

Summary of the Results of the 2001 and 2002 Child and Family Services Reviews

Introduction

During Federal fiscal years 2001 and 2002, the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) conducted Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) in the following 32 States:

Alabama	Indiana	Ohio
Alaska	Kansas	Oklahoma
Arizona	Massachusetts	Oregon
Arkansas	Michigan	Pennsylvania
California	Minnesota	South Dakota
Colorado	Montana	Tennessee
Connecticut	Nebraska	Texas
Delaware	New Mexico	Vermont
District of Columbia	New York	West Virginia
Florida	North Carolina	Wyoming
Georgia	North Dakota	

ACF issued final reports of each State’s CFSR and is posting the final reports on the Children’s Bureau website. The individual State reports provide State-specific results.

Findings on the Outcomes

Table 1 shows the number of States determined to be in substantial conformity on each of the seven outcomes in the CFSR and the strength and area needing improvement ratings on the indicators for each outcome. States’ performance was weakest in helping children achieve their permanency goals on a timely and appropriate basis (permanency outcome 1) and in helping families with the services they need to care for their children (well being outcome 1). States’ performance was slightly stronger in the safety outcomes than in the permanency and well being outcomes, with the exception of well being outcome 2, concerning educational needs. Seven (7) States were in substantial conformity for meeting the educational needs of children.

Table 1

Outcomes and Indicators	States in Substantial Conformity	States not in Substantial Conformity	Strength	Area Needing Improvement
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	5	27		
Item 1. Timeliness of initiating investigations			15	17
Item 2. Repeat maltreatment			13	19
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.	4	28		
Item 3. Services to protect children & prevent removal			16	16
Item 4. Risk of harm to children			11	21
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	0	32		

Item 5. Foster care re-entries *			8	8	8	8
Item 6. Stability of foster care placements			5		27	
Item 7. Permanency goal for child			5		27	
Item 8. Reunification, guardianship, relative placement*			8	3	9	12
Item 9. Adoption			5		27	
Item 10. Other planned permanent living arrangement			14		18	
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	5	27				
Item 11. Proximity of foster care placement			31		1	
Item 12. Placement with siblings			24		8	
Item 13. Visiting with parents and siblings in care			12		20	
Item 14. Preserving connections			17		15	
Item 15. Relative placement			18		14	
Item 16. Relationship of child in care with parents			17		15	
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	0	32				
Item 17. Needs/services of child, parents, foster parents			1		31	
Item 18. Child/family involvement in case planning			5		27	
Item 19. Worker visits with child			10		22	
Item 20. Worker visits with parents			7		24	
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	7	25				
Item 21. Educational needs of child			7		25	
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	1	31				
Item 22. Physical health of child			12		20	
Item 23. Mental health of child			2		30	

- The two data elements, Items 5 and 8, were modified between the 2001 and 2002 reviews. The results are not comparable from one year to the next. Thus, we report here the 2001 and 2002 results in separate columns.

Table 2 shows the number of States that met the national standards associated with the six aggregate data indicators used in the CFSR.

Table 2

Indicator	National Standard	Number of States Meeting the National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	6.1% or less	13
Child abuse and neglect in foster care	0.57% or less	17
Foster care re-entries	8.6% or less	16
Length of time to reunification	76.2% or more	11
Length of time to adoption	32% or more	9
Stability of placement	86.7% or more	9

Findings on the Systemic Factors

Table 3 shows the number of States determined to be in substantial conformity on each of the seven systemic factors in the CFSR. States' performance was weakest in the case review system. In particular, they were weak in having written case plans for children developed jointly with the child's parents and in having timely and effective permanency hearings. In addition, States were weak in having a process to ensure termination of parental rights. Within the service array, the accessibility of services was a particular weakness as many services are either not available statewide or have long waiting lists or other barriers to accessibility. Diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive families that represent the racial and ethnic backgrounds of children in the State needing placement was an especially weak area.

Table 3

Systemic Factor	Number of States in Substantial Conformity (N=32)	Required Elements	Number of States that met the requirement (N=32)
Statewide Information System	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information system that can identify specific information for each child in foster care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28
Case Review System	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written case plan developed jointly with parents Periodic reviews of case plans Permanency hearings for children Process for termination of parental rights Notification of foster and pre-adoptive parents of hearings and reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 28 16 19 21
Quality Assurance System	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards for quality services Identifiable quality assurance system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29 21
Staff and Provider Training	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial staff training Ongoing staff training Training for foster and adoptive parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 19 27
Service Array	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Array of services Accessibility of services Ability to individualize services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 9 21
Agency Responsiveness to Community	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with other agencies Develops annual progress reports Coordinates services and benefits with other agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 25 27
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, Retention	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards for foster and adoptive homes Standards applied to all homes Criminal background checks Diligent recruitment Use of cross-jurisdictional resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 27 30 12 28