state does not have a way to track children for whom there may be exceptions or compelling reasons not to file for TPR. Wyoming provided data on the number of TPR petitions filed for children in care for 15 of the most recent 22 months but did not provide information on the number of TPR petitions that should have been filed.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment per agreement with the state. Stakeholder interviews were conducted to integrate judges and attorneys into the CFSR process.
- Information provided in the Statewide Assessment did not show that the case review system is functioning statewide to systematically ensure notifications are provided and that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers are informed of their right to be heard. There is variation in whether the caseworker or the county or district attorney provides the notices due to DFS's policy designating the caseworker to provide notice while the Juvenile Court Rules designates the county or district attorney. Additionally, there is no system in place to track timely notice of hearings. Information in the Statewide Assessment indicated that not all caregivers routinely receive notification of permanency hearings and periodic reviews and did not address whether the notice includes the caregiver's right to be heard.

Quality Assurance System

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

| Item | Rating |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Item 25: Quality Assurance System | Area Needing Improvement |

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

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

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

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- Wyoming's Quality Assurance System is in the development phase. The state provided information in the Statewide Assessment that a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Procedures Manual outlining the components of an effective CQI program was being developed. However, the program has not been fully implemented. While the state has standards to evaluate the quality of services delivered, the state's information management system has data entry and data quality issues that limit the production of relevant reports to evaluate programs and services. In addition, Wyoming's case review system was recently reinitiated, and the ongoing plan to evaluate the quality of services and strengths and needs has not been developed. While the state has a number of strong approaches to obtain feedback from child welfare system partners, including persons with lived experience (e.g., Parent Cafes); there is limited evidence of feedback loops and processes to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented program improvement measures.

Staff and Provider Training

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

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

Wyoming was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Staff and Provider Training.

Item 26: Initial Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that initial training is provided to all staff who deliver services pursuant to the CFSP that includes the basic skills and knowledge required for their positions.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming described its 1-year certification process for initial staff training, requiring core training, an exam, coaching and observation of competencies, and 1 year of job experience. Staff in the process of being certified are assigned cases under the supervision of a certified Supervisor or District Manager. Information in the Statewide Assessment did not address how case assignments are determined, limits on the types of cases assigned, or the maximum number of cases that can be assigned to new staff before they are certified. Survey and focus group results reported in the Statewide Assessment indicated that initial training did not sufficiently provide caseworkers with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out their job responsibilities. Wyoming noted in the Statewide Assessment a need to strengthen the effectiveness of initial staff training, as well as the timing to align with assignment of cases, as some caseworkers are assigned a full caseload before certification. Wyoming is in the early process of implementing a new Learning Management System (LMS) and acknowledged in the Statewide Assessment that initial tracking and reporting of initial staff training requirements and staff's demonstration of competencies to receive certification are areas in need of improvement.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- Wyoming described ongoing training requirements for staff with case management responsibilities, including supervisors, in the Statewide Assessment as requiring a minimum of 21 hours of advanced training annually and an array of ongoing training opportunities to meet the requirement. Wyoming also provided information in the Statewide Assessment showing staff and supervisors do not consistently complete ongoing training requirements according to state policy requirements and timeframes. While the state is in the process of developing a Training Advisory Committee, the Statewide Assessment showed that the state does not have a formal process to determine ongoing training needs and to evaluate the extent to which ongoing training addresses the knowledge and skills that caseworkers and supervisors need to perform their jobs. While Wyoming is in the process of implementing a new LMS system that will support training registrations, tracking, and reporting on the status of staff training, the current tracking process is manual and varies across the state.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming described requirements for initial and ongoing training of current and prospective foster and adoptive parents and staff of state-licensed facilities, along with the array of available training resources. Stakeholders indicated an absence of specialized training for foster/adoptive parents to support children with specialized needs. While the state reported all licensed foster and adoptive parents completed initial and ongoing training requirements, the state did not provide the supporting data evidence, including use of waivers. The documentation and verification process is manual and varies across the state. Wyoming does not have a formal process to evaluate the quality and effectiveness that initial and ongoing training addresses the skills and knowledge base needed for their caregiving responsibilities. Wyoming did not provide supporting data evidence regarding the outcome of state certified facility licensing reviews and facility staff compliance with initial and ongoing training requirements.

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 |

Wyoming 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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- According to Wyoming's Statewide Assessment and interviews with stakeholders, Wyoming does not have a comprehensive range of services to ensure that children and families can access the necessary services in a timely manner. There are substantial gaps in available services and extensive barriers to accessing fundamental services. There are also significant deficits in the availability and accessibility of services for children and families, particularly evident in mental and behavioral health services, transportation, child care, and housing. Regardless of location, waitlists for accessing counseling and substance use services for children and parents exist across the state. Substance use services were also notably insufficient for both parents and youth. Information drawn from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews indicates that rural areas of the state face more challenges locating available services while metropolitan centers of the state face more barriers accessing services. Transportation barriers further exacerbate the agency's ability to connect children and families to necessary services. For children and youth in foster care, the state does not have a sufficient array of placement resources resulting in children being placed inappropriately in detention and/or group home settings.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Based on Wyoming's Statewide Assessment and interviews with stakeholders, Wyoming's service array and resource development system are not functioning effectively to ensure that services can be routinely individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency. The use of flexible funding has increased Wyoming's ability to individualize services for children and families. While some caseworkers strive to deliver individualized services based on the unique needs of the child(ren) and families, the available services are limited to what is readily available within the community. Additionally, the customization of services is unclear due to a lack of defined processes to help workers individualize services in response to the special needs of children and families. Although staff have access to translation and interpretation services for non-English speaking families, there is a lack of routine translation of documents, including court orders. This creates a barrier for families who do not speak English.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

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

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

Wyoming 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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming provided information about the state's established processes and mechanisms that facilitates ongoing consultation and collaboration with key partners. Some of the state's collaborators were described, including the Community Family Support Forums, Wyoming Home Matters Steering Committee, Parent Cafes, and Wyoming Youth Advisory Council. However, it is unclear if the ongoing consistent engagement is representative of key stakeholders and partners statewide, such as Tribal representatives, historically underserved populations, and other individuals with lived experience. Information provided does not support that there is a mechanism to integrate feedback throughout the state.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of a Strength for Item 32 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming provided information about the state's structure and how it supports the coordination of services and benefits relevant to federal and federally assisted programs for children in foster care. DFS oversees several federal and federally assisted programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIEAP), Medicaid, Childcare, and Child Support. This centralized structure allows for easier coordination and collaboration between these programs as DFS provides oversight to all of them, except for Medicaid. The agency also coordinates with the Behavioral Health Division as well as the Department of Education to ensure children and families are connected to the services they need. Wyoming utilizes various methods to partner with federal programs serving the same population. This includes developing Memoranda of Understanding and/or sharing data to coordinate services. Coordination efforts occur at all levels within the agency, from the DFS Director and executive leadership team addressing coordination at the system level to local informal collaborations and case-level coordination by supervisors and caseworkers. This multi-level approach ensures that services and benefits are effectively coordinated and delivered to children in foster care.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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

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

Wyoming 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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming provided information related to its licensing policy, outlined in state regulation, applied to all certified/licensed foster family homes and child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds. Wyoming also outlined its procedures in ensuring that foster homes and child care facilities meet licensing standards.
- Wyoming's policy includes the use of waivers for non-safety standards such as specific trainings for relatives and to increase a foster parent's capacity for the number of children placed in their home to permit the placement of a sibling group that would result in the foster home exceeding its licensure capacity. All issued waivers are approved by District Managers and documented via signed paper approvals that are housed in the foster family's hard file. Waivers are not formally tracked; a hand count would be required to identify the number of approved waivers across the state. There is limited data evidence to support the equal application of waivers.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming described the state's background check requirements for prospective foster or adoptive parents and employees of childcare institutions. The requirements for federal background checks meet federal requirements for criminal background clearances in title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Even though Wyoming has policies and requirements in place, there was no evidence demonstrating that licensed foster care and employees from childcare institutions met requirements. Although DFS policies prohibit children from being placed in a foster or adoptive home before required background checks are completed, the agency does not have a consistent statewide

process to identify instances when a child is placed in a foster or adoptive home before the required background checks are completed. Local Foster Care Coordinators and District Managers track the frequency with which this happens. Wyoming described the state's process in addressing non-compliance issues related to background checks. In the Statewide Assessment, it was noted that as a result of frequent staff turnover within childcare institutions, the state struggles with maintaining staff-to-resident ratios while simultaneously complying with the background check requirement. Licensors are granting variances to staff of childcare institutions regarding background check requirements in all institutions licensed by DFS, which is not in compliance with federal requirements.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- Wyoming's recruitment goals specify tasks associated with the recruitment of families for youth/teens, families who are racially/ethnically diverse, and/or families for hard-to-place children with significant behavioral/mental health needs, and address family retention strategies. Information in the Statewide Assessment supported the diversity of the current pool of available foster and adoptive homes who meet the ethnic and racial diversity of children in foster care across the state. Due to the lack of racial and ethnic diversity in most Wyoming communities, reaching out to relatives and kin of specific children through family finding and other family search and engagement strategies is the recruitment plan used as a means of finding appropriate connections and placements for most children and especially for children and youth who are members of minority groups. Wyoming's pre-service training and certification/recertification materials are available in Spanish to support the licensure process for Spanish-speaking families. The state also coordinates with local Tribes for recruitment efforts, specifically in those communities close to native land. As a result of Wyoming's ruralness and diverse recruitment needs across the state, the recruitment plans are individualized to meet the specific needs of each region and/or office.

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.

- Wyoming received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. No stakeholder interviews were conducted per agreement with Wyoming.
- In the Statewide Assessment, Wyoming indicated that it has a standardized process for processing Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) cases. Wyoming utilizes the National Interstate Electronic Compact Enterprise (NIECE) system for processing and securely exchanging information with other member states, and utilizes standardized forms. Wyoming provided the number of ICPC requests received and sent to other states and further indicated received requests were not consistently completed timely. Wyoming did not provide the aggregate measures to support the findings. Additionally, Wyoming acknowledged needing extensions due to a variety of reasons to complete ICPC requests.

IV. APPENDIX A

Summary of Wyoming 2024 Child and Family Services Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 72% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 1: Timeliness of investigations | Area Needing Improvement | 72% Strength |

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

| Statewide Data Indicator | National Performance | Overall Determination | Direction of Desired Performance | RSP | RSP Interval | Data Period(s) Used |
|---|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------|
| Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care) | 9.07 | Worse Than National Performance | Lower | 14.72 | 10.81–20.06 | 20A–20B, FY20–21 |
| Recurrence of maltreatment | 9.7% | No Different Than National Performance | Lower | 7.8% | 6.0%–10.0% | FY20–21 |

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 29% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care | Area Needing Improvement | 46% Strength |
| Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management | Area Needing Improvement | 30% Strength |

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 54% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 4: Stability of foster care placement | Area Needing Improvement | 85% Strength |
| Item 5: Permanency goal for child | Area Needing Improvement | 75% Strength |
| Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement | Area Needing Improvement | 66% Strength |

DATA INDICATORS FOR PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1

| Statewide Data Indicator | National Performance | Overall Determination | Direction of Desired Performance | RSP | RSP Interval | Data Period(s) Used |
|---|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------|
| Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care | 35.2% | Better Than National Performance | Higher | 52.1% | 48.6%–55.6% | 20B–22B |
| Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months | 43.8% | Better Than National Performance | Higher | 53.5% | 46.6%–60.1% | 22A–22B |
| Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more | 37.3% | No Different Than National Performance | Higher | 40.5% | 34.2%–46.9% | 22A–22B |
| Re-entry to foster care in 12 months | 5.6% | No Different Than National Performance | Lower | 5.6% | 4.1–7.7% | 21A–22B |
| Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care) | 4.48 | Better Than National Performance | Lower | 3.09 | 2.78–3.43 | 22A–22B |

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 76% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 7: Placement with siblings | Strength | 92% Strength |
| Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care | Area Needing Improvement | 68% Strength |
| Item 9: Preserving connections | Area Needing Improvement | 88% Strength |
| Item 10: Relative placement | Area Needing Improvement | 73% Strength |
| Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents | Area Needing Improvement | 76% Strength |

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 33% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents | Area Needing Improvement | 38% Strength |
| Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children | Area Needing Improvement | 71% Strength |
| Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents | Area Needing Improvement | 37% Strength |
| Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents | Area Needing Improvement | 82% Strength |
| Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning | Area Needing Improvement | 61% Strength |
| Item 14: Caseworker visits with child | Area Needing Improvement | 58% Strength |
| Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents | Area Needing Improvement | 41% Strength |

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 76% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 16: Educational needs of the child | Area Needing Improvement | 76% Strength |

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

| Data Element | Overall Determination | State Performance |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs. | Not in Substantial Conformity | 50% Substantially Achieved |
| Item 17: Physical health of the child | Area Needing Improvement | 50% Strength |
| Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child | Area Needing Improvement | 67% Strength |

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

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

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

| Data Element | Source of Data and Information | State Performance |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Staff and Provider Training | Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews | Not in Substantial Conformity |

| Data Element | Source of Data and Information | State Performance |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Item 26: Initial Staff Training | Statewide Assessment | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training | Statewide Assessment | Area Needing Improvement |
| Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training | Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews | Area Needing Improvement |

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

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

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

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

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

| Practice Description | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|---|
| (Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state’s timeframes and requirements in cases. | 92.31% (36 of 39) |
| (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. | 69.23% (27 of 39) |
| (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. | 8.33% (1 of 12) |
| Item 1 Strength Ratings | 71.79% (28 of 39) |

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

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

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|---|
| (Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care. | 16.67% (4 of 24) | 41.18% (7 of 17) | 26.83% (11 of 41) |
| (Questions 2A and 2B) Although the agency did not make concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry into foster care, the child(ren) was removed from the home because this action was necessary to ensure the child’s safety. | 25% (6 of 24) | Not Applicable | 25% (6 of 24) |
| (Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services. | 45.83% (11 of 24) | Not Applicable | 45.83% (11 of 24) |
| (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. | 4.17% (1 of 24) | 58.82% (10 of 17) | 26.83% (11 of 41) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| Item 2 Strength Ratings | 50% (12 of 24) | 41.18% (7 of 17) | 46.34% (19 of 41) |

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/assessed. | 85.37% (35 of 41) | 92% (23 of 25) | 87.88% (58 of 66) |
| (Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation. | 92.68% (38 of 41) | 92% (23 of 25) | 92.42% (61 of 66) |
| (Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns. | 61.11% (11 of 18) | 36.84% (7 of 19) | 48.65% (18 of 37) |
| (Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns. | 41.46% (17 of 41) | 28% (7 of 25) | 36.36% (24 of 66) |
| (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. | 35% (7 of 20) | 17.65% (3 of 17) | 27.03% (10 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. | 55% (11 of 20) | 50% (6 of 12) | 53.13% (17 of 32) |
| (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. | 94.29% (33 of 35) | Not Applicable | 94.29% (33 of 35) |
| (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. | 97.56% (40 of 41) | Not Applicable | 97.56% (40 of 41) |
| Item 3 Strength Ratings | 36.59% (15 of 41) | 20% (5 of 25) | 30.3% (20 of 66) |

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

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|
| (Question 4B) Placement changes for the child were planned by the agency in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child. | 50% (6 of 12) | 50% (6 of 12) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|
| (Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable. | 95.12% (39 of 41) | 95.12% (39 of 41) |
| Item 4 Strength Ratings | 85.37% (35 of 41) | 85.37% (35 of 41) |

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% (40 of 40) | 100% (40 of 40) |
| (Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner. | 90% (36 of 40) | 90% (36 of 40) |
| (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. | 85% (34 of 40) | 85% (34 of 40) |
| (Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months. | 32.5% (13 of 40) | 32.5% (13 of 40) |
| (Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR). | 0% (0 of 27) | 0% (0 of 27) |
| (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. | 83.33% (10 of 12) | 83.33% (10 of 12) |
| Item 5 Strength Ratings | 75% (30 of 40) | 75% (30 of 40) |

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. | 81.25% (13 of 16) | 81.25% (13 of 16) |
| (Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner. | 60% (3 of 5) | 60% (3 of 5) |
| (Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner. | 50% (4 of 8) | 50% (4 of 8) |
| (Questions 6A4 and 6C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to place a child with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) in a living arrangement that can be considered permanent until discharge from foster care. | 0% (0 of 1) | 0% (0 of 1) |
| (Questions 6A4 and B or 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved. | 63.64% (7 of 11) | 63.64% (7 of 11) |
| Item 6 Strength Ratings | 65.85% (27 of 41) | 65.85% (27 of 41) |

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. | 64% (16 of 25) | 64% (16 of 25) |
| (Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement. | 77.78% (7 of 9) | 77.78% (7 of 9) |
| Item 7 Strength Ratings | 92% (23 of 25) | 92% (23 of 25) |

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. | 60.71% (17 of 28) | 60.71% (17 of 28) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week. | 10.71% (3 of 28) | 10.71% (3 of 28) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 10.71% (3 of 28) | 10.71% (3 of 28) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 3.57% (1 of 28) | 3.57% (1 of 28) |
| (Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month. | 14.29% (4 of 28) | 14.29% (4 of 28) |
| (Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother. | 0% (0 of 28) | 0% (0 of 28) |
| (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. | 78.57% (22 of 28) | 78.57% (22 of 28) |
| (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. | 78.57% (22 of 28) | 78.57% (22 of 28) |
| (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. | 71.43% (20 of 28) | 71.43% (20 of 28) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week. | 52.94% (9 of 17) | 52.94% (9 of 17) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week. | 23.53% (4 of 17) | 23.53% (4 of 17) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 0% (0 of 17) | 0% (0 of 17) |
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 0% (0 of 17) | 0% (0 of 17) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|--|
| (Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month. | 23.53% (4 of 17) | 23.53% (4 of 17) |
| (Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father. | 0% (0 of 17) | 0% (0 of 17) |
| (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. | 76.47% (13 of 17) | 76.47% (13 of 17) |
| (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. | 58.82% (10 of 17) | 58.82% (10 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. | 58.82% (10 of 17) | 58.82% (10 of 17) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week. | 37.5% (3 of 8) | 37.5% (3 of 8) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week. | 37.5% (3 of 8) | 37.5% (3 of 8) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 12.5% (1 of 8) | 12.5% (1 of 8) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 0% (0 of 8) | 0% (0 of 8) |
| (Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month. | 12.5% (1 of 8) | 12.5% (1 of 8) |
| (Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care. | 0% (0 of 8) | 0% (0 of 8) |
| (Question 8E) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship. | 87.5% (7 of 8) | 87.5% (7 of 8) |
| (Question 8F) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship. | 87.5% (7 of 8) | 87.5% (7 of 8) |
| (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. | 87.5% (7 of 8) | 87.5% (7 of 8) |
| Item 8 Strength Ratings | 67.65% (23 of 34) | 67.65% (23 of 34) |

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). | 87.8% (36 of 41) | 87.8% (36 of 41) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Item 9 Strength Ratings | 87.8% (36 of 41) | 87.8% (36 of 41) |

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. | 45.95% (17 of 37) | 45.95% (17 of 37) |
| (Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs. | 100% (17 of 17) | 100% (17 of 17) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives. | 77.78% (7 of 9) | 77.78% (7 of 9) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives. | 100% (9 of 9) | 100% (9 of 9) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives. | 100% (9 of 9) | 100% (9 of 9) |
| (Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives. | 88.89% (8 of 9) | 88.89% (8 of 9) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify paternal relatives. | 71.43% (5 of 7) | 71.43% (5 of 7) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate paternal relatives. | 71.43% (5 of 7) | 71.43% (5 of 7) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform paternal relatives. | 71.43% (5 of 7) | 71.43% (5 of 7) |
| (Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate paternal relatives. | 100% (7 of 7) | 100% (7 of 7) |
| Item 10 Strength Ratings | 72.97% (27 of 37) | 72.97% (27 of 37) |

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. | 77.78% (21 of 27) | 77.78% (21 of 27) |
| (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. | 68.75% (11 of 16) | 68.75% (11 of 16) |
| Item 11 Strength Ratings | 75.86% (22 of 29) | 75.86% (22 of 29) |

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

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

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Item 12 Strength Ratings | 29.27% (12 of 41) | 52% (13 of 25) | 37.88% (25 of 66) |

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

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|---|
| (Question 12A1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the children's needs. | 78.05% (32 of 41) | 64% (16 of 25) | 72.73% (48 of 66) |
| (Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs. | 77.14% (27 of 35) | 57.89% (11 of 19) | 70.37% (38 of 54) |
| Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings | 75.61% (31 of 41) | 64% (16 of 25) | 71.21% (47 of 66) |

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

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|---|
| (Question 12B1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the mother's needs | 53.13% (17 of 32) | 64% (16 of 25) | 57.89% (33 of 57) |
| (Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs. | 43.75% (14 of 32) | 52.17% (12 of 23) | 47.27% (26 of 55) |
| (Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers. | 43.75% (14 of 32) | 56% (14 of 25) | 49.12% (28 of 57) |
| (Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs. | 47.83% (11 of 23) | 52.63% (10 of 19) | 50% (21 of 42) |
| (Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs. | 36.36% (8 of 22) | 41.18% (7 of 17) | 38.46% (15 of 39) |
| (Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers. | 34.78% (8 of 23) | 47.37% (9 of 19) | 40.48% (17 of 42) |
| Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings | 26.47% (9 of 34) | 52% (13 of 25) | 37.29% (22 of 59) |

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

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|
| (Question 12C1) The agency adequately assessed the needs of the foster or pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care on an ongoing basis. | 81.82% (27 of 33) | 81.82% (27 of 33) |
| (Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care. | 79.31% (23 of 29) | 79.31% (23 of 29) |
| Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings | 81.82% (27 of 33) | 81.82% (27 of 33) |

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|---|
| (Question 13A) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the child in the case planning process. | 84.62% (22 of 26) | 69.23% (9 of 13) | 79.49% (31 of 39) |
| (Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process. | 61.29% (19 of 31) | 76% (19 of 25) | 67.86% (38 of 56) |
| (Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process. | 60.87% (14 of 23) | 72.22% (13 of 18) | 65.85% (27 of 41) |
| Item 13 Strength Ratings | 53.85% (21 of 39) | 72% (18 of 25) | 60.94% (39 of 64) |

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week. | 0% (0 of 41) | 0% (0 of 25) | 0% (0 of 66) |
| (Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week. | 0% (0 of 41) | 0% (0 of 25) | 0% (0 of 66) |
| (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. | 26.83% (11 of 41) | 8% (2 of 25) | 19.7% (13 of 66) |
| (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. | 63.41% (26 of 41) | 56% (14 of 25) | 60.61% (40 of 66) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|---|--|---|---|
| (Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month. | 7.32% (3 of 41) | 24% (6 of 25) | 13.64% (9 of 66) |
| (Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren). | 2.44% (1 of 41) | 12% (3 of 25) | 6.06% (4 of 66) |
| (Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient. | 82.93% (34 of 41) | 56% (14 of 25) | 72.73% (48 of 66) |
| (Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient. | 70% (28 of 40) | 63.64% (14 of 22) | 67.74% (42 of 62) |
| Item 14 Strength Ratings | 65.85% (27 of 41) | 44% (11 of 25) | 57.58% (38 of 66) |

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week. | 0% (0 of 31) | 0% (0 of 25) | 0% (0 of 56) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week. | 6.45% (2 of 31) | 4% (1 of 25) | 5.36% (3 of 56) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 12.9% (4 of 31) | 4% (1 of 25) | 8.93% (5 of 56) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 38.71% (12 of 31) | 52% (13 of 25) | 44.64% (25 of 56) |
| (Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month. | 29.03% (9 of 31) | 24% (6 of 25) | 26.79% (15 of 56) |
| (Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother. | 12.9% (4 of 31) | 16% (4 of 25) | 14.29% (8 of 56) |
| (Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient. | 54.84% (17 of 31) | 60% (15 of 25) | 57.14% (32 of 56) |
| (Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient. | 62.96% (17 of 27) | 76.19% (16 of 21) | 68.75% (33 of 48) |
| (Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient. | 48.39% (15 of 31) | 52% (13 of 25) | 50% (28 of 56) |

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week. | 0% (0 of 23) | 0% (0 of 17) | 0% (0 of 40) |
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week. | 0% (0 of 23) | 0% (0 of 17) | 0% (0 of 40) |
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month. | 21.74% (5 of 23) | 0% (0 of 17) | 12.5% (5 of 40) |
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month. | 30.43% (7 of 23) | 35.29% (6 of 17) | 32.5% (13 of 40) |
| (Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month. | 34.78% (8 of 23) | 47.06% (8 of 17) | 40% (16 of 40) |
| (Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father. | 13.04% (3 of 23) | 17.65% (3 of 17) | 15% (6 of 40) |
| (Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient. | 47.83% (11 of 23) | 41.18% (7 of 17) | 45% (18 of 40) |
| (Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient. | 52.63% (10 of 19) | 57.14% (8 of 14) | 54.55% (18 of 33) |
| (Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient. | 47.83% (11 of 23) | 35.29% (6 of 17) | 42.5% (17 of 40) |
| Item 15 Strength Ratings | 39.39% (13 of 33) | 44% (11 of 25) | 41.38% (24 of 58) |

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

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs. | 87.88% (29 of 33) | 44.44% (4 of 9) | 78.57% (33 of 42) |
| (Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services. | 78.26% (18 of 23) | 44.44% (4 of 9) | 68.75% (22 of 32) |
| Item 16 Strength Ratings | 84.85% (28 of 33) | 44.44% (4 of 9) | 76.19% (32 of 42) |

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

Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs. | 75.61% (31 of 41) | 42.86% (3 of 7) | 70.83% (34 of 48) |
| (Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care. | 85.71% (6 of 7) | Not Applicable | 85.71% (6 of 7) |
| (Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs. | 72.97% (27 of 37) | 42.86% (3 of 7) | 68.18% (30 of 44) |
| (Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs. | 52.63% (20 of 38) | 0% (0 of 0) | 52.63% (20 of 38) |
| (Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs. | 41.18% (14 of 34) | 0% (0 of 0) | 41.18% (14 of 34) |
| Item 17 Strength Ratings | 51.22% (21 of 41) | 42.86% (3 of 7) | 50% (24 of 48) |

Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

| Practice Description | Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases | In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases | All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases |
|--|--|---|---|
| (Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs. | 92.86% (26 of 28) | 64.29% (9 of 14) | 83.33% (35 of 42) |
| (Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care. | 80% (12 of 15) | Not Applicable | 80% (12 of 15) |
| (Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs. | 75% (21 of 28) | 64.29% (9 of 14) | 71.43% (30 of 42) |
| Item 18 Strength Ratings | 71.43% (20 of 28) | 57.14% (8 of 14) | 66.67% (28 of 42) |