

CFSR Round 3
Statewide Data Indicators
Federal Register Notice
December 20, 2018



*Presentation for
State Child Welfare
Agencies, Partner
Organizations, and
Public*

Background

- October 2014: Federal Register Notice published (79 FR 61241) with plan to replace statewide data indicators used to determine a state's substantial conformity with titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act through the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
- May 2015: Federal Register Notice published (80 FR 27263) to correct some calculations and language used in October 2014 notice

Background

- After May 2015 Federal Register Notice: Identified additional technical errors in syntax and formulation of statewide data indicators
- October 2016: Published CFSR Technical Bulletin #9 informing states of decision to limit use of CFSR statewide data indicators and national performance to context information for Round 3 of CFSRs due to additional time required to review, correct, and thoroughly test revised syntax

Syntax Revisions, Review and Validation

First Level Review: Federal staff from the Office of Data, Analysis, Research and Evaluation (ODARE) completed internal review, testing, and revisions

- Completed in-depth line-level review of all syntax
- Verified each step of indicator computation functions accurately and as designed
- Performed additional data quality tests to confirm integrity of population of child records eligible for analysis

Syntax Revisions, Review and Validation

Results of First Level Review completed May 2017

- Additional syntax revisions
- Changes to operationalization of measures
- New methods to screen and address data quality problems in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

Syntax Revisions, Review and Validation

Second Level Review: An independent systematic review and verification of syntax

- Reviewed syntax for completeness, functionality on systems external to the Children's Bureau (CB)
- Performed reliability checks against performance indicators and state data profiles
- Performed line-level validity checks of SPSS and STATA syntax files for accurate task execution, data quality verification

Syntax Revisions, Review and Validation

Results of Second Level Review completed March 2018

- Confirmed revised syntax can validly and reliably develop source data files, perform data quality checks, calculate observed and risk-standardized performance
- Determined no errors that would cause inaccuracies in calculations
- Demonstrated ability for states and partner agencies to replicate syntax with several additional steps

Syntax Revisions, Review and Validation

Review and Validation of the Analytic Syntax Used to Produce CFSR Statewide Data Indicators (2018):

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-round3-sdi-syntax-validation>

Syntax Revisions

- All statewide data indicators impacted by revisions
- Some Data Quality Checks impacted by revisions
- Revisions range from minor refinements to more significant changes
- Description of all revisions by statewide data indicator and data quality checks provided as Federal Register supporting document

Examples of Syntax Revisions

- Changes to more accurately capture all child maltreatment victimizations. Examples:
 - Use two years of NCANDS data for maltreatment in foster care
 - For states reporting child abuse victimization incident dates, require dates be reported for each substantiated or indicated maltreatment report to determine whether reports refer to same incident

Examples of Syntax Revisions

- Changes to more accurately calculate number of days in foster care. Examples:
 - Use AFCARS Data Element “Date Child Was Discharged from Last Foster Care Episode”
 - Exclude AFCARS records with conflicting information
 - Use child’s 18th birthday as date of discharge from foster care

Examples of Syntax Revisions

- Changes to include all children in foster care a minimum of 12 months as of first day of 12-month reporting period for *Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12 months or longer*
- Changes to exclude children from all *Permanency in 12 months* indicators when discharge from foster care is known and discharge reason is unknown

Examples of Syntax Revisions

- Changes to more accurately count number of placement moves. Examples:
 - Apply correct adjustments to number of placement settings
 - Exclude placement moves when child not in foster care

Examples of Syntax Revisions

- Changes to exclude some records from Data Quality Checks. Examples:
 - Some records missing information required to run check
 - Records for youth 18 years and older (with exception of three checks designed for older population)
 - Records for children who did not discharge from foster care when check pertains to population of children who exited care

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Syntax Revisions, Review and Validation

Third Level Review:

Federal invitation to state child welfare agencies, partner organizations, and public to review, test, and provide comments on revised syntax to perform data quality checks and calculate observed performance on the statewide data indicators

CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Resources

Link to Federal Register Notice at 83 FR 60874: Statewide Data Indicators for CFSR: Request for Public Comment (90-day comment period ends 2/25/2019)

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/11/27/2018-25835/statewide-data-indicators-for-child-and-family-services-reviews-request-for-public-comment>

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- CB is interested in receiving feedback on:
 - *Syntax revisions*: Endorsement, questions, concerns
 - *Results of test run*: Findings from implementing syntax, including successes, challenges, questions, recommendations
 - *Calculation methods*: Questions, concerns, additional recommended changes

****Submit comments through official Federal Register process****

2018 Federal Register Notice

CB is not requesting comments or recommendations related to changing the CFSR Round 3 statewide data indicators as defined in the Federal Register Notice and Data Dictionary. The measures were developed based on expert consultation and public comments.

Process to Submit Comments

Send comments, identified by Docket Number ACF-2018-0007, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:*
<https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Email:* CBComments@acf.hhs.gov. Include Docket Number ACF-2018-0007 in subject line of the message.

Other questions/requests for information: Contact James Gregory, (202) 260-4668, James.Gregory@acf.hhs.gov

2018 Federal Register Supporting Documents

Supporting documents available to assist states and interested parties with independent syntax review:

- A. List of CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Syntax Revisions: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-round3-sdi-syntax>

- B. CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Data Dictionary: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-round3-sdi-data-dictionary>

2018 Federal Register Supporting Documents

- C. Statewide Data Indicators – PDF Version of Syntax: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-round3-sdi-syntax-pdf>
- D. CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Syntax Zip File: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-round3-sdi-syntax-zip>

2018 Federal Register Supporting Documents

- E. Instructions to Run Data Quality (DQ) Checks and Observed Performance Syntax for Statewide Data Indicators:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-round3-sdi-dq-instructions>

2018 Federal Register Follow-Up

- Children's Bureau will review public comments to determine readiness to finalize revised syntax or potential need to make additional revisions
- Children's Bureau will issue Federal Register notice when revised syntax is finalized
- Notification will address applicable revisions and potential clarification needed to May 2015 Federal Register notice, and provide a summary and responses to public comments

2018 Federal Register Follow-Up

After syntax is finalized, CB will publish:

- Final revised syntax and supporting files to calculate data quality, observed performance, and risk-standardized performance for CFSR 3 statewide data indicators
- Revised performance results for all states
- Revised national performance values

CFSR Round 3

State Data Profiles

2018 CFSR Round 3 State Data Profiles

- CB intends to publish data profiles for all states based on revised syntax, pending final verification during Federal Register comment period
- Goal is to provide all states opportunity to see state and national performance changes based on revised syntax, pending final verification

Syntax and Data Indicator Support Services

Syntax and Data Indicator Support

State Child Welfare Agencies:

Capacity Building Center (CBC) for States

Requests processed by:

- CB Regional Office
- State designated [CBC Liaison](#)
- Capacity Building Center general email: capacityinfo@icf.com

Syntax and Data Indicator Support

State Child Welfare Partner Organizations, Private Agencies, and the Public:

Office of Data, Analysis, Research and Evaluation (ODARE) staff

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Questions?