



CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators Data Dictionary

August 2022

Statewide Data Indicators: General Data Notes

- In cases where AFCARS records contain inconsistent information between two data submissions, the data elements from the latest submission are used.
- For the purposes of the CFSR indicators, children who turn 18 while in care are considered to have discharged from the foster care system on their 18th birthday and are not counted as achieving permanency.
- Children who enter care at age 18 or older, and who are age 18 or older on the first day of the 12-month period, are excluded from indicator calculations.

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
Maltreatment in foster care <i>National performance data periods: 19A, 19B, FY19, FY20</i>	Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what was the rate of victimization, per 100,000 days of care?	Of children in care during a 12-month period, total number of days these children were in care as of the end of the 12-month period	Of children in care during a 12-month period, total number of substantiated or indicated reports of maltreatment (by any perpetrator) during a foster care episode	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State • Age at entry (for children entering) or age on first day of the 12-month period (for children already in care) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete foster care episodes lasting < 8 days are not counted in the number of days in foster care, and maltreatment that occurs within those episodes are not counted in the number of substantiated or indicated reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases are matched across AFCARS and NCANDS using AFCARS ID • Report date is used to determine if the victimization occurred in the applicable 12-month period regardless of disposition date. A record is included if the report date falls in the 12-month period,

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
			within the 12-month period		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maltreatment reports that occur within the first 7 days of removal are not counted in the number of substantiated or indicated reports Records with a victimization incident date outside the foster care episode, even if the report date falls within the episode (used when incident date exists) Records with a maltreatment report date outside the 12-month period Subsequent maltreatment reports that occur within 1 day of the 	<p>but the disposition date does not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incident dates¹ are used (when reported) to help determine whether the victimization occurred outside the dates of the child’s foster care episode Date of prior discharge in the second 6-month file is used to calculate length of stay when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the date of discharge is not reported in first 6-month AFCARS file, (b) the date of prior discharge is reported in second 6-month file, <i>and</i> (c) the number of removals goes up by exactly one between the first

¹ Victimization incident dates are not used to determine the occurrence or recurrence of child maltreatment for safety indicators.

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> initial maltreatment report Child foster care episodes where we cannot calculate the length of the episodes 	<p>and second 6-month file</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two years of NCANDS data are used to determine if a report of maltreatment occurred during the 12-month period as maltreatment reports are only included in the NCANDS Child File after the corresponding disposition is documented
<p>Recurrence of maltreatment</p> <p><i>National performance data periods: FY19, FY20</i></p>	<p>Of all children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during a 12-month period, what percent were victims of another substantiated or indicated maltreatment</p>	<p>Number of children with at least one substantiated or indicated maltreatment report in a 12-month period</p>	<p>Number of children in the denominator who had another substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Age at initial victimization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsequent victimizations with a report date that occurs within 14 days of the initial report Subsequent reports in which the incident date matches the incident date in the initial report as they are treated as re- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report date is used to determine if the initial victimization occurred during the 12-month period regardless of disposition date Use of incident dates is limited to determining whether maltreatment reports refer to same incident, in which case, the duplicate record is excluded.

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
	report within 12 months of the initial victimization?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reports of same incident Unborn children 	The comparison of incident dates is a secondary check done only when incident dates are reported in the NCANDS file for each substantiated or indicated maltreatment report being compared
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care <i>National performance data periods: 19B, 20A,</i>	Of children who enter care in a 12-month period, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of	Number of children who enter care in a 12-month period	Number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Age at entry State's foster care entry rate² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in foster care < 8 days Children who do not have a discharge reason Children who re-enter foster care in the same reporting period due to AFCARS reporting 	Trial home visit adjustment is applied ³

² State's foster care entry rate is the number of children who enter care (the denominator for the indicator taking into account any exclusions) in a 12-month period divided by the State's census child population estimates as of July 1st of each year.

³ Trial home visit adjustment: If a child discharges from foster care to reunification with parents or other caregivers after a placement setting of a trial home visit during any of the five data periods used for the indicator calculation, any time in that trial home visit setting that exceeds 30 days is discounted from the length of stay in foster care.

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
20B, 21A, 21B	entering care?				structure not including discharge reason for first episode	
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months <i>National performance data periods: 21A, 21B</i>	Of all children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care continuously between 12 and 23 months, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?	Number of children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care continuously between 12 and 23 months	Number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of the 1st day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State • Age on first day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who do not have a discharge reason • Children who re-enter foster care in the same reporting period due to AFCARS reporting structure not including discharge reason for first episode 	
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Of all children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care continuously for 24 months	Number of children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care continuously	Number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State • Age on first day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who do not have a discharge reason • Children who re-enter foster care in the same reporting period due to AFCARS 	

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
<i>National performance data periods: 21A, 21B</i>	or more, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?	for 24 months or more	months of the 1st day		reporting structure not including discharge reason for first episode	
Reentry to foster care in 12 months <i>National performance data periods: 20A, 20B, 21A, 21B</i>	Of all children who exit foster care in a 12-month period to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship, what percent reentered care within 12 months of their discharge?	Number of children in a 12-month period who discharged to reunification, living with relative, or guardianship	Number of children in the denominator who reenter foster care within 12 months of their discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State • Age at exit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children whose discharge from first episode did not have a discharge reason • Children whose date of latest removal for the reentry episode is reported as being before the date of discharge for the prior episode • Children who reenter foster care in the same reporting period due to AFCARS reporting structure not including discharge reason for first episode 	If a child has multiple reentries within 12 months of their discharge, only the first reentry is selected

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
Placement stability <i>National performance data periods: 21A, 21B</i>	Of all children who enter care in a 12-month period, what was the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of foster care?	Of children who enter care in a 12-month period, number of days ⁴ these children were in care as of the end of the 12-month period	Of children who entered care during the 12-month period, number of placement moves during the 12-month period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State • Age at entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in foster care < 8 days • The initial removal from home (and into foster care) is not counted as a placement move • Days in foster care for which the AFCARS file does not have placement information⁵ 	When a child experiences multiple episodes in the same year and: (a) the date of discharge is missing in the first 6-month AFCARS file and (b) the date of prior discharge in the second 6-month file is during the first 6-month file, then the date of prior discharge is used to calculate length of stay

⁴ Days in care are counted in full day increment; thus, children who enter foster care on one day and exit the next day are counted as being in foster care for 1 day.

⁵ Since placement information is required to determine placement moves, days in foster care for which placement information cannot be determined are excluded from the count of total days in foster care.

Data Quality Checks: General Data Notes

- With few exceptions, individual records flagged by a data quality check are excluded from relevant indicator calculations; exceptions are included in the Notes column.
- Data quality checks are only calculated on records with all the relevant values. In situations in which one of the relevant values is missing, the DQ check is not calculated. The exception to this is DQ checks designed to explicitly look for missing values.

AFCARS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
AFCARS IDs don't match from one period to next	Percent of records that do not match for a given record number in the next 6-month period	Number of children reported in first 6-month file	Number of children that do not match in the next 6-month file	> 40%	Individual records with this condition are not excluded from indicator calculations unless the overall percentage of non-matches for a state exceeds the DQ limit
Date of birth after date of entry	Percent of records where the date of birth is after the date of latest removal	Number of children reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where date of birth is after the date of latest removal	> 5%	
Date of birth after date of exit	Percent of records where the date of birth is after the date of discharge from most recent foster care episode	Number of children with a discharge reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where date of birth is after the date of discharge from most recent foster care episode	> 5%	

AFCARS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
Dropped records	Record is missing a date of discharge, suggesting the child is still in care, but a record for this same child in the next 6-month period does not exist	Number of children reported in first 6-month file	Number of children reported without discharge dates in first 6-month file that do not appear in the subsequent 6-month file	> 10%	Records that fail this DQ check are excluded from indicator calculations unless the failure only occurs in the last 6-month period of the data periods ⁶ used in indicator calculations
Enters and exits foster care the same day	Percent of records where date of latest removal from home is the same day as the date of discharge from most recent foster care episode	Number of children with a discharge reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where date of latest removal from home is the same day as the date of discharge from most recent foster care episode	> 5%	
Exit date is prior to removal date	Percent of records where date of discharge from most recent foster care episode is before the date of latest removal from home	Number of children with a discharge reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where date of discharge from most recent foster care episode is before the date of latest removal from home	> 5%	

⁶ See state data profile for details on which data periods are used in performance calculations for each indicator.

AFCARS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
Missing date of birth	Percent of records with a missing date of birth	Number of children reported in a 6-month file	Number of children missing date of birth ⁷	> 5%	
Missing date of latest removal	Percent of records with a missing date of latest removal	Number of children reported in a 6-month file	Number of children missing date of latest removal	> 5%	
Missing discharge reason (exit date exists)	Percent of records where date of discharge from most recent foster care episode exists but the reason for discharge is missing	Number of children with a discharge reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where date of discharge exists but discharge reason is missing	> 10%	
Missing number of placement settings	Percent of records with a missing number of placement settings	Number of children reported in a 6-month file	Number of children missing number of placement settings	> 5%	
Percent of children on first removal episode ⁸	Percent of children where the total number of removals from home to date equals one	Number of children reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where total number of removals from home to date = 1	> 95%	Individual records with this condition are not excluded from indicator calculations unless the overall percentage of

⁷ Date of birth is used to generate age in months for risk-adjustment when calculating a state's RSP.

⁸ This data quality check helps to control for a state's ability to link historical experiences of children using the same AFCARS ID.

AFCARS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
					children on their first removal for a given state exceeds the DQ limit

NCANDS Data Quality Checks

These checks are applied only to victims of maltreatment. A victim is a child for whom the state determined at least one maltreatment report for that child was substantiated or indicated. It does not include children receiving alternative response or unsubstantiated reports. It does include children who died, and the death was confirmed to be the result of child abuse and neglect.

NCANDS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
Child IDs for victims match across years	Percent of unique victims in a NCANDS Child File that have a match in the next NCANDS Child File	Number of unique victims reported in a NCANDS Child File	Of children in the denominator, the number of victims also reported in the next NCANDS Child File	< 1%	Individual records are not excluded from indicator calculations unless the overall percentage of matching child victim IDs is less than 1%
Child IDs for victims match across years, but dates of birth/age and sex do not match	Among victims, percent of unique Child IDs that match across years, but: (a) sex does not match, (b) date of birth does not match (only applicable to children under the age of one), or (c) age difference between years is outside of expected range	Among victims, number of unique NCANDS Child IDs that match across two consecutive NCANDS Child Files	Of NCANDS Child IDs in the denominator, number of those IDs with a different sex or an age difference between years that is outside of the expected range. For children under the age of 1, this also includes those IDs with differing dates of birth	> 5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An age difference outside of the expected range occurs when the child's age difference between the 2 years is less than 0 or greater than 3 • Children missing sex or age at report are not included in this DQ check • Children under age 1 without DOB are excluded from this DQ check and related indicator calculations
Missing age for victims	Percent of victims with a missing age	Number of victims in NCANDS Child File	Of children in the denominator,	> 5%	NCANDS validation process automates calculation of child victim age by subtracting DOB

NCANDS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
			number of children missing child age		from report date, when DOB is included in the submission
Some victims should have AFCARS IDs in Child File	Percent of victims with an AFCARS ID in NCANDS Child File	Number of victims in NCANDS Child File	Of children in the denominator, number with an AFCARS ID in NCANDS Child File	< 1%	
Some victims with AFCARS IDs should match IDs in AFCARS Files	Some victims with AFCARS IDs should match IDs in AFCARS Files	Number of victims who have AFCARS IDs reported in NCANDS Child File	Of children in the denominator, number that match using AFCARS ID to a child record in AFCARS, during the same year	No	Individual records with this condition are not excluded from indicator calculations unless the state does not have at least one case with matching AFCARS IDs