

FOSTER CARE CASE FILE FINDINGS
State: West Virginia
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

AFCARS Element	Data In AFCARS Matches Case File	Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable/ Not Verifiable	Comments
#5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date	37	32	2	<p>Twenty records had a date reported to AFCARS that was prior to the current report period. Two records had dates of periodic review in 1999; eight were in 2000; and 11 were in 2001. Most of these children were over the age of sixteen.</p> <p>In one record, the date of the periodic review was the same as the date the reviewer found for the date of latest removal from home.</p> <p>In two records, the AFCARS field was blank but the reviewer found a review date in the file. The records indicated that the children had been in care since 1993 and 1994 respectively.</p> <p>Three records had dates reported to AFCARS that occurred after the end of the report period. In each case, the reviewer found dates prior to the end of the report period.</p> <p>There were four records that the date reported to AFCARS fell within six to nine months of the child entering foster care. However, the reviewers found more recent dates of review.</p>
#6 Child Birth Date	70	1		
#7 Child Sex	71			
#8 Child Race	70	1		
a. American Indian or Alaska Native		1		
b. Asian				

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c. Black or African American				
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				
e. White				
f. Unable to Determine		1		
#9 Child Hispanic Origin	69	2		
#10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability?		71		The response in AFCARS for all 71 records was “not yet determined” and the reviewers found diagnosed conditions in most of the case files. In four cases the reviewer indicated the answer should have been “no.” In 27 records, at least one item in foster care elements #11-15 was selected. There were 22 records that did not have any medical information in the file.
#11 Mental Retardation		6		The responses marked for elements #11-15 indicates additional diagnoses found by the reviewers.
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired				
#13 Physically Disabled		1		
#14 Emotionally Disturbed		17		
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition		4		
#16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted	64	6	1	The six incorrect records indicated “unable to determine” in AFCARS. The reviewers identified the response as “no.”
#17 Age at Previous Adoption	70	1		

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#18 Date of First Removal from Home	51	18	2	<p>In six records, the date reported to AFCARS was incorrect by one day to one week.</p> <p>Eight records reported dates to AFCARS that were from one to five years later than the actual date of first removal.</p>
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	57	10	4	<p>There were eight records that had a wrong removal count due to the incorrect date entered in element #18 for the date of the first removal from home.</p> <p>One record indicated two removal episodes when, in fact, the child had a placement change. The worker entered the child as discharged when the child was placed in a juvenile detention center.</p> <p>One record reported two removal episodes in AFCARS, but the child had only one removal.</p>
#20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode	55	12	4	<p>There were eight records that were incorrect due to more than one removal episode as indicated in the AFCARS file.</p> <p>Two records had a date reported in AFCARS but the reviewer indicated the child had only had one removal episode.</p> <p>There was one record that indicated a year of 1900.</p>
#21 Date of Latest Removal	52	16	3	<p>Eight records were incorrect because the date reported in AFCARS reflected the court/petition</p>

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				<p>date and not the actual date the child was placed in out of home care.</p> <p>In six records, the date reported to AFCARS was incorrect by one day to one week.</p> <p>Four records had dates of removal that were later than what was reported to AFCARS.</p> <p>Three records indicated two different dates in AFCARS for elements #18 and #21. In two of these records the number of removals was correct (one). The date of the latest removal was incorrect.</p>
#23 Date of Placement in Current Setting	52	13	6	Dates were entered incorrectly and did not reflect the current placement setting. Some of these were private provider placements. Also, many of the records had incorrect placement counts.
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	42	25	4	In twenty-three records the number of placements was higher than what was reported to AFCARS.
#25 Manner of Removal From Home for This Episode	71			
#26 Physical Abuse	64	7		
#27 Sexual Abuse	70	1		
#28 Neglect	67	4		
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	64	7		
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	69	2		
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	66	5		
#32 Child Drug Abuse	70	1		

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#33 Child Disability	68	3		
#34 Child's Behavior Problem	64	7		
#35 Death of Parent	71			
#36 Incarceration of Parent	70	1		
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope	68	3		
#38 Abandonment	70	1		
#39 Relinquishment	71			
#40 Inadequate Housing	69	2		
#41 Current Placement Setting	67	4		
#42 Out of State Placement	71			
#43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal	52	15	4	In six of the 15 incorrect files, the AFCARS information indicated a goal of long-term foster care and the reviewers indicated a goal of independent living.
#44 Caretaker Family Structure	57	12	2	One of the questionable files indicated "unable to determine" in AFCARS.
#45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	53	11	7	There were six records that indicated a "single female" in element #44 but this element was blank. Two records indicated a marital status of "couple" in element #44 but this element was blank. Two records indicated "single female" in element #44 and this element was blank. The reviewer indicated that element #44 should have been "married couple."

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				<p>One record had a data entry error.</p> <p>There was one record that had a correct date of birth for this element, but element #44 indicated “unable to determine.” The reviewer indicted the caretaker was a “single female.”</p>
#46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	47	12	12	<p>Four records indicated a “couple” relationship in element #44 and this element was blank.</p> <p>Three records indicated a “single female” for element #44 and the reviewer indicated a “couple.” The AFCARS information was correct for what was reported, but not accurate based on the case file review.</p> <p>Two records indicated a relationship of “couple” in element #44 but were blank for this element.</p> <p>Two records were incorrect due to data entry.</p> <p>One record had a “1111” reported in the AFCARS file.</p> <p>Two records indicated a “single female” in element #44, but there was a date of birth reported for this element. The reviewers noted there was only one caretaker in the home. In two additional cases, the reviewer did not make any notes regarding the date of birth, but marked element #44 as correct for “single female.”</p>

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#47 Mother's Date of TPR	54	15	2	Incorrect data was attributed to the use of different dates by the caseworkers.
#48 Father's Date of TPR	48	20	3	Incorrect data was attributed to the use of different dates by the caseworkers.
#49 Foster Family Structure	41	27	3	<p>There were 26 records that indicated a blank in AFCARS, but the child's living arrangement was a family foster home. In nine of those records the reviewer found information on the foster family structure.</p> <p>In two records, the information in AFCARS was blank but the reviewer indicated the foster family was a relative.</p>
#50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	37	4	30	<p>There were nine cases that the family structure in #49 was "married couple." Of those, four had correct dates of birth reported to AFCARS.</p> <p>The cases that were not verified are those that were blank in element #49. Most of these the reviewers could not find the information on the provider. These cases seemed to be managed by private providers.</p>
#51 2nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	32	9	30	<p>In the incorrect files, the foster family structure was "married" and this element was blank. In two cases the reviewer found dates of birth.</p> <p>One record indicated a date of birth for this element and the individual was a single person in #49. The date should have been reported in #50. The cases that were not verified are those that</p>

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				were blank in element #49. Since marital status was not known, it was not possible to determine if information should have been reported for a second caregiver.
#52 1st Foster Caretaker's Race	37	4	30	Of the nine cases reported as “married” in foster care #49, four had correct information for the race of the foster caretaker in #52. The cases that were not verified are those that were blank in element #49.
a. American Indian or Alaska Native				There were 22 records reported to AFCARS with a non-foster home setting. For these records all reported “no” for #52a. Element #52b – f were correctly reported as blank.
b. Asian				
c. Black or African American				
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				
e. White				
f. Unable to Determine				
#53 1st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin	37	4	30	Of the nine cases reported as “married” in foster care #49, four had correct “Hispanic/Latino” information in #53. The cases that were not verified are those that were blank in element #49.
#54 2nd Foster Caretaker's Race	31	5	35	There were nine records reported to AFCARS with missing information, and the family structure was “married.”

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				The cases that were not verified are those that were blank in element #49.
a. American Indian or Alaska Native				There were 22 records reported to AFCARS with a non-foster home setting. For these records all reported "no" for #54a. Element #54b – f were correctly reported as blank.
b. Asian				
c. Black or African American				
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				
e. White				
f. Unable to Determine				
#55 2nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin	31	5	35	The cases that were not verified are those that were blank in element #49. There were nine records reported to AFCARS with missing information, and the family structure was "married."
#56 Date of Discharge	59	7	5	One record was marked as questionable because the reviewer indicated a correct date of discharge, but noted "court ordered" for the reason in #58. Another questionable record indicated a date in #56, but no reason in #58. The reviewer noted the child signed a "FC-18" agreement and was in a home for MR/DD. It is unclear if the youth is still in care or if the discharge reason should have been "emancipation." There was a date of periodic review that was after the reported date of discharge.

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				<p>Six of the questionable records had dates of discharge, but no reason for discharge and the reviewer provided no additional information.</p> <p>Four of the incorrect files indicated a date of discharge in AFCARS, but the reviewer noted the child was still in foster care. Three of these appear to be trial home visits.</p> <p>One record with a date of discharge was actually a placement change date.</p>
#58 Reason for Discharge	52	14	5	One record indicated in AFCARS a discharge date that was the child's 18 th birthday and the reason for discharge was "not applicable." The reviewer indicated the goal of emancipation and the child was no longer in care.
#59 Title IVE Foster Care	37	5	29	Most of the records could not be verified for foster care elements #59 - 65 as the information is in FACTS. Those that are marked incorrect are based on information reviewers did find in the paper case files.
#60 Title IVE Adoption	42	0	29	
#61 Title IVA AFDC	41	1	29	
#62 Title IVD Child Support	40	2	29	
#63 Title XIX Medicaid	41	1	29	
#64 SSI	37	5	29	
#65 None of the Above	35	7	29	
#66 Monthly Amount				This information was not reviewed.

ADOPTION CASE FILE FINDINGS
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AFCARS Element	Data in AFCARS Matches Case File	Data in AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable/ Non-verifiable	COMMENTS
#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	30			
#5 Child Date of Birth	30			
#6 Child Sex	30			
#7 Child Race	30			
#8 Child Hispanic Origin	28	2		
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs	30			
#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other	29			
#11 Mental Retardation	30			
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	30			
#13 Physically Disabled	29	1		
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	29	1		
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	28	2		
#16 Mother's Birth Year	26	4		In two records the element was blank in AFCARS but the reviewer found a date of birth.

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				One record indicated in AFCARS that the mom's date of birth was 1991 and not 1978.
#17 Father's Birth Year	25	5		In two records the element was blank in AFCARS, but the reviewer found a date of birth. One record indicated in AFCARS that the dad's date of birth was 1996 and not 1946.
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	23	6	1	Five records reported "unable to determine" to AFCARS but reviewers found that the mother was married at the time of the child's birth.
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	14	16		The inconsistencies were due to the different dates being entered by the caseworkers for the termination of parental rights.
#20 Date of Father's TPR	12	18		The inconsistencies were due to the different dates being entered by the caseworkers for the termination of parental rights.
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	26	4		
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	29	1		
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	30			
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	28	2		

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#25 Adoptive Mother's Race				
a. American Indian or Alaska Native	29	1		
b. Asian	30			
c. Black or African American	30			
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	30			
e. White	26	4		
f. Unable to Determine	29	1		
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin	30			
#27 Adoptive Father's Race				
a. American Indian or Alaska Native	30			
b. Asian	30			
c. Black or African American	30			
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	30			
e. White	30			
f. Unable to Determine	29	1		
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin	30			
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent	30			
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative	30			
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	30			
#32 Relationship of Adoptive	30			

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Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative				
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	30			
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	30			
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy	30			
#36 Monthly Amount	16	14		An amount of zero dollars was reported to AFCARS, but reviewers found payment amounts.
#37 Adoption Assistance	24	6		