

CFSR Round 3

Statewide Data Indicator Series

The Children's Bureau conducts Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) in partnership with 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 the experiences of children and families receiving state child welfare services, and help states identify agency and program strengths and areas for improvement. Statewide data indicators provide important context in the evaluation and improvement of child outcomes related to safety and permanency by comparing the national performance to a state's own performance over time. 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. This 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 100,000 days of foster care?

National Performance

**9.67 VICTIMIZATIONS PER 100,000 DAYS
IN 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

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

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.

Additionally, every indicator is adjusted based on the particular state. Risk-adjustment by state is part of the multilevel statistical modeling approach, which accounts for the underlying risk of experiencing the outcome in a state after accounting for a child's specific risk.

ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS

This indicator is 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 intentionally captures the maltreatment of a child while in the placement and care responsibility of the state 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.

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%)
- Age at entry is greater than 21 (greater than 5%)

- Age at discharge is greater than 21 (greater than 5%)
- In foster care more than 21 years (greater than 5%)
- Enters and exits care the same day (greater than 5%)
- Exit date is prior to the removal date (greater than 5%)
- 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 13A, 13B/NCANDS FY 2013 and FY 2014

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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Data Elements Required for Risk-Adjusted Analysis

AFCARS Foster Care Element #6:	Child's date of birth
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Notes

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.

INCLUSIONS

A victim in CFSR Round 3 is a child for whom the state determined at least one report of 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 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

Complete foster care episodes lasting less than 8 days are excluded.

Youth who enter care at age 18 or older are excluded.

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.

Records with a maltreatment report date outside of the 12-month period are excluded.

Child foster care episodes where the length of the episodes cannot be calculated (due to not having a valid date of discharge) are excluded.



For more information: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews/round3>