PLEASE NOTE: This policy issuance has been withdrawn in its entirety and should be used only for historical or reference purposes.

ACF Administration for Children and Families	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** **Administration for Children, Youth and Families**	
	1. Log No: ACYF-CB-IM-01-01	**2. Issuance Date:** February 21, 2001
	3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau	
	4. Key Words: National Standards, Child and Family Service (CFS) Reviews **(AMENDMENT TO ACYF-CB-IM-00-11)**	

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: State and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act

SUBJECT: Amendment to ACYF-CB-IM-00-01, December 28, 2000, to correct the methodology for calculating *foster care re-entries*

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES :   The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89), Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994 (Public Law 103-432), 45 CFR 1355, ACYF-CB-IM-00-11

PURPOSE: The purpose of this information memorandum (IM) is to amend the section of ACYF-CB-IM-00-11, dated December 28, 2000, to correct the methodology for calculating *foster care re-entries*. (**Note: This IM does not supersede ACYF-CB-IM-00-11 in its entirety. It amends and corrects the chart in the section titled "The National Standards" on pages 4 and 5 of the original issuance.**)

INFORMATION: The child and family service (CFS) reviews, codified in 45 CFR 1355, require the establishment of national standards for certain statewide data indicators that will be used, in part, to determine a State's substantial conformity under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act[1]. We issued ACYF-CB-IM-00-11, to transmit those national standards. In ACYF-CB-IM-00-11, we described our methodology for calculating the national standard for the statewide data indicator, "foster care re-entries," in the following manner:

We reviewed a child's **placement** history to see if there was a **prior entry date** within 12 months of the most recent entry date. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.

The standard should read as follows:

We reviewed a child's **removal** history to see if there was a **discharge date** from a **previous foster care episode**, within 12 months of the most recent entry date. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.

Despite this typographical error, the national standard and States' performance on this statewide data indicator has been calculated correctly in the ongoing CFS reviews. We have, therefore, revised the chart describing the national standards and included it here as an attachment. The entire chart is provided as a replacement for the original chart although only the row *foster care re-entries* has been revised.

INQUIRIES TO: ACF Regional Offices

_____/s/_____
James A. Harrell
Acting Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

Attachment - National Standards (Revised Chart 2/01)

Footnotes:

[1] *Note:* For a complete overview of the child and family services reviews, please consult the final rule and the Child and Family Services Reviews Procedures Manual, which are both available on the Children's Bureau website at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb.

National Standards (Revised Chart 2/01)

Statewide Data Indicator	National Standard [1]	Description	Key Data Elements	Method of Calculating Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	5 %	A State meets the national standard for this indicator if, of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the period under review, 5% or fewer children had another substantiated or indicated report within six months.	NCANDS elements: (CHID)Child ID; (RPTDT) report date; (RPTDISP), report disposition	The indicator is based on children who were victims of maltreatment during the first six months of the calendar year (January 1 - June 30) for the NCANDS reporting period used in the review. We followed each child victim for six months from the first report date during the January-June period to determine if another substantiated or indicated report was received. We divided the count of children who met the recurrence criterion by the total number of children who were victims of maltreatment during the first six months of the calendar year. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.
Incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care	0.4 %	A State meets the national standard for this indicator if, of all children in foster care in the State during the period under review,	NCANDS elements: (CHID)Child ID; (RPTDT) report date; (PER1REL PER2REL,	We determined the number of children who were reported in NCANDS as maltreated by a perpetrator who was a

		the percentage of children who were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff is 0.4% or less.	PER3REL), perpetrator's relationship to child; (RPTDISP), report disposition AFCARS elements: element 21, date of latest removal and element 56, date of discharge from foster care	foster parent or a residential facility staff person for the nine-month period of January 1 through September 30 for 1997 and 1998. We divided that number by the population of children served in foster care, as reported in AFCARS, for the same time period. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.
Foster care re-entries	6 %	A State meets the national standard for this indicator if, of all children who entered foster care during the year under review, 6% or fewer of those children re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.	AFCARS element 19, total number of removals from home to date; element 20, date child was discharged from last foster care episode; and element 21, date of latest removal from home.	We reviewed a child's removal history to see if there was a discharge date from a previous foster care episode, within 12 months of the most recent entry date. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.
Stability of foster care placements	89 %	A State meets the national standard for this indicator if, of all children who have been in foster care less than twelve months from the time of the latest removal, 89% or more children had no more than two placement settings.	AFCARS element 21, date of latest removal from home; element 24, number of previous placement settings during this removal episode; and element 56, date of discharge from foster care (needed	We reviewed the children who were in foster care at the end of the year and the children who exited during the year to determine how many months they were in foster care. Then, for those who were in foster care less than

			only if child exited during the year).	twelve months, we determined their number of placements. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.
Length of time to achieve reunification	78 %	A State meets the national standard for this indicator if, of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, 78% or more children were reunified in less than twelve months from the time of the latest removal from home.	AFCARS data element 21, date of latest removal from home; element 56, date of discharge from foster care; and element 58, reason for discharge.	We reviewed the discharge reasons for those children who exited foster care to reunification and then determined the time between the date of discharge and the date of the latest removal from the home. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.
Length of time to achieve adoption	36 %	A State meets the national standard for this indicator if, of all children who exited foster care during the year under review to a finalized adoption, 36% or more children exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.	AFCARS data element 21, date of latest removal from home; element 56, date of discharge from foster care; and element 58, reason for discharge.	We determined the number of children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption. Then we determined how many months elapsed between the time of discharge and the date of latest removal from the home. The respective percentages were calculated, fitted to the normal probability distribution, and the 75th percentile was computed.

Footnotes:

[1] After calculation, the national standards were rounded to whole numbers using typical rounding procedures. The incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care is very small and was rounded to one decimal place, rather than a whole number, so that it would be a meaningful standard.