

Maltreatment in Foster Care



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR STATES

CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicator Series

The Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) are a partnership between federal and state staff. The CFSR process enables the Children's Bureau to ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements, determine what is happening to children and families receiving child welfare services, and assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes related to safety, permanency, and well-being.

Statewide data indicators are used in the CFSR Round 4 process to evaluate state performance on safety and permanency outcomes. Performance on the indicators helps identify strengths and improvement needs. The Statewide Data Indicator Series presents detailed information on each statewide data indicator, including measure definitions, calculation specifications, data requirements, and national performance values for CFSR Round 4.



CFSR Safety Outcome 1

Performance on this indicator is used to evaluate CFSR Safety Outcome 1—children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. This indicator measures whether children experience abuse or neglect while under the placement and care responsibility of the state or local title IV-B/IV-E agency.

Definition

Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what was the rate of victimization per 100,000 days of foster care?

Risk Adjustment

Performance is risk adjusted by age of child at entry (for children entering foster care) or age on the first day of the 12-month period (for children already in foster care), as well as by state. Adjusting by 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. Adjusting by state accounts for the underlying risk of experiencing the outcome in that particular state.

Additional Adjustments

This indicator is expressed as a rate per 100,000 days in foster 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 intentionally captures the maltreatment of a child while under the placement and care responsibility of the state or local title IV-B/IV-E agency, including when the child is visited by his or 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.

National Performance



**9.07 VICTIMIZATIONS PER
100,000 DAYS IN FOSTER CARE**

(A lower value is desirable)

Numerator

Of children in foster care in a 12-month period, 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

Examining Equity

The Children's Bureau provides observed performance data disaggregated by age, race/ethnicity, and locality to states in the supplemental context data sent with the CFSR State Data Profile. State teams can use these data to help identify variations in the experiences and outcomes of different populations, including potential evidence of disproportionality and disparity.



Data Quality Checks Performed

AFCARS

- ✓ Dropped records (greater than 10%)
- ✓ AFCARS IDs do not match from one period to the next (greater than 40%)
- ✓ Missing date of birth (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Missing date of latest removal (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of entry (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of exit (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Enters and exits care the same day (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Exit date is prior to the removal date (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Missing discharge reason (exit date exists) (greater than 10%)
- ✓ Percentage of children on first removal (greater than 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 (less than 1%)
- ✓ Missing age for victims (greater than 5%)

Data Periods Used to Calculate the National Performance

AFCARS 19A, 19B/NCANDS FY 2019 and FY 2020

Primary Data Elements Required for Calculation

AFCARS Foster Care Element #1:	Title IV-E agency
AFCARS Foster Care Element #4:	Record number
AFCARS Foster Care Element #6:	Child's date of birth
AFCARS Foster Care Element #20:	Date of discharge from last foster care episode
AFCARS Foster Care Element #21:	Date of latest removal
AFCARS Foster Care Element #56:	Date of discharge from foster care
NCANDS Child File Element #2:	State/territory
NCANDS Child File Element #4:	Child ID
NCANDS Child File Element #6:	Report date
NCANDS Child File Element #27:	Child maltreatment 1 – disposition level
NCANDS Child File Element #29:	Child maltreatment 2 – disposition level
NCANDS Child File Element #31:	Child maltreatment 3 – disposition level
NCANDS Child File Element #33:	Child maltreatment 4 – disposition level
NCANDS Child File Element #34:	Maltreatment death
NCANDS Child File Element #145:	AFCARS ID

Optional Data Elements

NCANDS Child File Element #146:	Incident date
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For more information: [CFSR Statewide Data Indicators webpage \(Center for States\)](#)

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Notes

Cases are matched across AFCARS and NCANDS using the AFCARS ID.

The report date is used to determine if the victimization occurred in the applicable 12-month period regardless of the disposition date. A record is included if the report date falls in the 12-month period but the disposition date does not.

Victimization incident dates are not used to determine the occurrence of child maltreatment for safety indicators. Incident dates are used (when reported) to help determine whether the victimization occurred outside the dates of the child's foster care episode.

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.

Inclusions

A victim is a child for whom the state determined that 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.

Exclusions

The following are excluded:

- Youth who enter or exit care at age 18 or older
- For youth who start out at age 17 and turn 18 during the period, any time in foster care and victimizations that occur after the 18th birthday
- Complete foster care episodes lasting less than 8 days
- Maltreatment reports that occur within the first 7 days of removal
- Records with a victimization incident date outside of 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 of the 12-month period
- Subsequent reports that occur within 1 day of the initial report
- Child foster care episodes where the length of the episodes cannot be calculated

