

CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series

The Children's Bureau conducts Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) in partnership with State child welfare systems in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. CFSRs enable the Children's Bureau to assess conformity with Federal child welfare requirements, determine child and family experiences while receiving State child welfare services, and help States identify agency and program strengths and areas for improvement. While not used in the determination of conformity, Statewide data indicators provide important context in the evaluation of child outcomes related to safety and permanency by comparing the national performance to a State's own performance over time on each indicator. CFSRs also focus on child and family well-being as well as systemic requirements.



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR STATES

CFSR Safety Outcome 1:

Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Maltreatment in Foster Care

This indicator measures whether the agency ensures that children do not experience abuse or neglect while in the State's foster care system. The indicator addresses the accountability of States to keep children safe from harm while under the responsibility of the State, no matter who perpetrates the maltreatment while the child is in foster care.



Definition:

Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization per day of foster care?

(A lower value is desirable)

NUMERATOR:

Of the children in the denominator, the total number of substantiated or indicated reports of maltreatment (by any perpetrator) during a foster care episode within the 12-month period

DENOMINATOR:

Of the children in foster care during a 12-month period, the total number of days that these children were in foster care as of the end of the 12-month period

Per the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

Changes From Round 2:

In the CFSR Round 2 measure, counts of children not maltreated in foster care were derived by subtracting the NCANDS count of children maltreated by foster care providers from the total count of all children placed in foster care, as reported in AFCARS. Because of improved reporting by States, AFCARS and NCANDS data are now linked using the child ID to determine whether maltreatment occurred during a foster care episode, improving the accuracy of the indicator. This also allows the measure to include all types of perpetrators under the assumption that States are accountable for keeping children safe from harm while in the care of the State, no matter who the perpetrator is.

Risk is adjusted on age at entry (for children entering) or age on the first day of the 12-month period (for children already in care).

Adjusting on age controls for the fact that children of different ages have different likelihoods of experiencing the outcome, regardless of the quality of care that a State provides.

Data Quality Checks Performed

AFCARS

- ✓ Dropped records (>10%)
- ✓ AFCARS IDs do not match from one period to the next (>40%)
- ✓ Missing date of birth (>5%)
- ✓ Missing date of latest removal (>5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of entry (>5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of exit (>5%)
- ✓ Age at entry is greater than 21 (>5%)
- ✓ Age at discharge is greater than 21 (>5%)
- ✓ In foster care more than 21 years (>5%)
- ✓ Enters and exits care the same day (>5%)
- ✓ Exit date is prior to the removal date (>5%)
- ✓ Percentage of children on first removal (>95%)

NCANDS

- ✓ Some victims with AFCARS IDs should match the IDs in the AFCARS files (=N)
- ✓ Some victims should have AFCARS IDs in the Child File (<1%)
- ✓ Missing age for victims (>5%)

Data Periods Used to Calculate the National Performance

AFCARS 13A, 13B / NCANDS FY 2013–FY 2014

Primary Data Elements Required for Calculation

AFCARS FC Element #1:	Title IV-E Agency
AFCARS FC Element #4:	Record Number
AFCARS FC Element #21:	Date of Latest Removal
AFCARS FC Element #56:	Date of Discharge From FC
NCANDS CF Element #6:	Report Date
NCANDS CF Element #27:	Child Maltreatment 1 - Disposition Level
NCANDS CF Element #29:	Child Maltreatment 2 - Disposition Level
NCANDS CF Element #31:	Child Maltreatment 3 - Disposition Level
NCANDS CF Element #33:	Child Maltreatment 4 - Disposition Level
NCANDS CF Element #34:	Maltreatment Death
NCANDS CF Element #145:	AFCARS ID

Optional Data Elements

NCANDS CF Element #146: Incident Date

Additional Data Elements Required for Risk-Adjusted Analysis

AFCARS FC Element #6: Child's Date of Birth

Notes Under Revision

INCLUSIONS

A victim in CFSR 3 is a child for whom the state determined at least one maltreatment was substantiated or indicated and a disposition of substantiated or indicated was assigned for a child in a specific report. It does not include alternative response victims. It does include children who died and the death was confirmed to be the result of child abuse and neglect.

EXCLUSIONS

Complete foster care episodes lasting less than 8 days are excluded and youth who enter care at age 18 or older are excluded from this measure.

For youth who start out at age 17 and turn 18 during the period, any time in care and victimizations that occur after the 18th birthday are not counted.

Maltreatment reports that occur within the first 7 days of removal are excluded to prevent potential over-counting of reports that are made when a child first enters foster care that reflect what may have occurred prior to the child's foster care entry.

Subsequent reports that occur within 1 day of the initial report are excluded.

If a State provides incident dates that are associated with the maltreatment report, those records with an incident date occurring outside of the removal episode will be excluded, even if the report dates fall within the episode.

ADJUSTMENTS

Expressed as a rate per 100,000 days in care. The result of the numerator divided by the denominator is multiplied by 100,000 to produce larger numbers that are easier to understand.

Because this indicator is intentionally capturing the maltreatment of a child while in the placement and care responsibility of the State agency, including when the child is visited by his/her parent or on a trial home visit, the entire length of the trial home visit (until discharge) is factored into the indicator. As such, a trial home visit adjustment is not applied.

