

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW CASE FILE FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements
State: Massachusetts
Report Period Under Review: October 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005 (2005A)

AFCARS Element	Data In AFCARS Matches Case File	Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable	Comments
#3 County FIPS code	3 ¹ 55 ²	0 2 ²		
#5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date	2 48	0 2		Not found = 1 Not found = 7
#6 Child Birth Date	3 56	0 1		
#7 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	3 57	0 0		
#8 Child Race a. American Indian or Alaska Native	3 52	0 0		Not found = 5
b. Asian	3 52	0 0		Not found = 5
c. Black or African American	2 52	1 0		In the error case, the race should have been marked as "applies." The child was multi-racial. Not found = 5
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3 52	0 0		Not found = 5

¹ The first number listed in each column represents the youth that turned 18 during the report period (3 cases).

² The second number listed in each column represents the youth that are 17 or younger (57 cases).

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e. White	3 50	0 2		Not found = 5 The errors were due to the reviewers finding an additional race.
f. Unable to Determine	3 48	0 0	0 4	Not found = 5
#9 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	3 51	0 2	0 3	Not found = 1 The two error cases were reported to AFCARS as “no” and the reviewer indicated “yes.” The three questionable cases were reported to AFCARS as “unable to determine” and the reviewer did not indicate if the child’s caretaker refused to provide the child’s race.
#10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability?	2 31	1 20	0 3	The error case indicated a “no” in the AFCARS data, but the reviewer found that the child had a diagnosed disability. Not found = 3 The three questionable records were because the information reported to AFCARS was “not yet determined,” but the child had been in care for at least a year or more. Since the reviewers did not note any findings, the response for these records is probably “no.”

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				<p>There were eight error records reported to AFCARS as “no,” but the reviewer found the child had been diagnosed with a disability.</p> <p>There were 12 records reported to AFCARS as “not yet determined.” In eight cases the reviewer found diagnosed disability information. The other four should have been reported as “no.” Most of the records indicate the child had been in foster care for more than a year.</p>
#11 Mental Retardation	2	1	0	The reviewer found that this condition did apply.
	51	0	3	Not found = 3
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	3	0	0	
	51	0	3	Not found = 3
#13 Physically Disabled	3	0	0	
	51	0	3	Not found = 3
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	3	0	0	
	34	17	3	<p>Not found = 3</p> <p>Most of the errors should have been reported as “applies.”</p>
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	3	0	0	
	47	4	3	<p>Not found = 3</p> <p>The error cases were reported in AFCARS as “applies” and should have been “does not</p>

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				apply.”
#16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2 45	1 12		The error case was reported as “unable to determine” in AFCARS, but the reviewer indicated the response was “yes.” There were two error cases reported as “unable to determine” and the reviewer found that the child had not been previously adopted. Both of these cases had a date of removal after October 1, 1994 and the implementation of FamilyNet. There were 10 cases reported as blank but the reviewer found in nine cases the answer should have been “no,” and in one case the response was “yes.” Nine of these cases were prior to when the State converted to FamilyNet. There was only one case that had a date of removal prior to October 1, 1994.
#17 Age at Previous Adoption 0 = Not Applicable 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6-12 years old 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine	2 45	1 12		The error case was reported as “unable to determine” in AFCARS, but the reviewer was able to find an age.
#18 Date of First Removal	3	0		

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from Home	56	0		Not found = 1
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	3 53	0 1	0 2	Not found = 1
#20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode	3 49	0 5	0 1	Not found = 2
#21 Date of Latest Removal	3 52	0 1	0 1	Not found = 3
#23 Date of Placement in Current Setting	1 41	1 7	0 1	Not found = 1 Not found = 8 In four of the error cases, the reviewer found an earlier date than what was reported. The State may want to verify if this is actually the case or if the information was not in the paper file. In the other three cases, the dates found by the reviewers were after those reported in AFCARS. In each instance the number of placement settings was also wrong.
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	1 35	1 12	0 2	Not found = 1 Not found = 8
#25 Manner of Removal From Home for This Episode	3 51	0 2		Not found = 4
1 = Voluntary				

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				“does not apply” (or blank): 3
#28 Neglect	2 23	1 23		Not found = 1 The number of records that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and not “does not apply” (or blank): 21
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	2 37	1 19		Not found = 1 The number of records that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and not “does not apply” (or blank): 12
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	2 36	1 20		Not found = 1 The number of records that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and not “does not apply” (or blank): 12
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	2 39	1 17		Not found = 1 The number of records that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and not “does not apply” (or blank): 2. There were five reported as “applies” that should have been “does not apply.”
#32 Child Drug Abuse	2 45	1 11		Not found = 1

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				There was one error case reported as “applies” and the reviewer indicated it did not apply.
#33 Child Disability	2 46	1 10		Not found = 1 There was one record that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and was reported as blank.
#34 Child's Behavior Problem	2 41	1 15		Not found = 1 The number of records that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and not “does not apply” (or blank): 5
#35 Death of Parent	2 46	1 10		Not found = 1
#36 Incarceration of Parent	1 44	2 11		In one error case, the reviewer found an additional condition that applied. Not found = 1 The number of records that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and not “does not apply”: 1
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope	2 40	1 16		The number of records that the reviewer indicated should have been “applies” and not “does not apply” (or blank): 10

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#38 Abandonment	2 46	1 10		Not found = 1
#39 Relinquishment	2 46	1 10		Not found = 1
#40 Inadequate Housing	1 43	2 14		In one error case, the reviewer found an additional condition that applied. Not found = 1
#41 Current Placement Setting 1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home (Relative) 3 = Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit	3 37	0 1		Not found = 2
#42 Out of State Placement	3 55	0 0		Not found = 2
#43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal 1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	3 53	0 2	0 1	Not found = 1

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AFCARS Element	Data In AFCARS Matches Case File	Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable	Comments
2 = Live with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established				
#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	3 50	0 5		Not found = 2
#45 1 st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	3 51	0 5	0 0	Not found = 1
#46 2 nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	3 47	0 6	0 4	The error cases were missing data and the family structure in #44 was confirmed to be either a married or unmarried couple. The reviewers also found the information in the paper file.
#47 Mother's Date of TPR	0 54	2 3		Not found = 1 There was one case where the parents were deceased and this date was not reported.

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#48 Father's Date of TPR	1 54	1 3		Not found = 1 There was one case where the parents were deceased and this date was not reported.
#49 Foster Family Structure 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male4	3 54	0 0		Not found = 3
#50 1 st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3 45	0 2		Not found = 10
#51 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3 49	0 0		Not found = 8
#52 1 st Foster Caretaker's Race	3 40	0 4	0 1	Not found = 12
a. American Indian or Alaska Native				
b. Asian	3 40	0 4	0 1	Not found = 12
c. Black or African American	3 40	0 4	0 1	Not found = 12
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3 40	0 4	0 1	Not found = 12
e. White	3	0	0	

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	39	5	1	Not found = 12
f. Unable to Determine	3	0	0	
	39	5	1	Not found = 12
#53 1 st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin	3 41	0 5		Not found = 11
#54 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Race	3 49	0 2		Not found = 6
a. American Indian or Alaska Native				
b. Asian	3 49	0 2		Not found = 6
c. Black or African American	3 49	0 2		Not found = 6
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3 49	0 2		Not found = 6
e. White	3 49	0 2		Not found = 6
f. Unable to Determine	3 49	0 2		Not found = 6
#55 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin	3 49	0 2		Not found = 6
#56 Date of Discharge	1	2		One error case indicated a discharge date prior to the report period and the reviewer found a different date (also prior to the report period). The other case was marked in error because the child turned 18 during the report period and this should have been her discharge date.

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	52	4		Not found = 1 One error case had a discharge date of March 31, 2005.
#58 Reason for Discharge 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child	1 52	2 4		Not found = 1 There were two errors with an outcome of adoption. One child was discharged to the Division of Youth Services.
#59 Title IVE Foster Care				Not analyzed
#60 Title IV-E Adoption				Not analyzed
#61 Title IV-A AFDC				Not analyzed
#62 Title IV-D Child Support				Not analyzed
#63 Title XIX Medicaid				Not analyzed
#64 SSI				Not analyzed

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AFCARS Element	Data In AFCARS Matches Case File	Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable	Comments
#65 None of the Above				Not analyzed
#66 Monthly Amount				Not analyzed

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#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	29			
#5 Child Date of Birth	29			
#6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	29			
#7 Child Race a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	29			
#8 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	29			
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs	29			

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#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other	26	1	2	In the two questionable cases, the AFCARS data was "other." However, the reviewer found other bases and it was not clear which was the biggest barrier to the child's adoption.
#11 Mental Retardation	29			
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	29			
#13 Physically Disabled	29			
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	28	1		
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	29			
#16 Mother's Birth Year	29			
#17 Father's Birth Year	25	3		Not found = 1
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	28	1		

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#19 Date of Mother's TPR	28			Not found = 1
#20 Date of Father's TPR	26	2		Not found = 1
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	28			Not found = 1
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	28			Not found = 1
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	28			Not found = 1
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	28			Not found = 1
#25 Adoptive Mother's Race	28			Not found = 1
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin	28			Not found = 1
#27 Adoptive Father's Race	28			Not found = 1
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin	28			Not found = 1
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent	28			Not found = 1
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child -	27	1		Not found = 1

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Other Relative				
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	28			Not found = 1
#32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative	23	5		Not found = 1
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	28			Not found = 1
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	28			Not found = 1
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy	28			Not found = 1
#36 Monthly Amount	17	12		
#37 Adoption Assistance	23	6		