

CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Data Dictionary

February 2020

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	<p>Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what was the rate of victimization, per 100,000 days of care?</p> <p><i>National performance calculation uses AFCARS periods 2013A and 2013B and NCANDS FY2013 and FY2014 Child Files</i></p>	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 within the 12-month period	<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 • 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 	<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, but the disposition date does not • 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: (a) the date of discharge is not reported in first 6-month AFCARS file, (b) the date of prior discharge is

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
Maltreatment in foster care (continued)					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subsequent maltreatment reports that occur within 1 day of the initial maltreatment report• Child foster care episodes where we cannot calculate the length of the episodes	reported in second 6-month file, <i>and</i> (c) the number of removals goes up by exactly one between the first and second 6-month file 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
Recurrence of maltreatment	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 report within 12 months of the initial victimization? <i>National performance calculation uses NCANDS FY2012 and FY2013 Child Files</i>	Number of children with at least one substantiated or indicated maltreatment report in a 12-month period	Number of children in the denominator that had another substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report	<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-reports of same incident• Unborn children	<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. 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

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Of children who enter care in a 12-month period, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering care? <i>National performance calculation uses AFCARS periods 2011B through 2014A</i>	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 structure not including discharge reason for first episode	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trial home visit adjustment is applied³
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months	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? <i>National performance calculation uses AFCARS periods 2013B and 2014A</i>	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	

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 caretakers after a placement setting of a trial home visit during any of the six report 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
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 or more, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day? <i>National performance calculation uses AFCARS periods 2013B and 2014A</i>	Number of children in care on the first day of a 12-month period, who had been in care continuously for 24 months or more	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	
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	Of all children who enter care in a 12-month period, who discharged within 12 months to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship, what percent re-entered care within 12 months of their discharge? <i>National performance calculation uses AFCARS periods 2011B through 2014A</i>	Number of children who enter care in a 12-month period, who discharged within 12 months to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship	Number of children in the denominator who re-enter care within 12 months of their discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State• Age at entry• State's foster care entry rate⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children in care whose initial foster care entry episode lasted < 8 days are excluded from the re-entry analysis• Children whose discharge from first episode did not have a discharge reason• Children whose date of latest removal for the re-entry episode is reported as being before the date of discharge for the prior episode• Children who re-enter foster care in the same reporting period due to AFCARS reporting structure not	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If a child has multiple re-entries within 12 months of their discharge, only the first re-entry is selected

⁴ State's foster care entry rate is the number of children who enter foster 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.

Statewide Data Indicators

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Risk Adjustment	Exclusions	Notes
					including discharge reason for first episode	
Placement stability	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? <i>National performance calculation uses AFCARS periods 2013B and 2014A</i>	Of children who enter care in a 12-month period, number of days ⁵ 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 information⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 six-month file is during the first 6-month file, then the date of prior discharge is used to calculate length of stay

⁵ Days in care are counted in full day increments, thus children who enter foster care on one day and exit the next day are counted as being in foster care for one day.

⁶ Since placement information is required to determine placement moves, days in foster care in 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 noted 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 are DQ checks designed to explicitly look for missing values.
- DQ checks are performed on all records included in the state’s AFCARS submission.

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
Age at discharge greater than 21	Percent of records where time between date of birth and date of discharge from most recent foster care episode is > than 21 years	Number of children with a discharge reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where time between date of birth and date of discharge from most recent foster care episode is > 21 years	> 5%	
Age at entry greater than 21	Percent of records where time between date of birth and date of latest removal from home is > 21 years	Number of children reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where time between date of birth and date of latest removal from home is > 21 years	> 5%	
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%	
Dropped records	Record is missing a date of discharge, suggesting the child is still in care, but	Number of children reported in first 6-month file	Number of children reported without discharge dates in first 6-	> 10%	• Records that fail this DQ check are excluded from indicator calculations unless the failure

AFCARS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
	a record for this same child in the next 6-month period does not exist		month file that do not appear in the subsequent 6-month file		only occurs in the last 6-month period of the data periods ⁷ used in 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 records where date of discharge from most recent foster care episode is before the date of latest removal from home	> 5%	
In foster care more than 21 years	Percent of records where time between date of latest removal from home and date of discharge from most recent foster care episode is > 21 years	Number of children reported in a 6-month file	Number of records where time between date of latest removal from home and date of discharge from most recent foster care episode is > 21 years	> 5%	
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 ⁸	> 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 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%	

⁷ See State data profile for details on which data periods are used in performance calculations for each indicator.

⁸ Date of birth is used to generate age in months for risk-adjustment when calculating a state’s risk-standardized performance.

AFCARS Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
	care episode exists but the reason for discharge is missing				
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%	
Percentage of children on first removal episode ⁹	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 children on their first removal for a given state exceeds the DQ limit

⁹ This data quality check helps to control for a state’s ability to link historical experiences of children using the same AFCARS ID.

NCANDS Data Quality Checks

These checks are applied only to victims of maltreatment. A victim in CFSR 3 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.

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes
Child IDs for victims match across years	Among victims, percent of unique NCANDS Child IDs that match across two consecutive NCANDS Child Files	Among victims, number of unique NCANDS Child IDs in either or both of two consecutive NCANDS Child Files	Of NCANDS Child IDs in the denominator, number of those IDs that appear in two consecutive NCANDS Child Files	< 1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual records with this condition are not excluded from indicator calculations unless the overall percentage of matching child IDs is less than one percent
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 one, 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 two 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, number of children missing child age	> 5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCANDS validation process automates calculation of child victim age by subtracting DOB 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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