

## FOSTER CARE CASE FILE FINDINGS

State: Texas

AFCARS Element	Data In AFCARS Matches Case File	Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable	Comments
#5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date	27	11		<p>Five (13%) of the records in the sample had review dates prior to the reporting period. One record had a review date that occurred after the discharge date reported in element #56. All of the dates were nine months prior to the end of the report period ending date. However, in all cases a more recent review had been conducted.</p> <p>One record was missing a date and the date the child was removed from home (element #21) was February 27, 1998. This also was a Texas Youth Corrections (TYC) case.</p> <p>Two of the records marked as not matching appear to be data entry errors.</p>
#6 Child Birth Date	35	3		The records marked as not matching are more then likely data entry errors.
#7 Child Sex  1 = Male 2 = Female	38	0		
#8 Child Race	38	0		
#9 Child Hispanic Origin  1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	38	0		
#10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability?	31	9		The non-matching files were all situations where a diagnosed disability was found in the case file but was not reported to AFCARS.

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#11 Mental Retardation	37	1		The response in AFCARS should have been “applies.”
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	36	2		One recorded indicated “applies” in the AFCARS file and no evidence was found in the case file to support this response. The other record should have had a response of “applies” in AFCARS.
#13 Physically Disabled	38	0		
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	28	10		Nine records indicated a “does not apply” response in AFCARS and should have been “applies.” One record was miscoded; the response was “other diagnosed condition” instead of “emotionally disturbed.”
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	37	1		AFCARS record indicated “applies” and it should have been “does not apply.”
#16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted?  1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	38	0		
#17 Age at Previous Adoption 0 = Not Applicable 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6-12 years old 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine	37	1		
#18 Date of First Removal from Home	32	6		In the two TYC cases, the dates did not reflect the date the child entered a title IV-E eligible placement. In two cases the date reported to AFCARS were five and six years later than what

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				was found in the case file. One record was 30 days later than what was found in the case file. Another record had the court order date, which did not reflect the removal from home date.
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	26	12		<p>Ten of the cases should have reported two removals instead of one.</p> <p>In five cases the reviewer noted either that the records were not merged or that the record was a pre-conversion case. One of these records should have indicated three removals (two were reported) and the others should have had two not one removal reported.</p> <p>In three cases the number of removals reported to AFCARS was incorrect because the reviewer found a different date of latest removal than what was reported to AFCARS. These cases indicated one removal.</p> <p>In seven cases the number of removals reported to AFCARS was one, but it was incorrect because the date of latest removal and date of first removal were different. In four records, there had been five to six years between the two dates, the remaining were two to three years difference. One of the records did not have a date of discharge from the previous removal episode, the others did have a date in element #20.</p>
#20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode	32	6		One case indicated a discharge date reported in AFCARS, but the child had only one removal.

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				Two records had different dates of first and latest removal and no discharge date from the previous removal episode.
#21 Date of Latest Removal	32	6		<p>In the two TYC cases, the dates did not reflect the date the child entered a title IV-E eligible placement.</p> <p>In four cases the date reported for date of latest removal was the same as the date for the first removal. The reviewer found more than one removal in the case file.</p>
#23 Date of Placement in Current Setting	34	4		<p>In one case the date reported as the date of the current placement setting reflects the date the child was discharged from placement and care. The actual current placement date was two years earlier than what was reported.</p> <p>In another case, the date of latest placement is wrong in AFCARS because it reflects the date the foster parents moved out of State. This is not considered a new placement setting for the child.</p>
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	23	13	2	<p>One record indicated in the AFCARS report there were zero placements. The reviewer found one placement. Also, this was a TYC case.</p> <p>There were two records where hospital/mental health crisis placements were included in the count of placements but were actually short-term placements. In one of the records, each time the child returned to the same foster family after the</p>

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				<p>hospital stay was counted. In one record a placement from a previous removal episode was included in the current placement count. In two cases the foster family changed child-placing agencies. However, the child remained with the same family. These should not have incremented the number of placement stays.</p> <p>In the two cases indicated as questionable, it appears the child's first placement was a hospital. In one case the date of removal is three days after the child's birth. The number of placement settings should have been four not five, even if the State had received placement and care on the same day as the child's birth. Since the time the child spent in the hospital was a "brief" stay it would not have counted as a placement. In the other case, the child was also removed from the hospital. However, the date of latest removal is approximately six weeks after the child was born. If the State received placement, care or supervision of the child prior to his/her release from the hospital, then the hospital stay should have been counted.</p> <p>The record in which the foster family moved out of State also counted the family's move as another placement. Since the child remained with the same family, this is not considered a "new" placement.</p>
#25 Manner of Removal From Home for This Episode	38	0		

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1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined				
#26 Physical Abuse	37	1		In the two TYC cases the response to elements #26 - 40 was "does not apply." The reviewer marked those circumstances of "removal" that were noted in the case record.
#27 Sexual Abuse	37	1		
#28 Neglect	38	0		
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	35	3		
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	35	3		One reviewer noted that the information reported to AFCARS was information from the child's previous removal episode. Also, the child had been previously adopted.
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	35	3		
#32 Child Drug Abuse	38	0		
#33 Child Disability	38	0		
#34 Child's Behavior Problem	35	3		
#35 Death of Parent	37	1		
#36 Incarceration of Parent	38	0		
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope	37	1		
#38 Abandonment	37	1		
#39 Relinquishment	38	0		
#40 Inadequate Housing	37	1		
#41 Current Placement	35	3		

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<b>Setting</b>  1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home (Relative) 3 = Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit				
#42 Out of State Placement	37	1		Blank address that was marked as “yes.”
#43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal 1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	36	2		AFCARS response was a blank, but the child had been in care since 1998.
#44 Caretaker Family Structure  1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple	33	5		Two of the incorrect AFCARS responses should have been single males.  One record indicated a response of “unable to determine” in the AFCARS report and the

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3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine				reviewer found information on the family. It was the child's adoptive parents.
#45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	30	8		<p>One record indicated a single female family structure but there was no date of birth.</p> <p>There were three records that indicated in the AFCARS report the caretaker was a single male. In each of these the date of birth was listed in element #46, second primary caretaker. In each of the AFCARS records that indicated a single female, the date of birth was given in this element.</p> <p>Three responses were incorrect because of the information reported for family structure.</p>
#46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	26	12		<p>See note above regarding single males' dates of birth.</p> <p>Five responses were incorrect because of the information reported for family structure.</p> <p>Five responses appear to be data entry issues. Differences in the years ranged from two years to thirty years. One record indicated the second caregiver would be approximately six years old. Two records indicate the person was substantially older than what was reported in AFCARS (28 and 30 years older).</p>
#47 Mother's Date of TPR	34	3	1	
#48 Father's Date of TPR	35	2	1	

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<p>#49 Foster Family Structure</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable            1 = Married Couple            2 = Unmarried Couple            1 = Single Female            4 = Single Male</p>	32	6		<p>In five records the current placement setting was given as “foster family home” and the foster family structure information was blank in the AFCARS report.</p> <p>One record indicated the foster parent was a “single female,” however, the reviewer noted she was “separated.” This should have been mapped to “married.”</p>
<p>#50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year</p>	26	12		<p>In eleven records the AFCARS record indicated a family structure and a placement setting of foster home but the birth year information was missing. In one record the placement setting was a foster home, and the family structure and foster caretaker date of birth was missing.</p>
<p>#51 2nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year</p>	28	5	5	<p>Five records indicated the foster family structure was “married” and no information was reported for the second foster caretaker.</p> <p>The five questionable records have missing information. The placement setting is foster home but the foster family structure is blank. Therefore, these records may actually have information.</p>

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#52 1st Foster Caretaker's Race				There was one record that indicated the child was in a family foster home and the foster family structure was missing as well as this information.
a. American Indian or Alaska Native	26	12		
b. Asian	26	12		
c. Black or African American	26	12		
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	26	12		
e. White	26	12		
f. Unable to Determine	26	12		
#53 1st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	25	13		<p>There was one record that indicated the child was in a family foster home and the foster family structure was missing as well as this information.</p> <p>There were eleven records that indicated a foster family home and family structure but this information was missing.</p> <p>There were four records that indicated the foster family structure was missing but information was correctly reported for this element.</p>
#54 2nd Foster Caretaker's Race				Five records indicated the foster family structure was "married" and no information was reported

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				for the second foster caretaker.  The five questionable records have missing information. The placement setting is foster home but the foster family structure is blank. Therefore, these records may actually have information.
a. American Indian or Alaska Native	28	5	5	
b. Asian	28	5	5	
c. Black or African American	28	5	5	
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	28	5	5	
e. White	28	5	5	
f. Unable to Determine	28	5	5	
#55 2nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin  0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	26	7	5	Five records indicated the foster family structure was "married" and no information was reported for the second foster caretaker.  The five questionable records have missing information. The placement setting is foster home but the foster family structure is blank. Therefore, these records may actually have information.
#56 Date of Discharge	33	4	1	One record indicates a discharge date in the AFCARS report. However, the reviewer noted there was a periodic review that occurred after the discharge date. Also, no discharge reason was given for element #58. The date submitted in AFCARS reflects the individual's 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday.

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				<p>In another record the discharge date was incorrect and it reflected the individual's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, the reviewer found an actual discharge date in the case file that was a year later, after the individual turned 19. Also, the date of the most recent periodic review reported to AFCARS occurred after the discharge date.</p> <p>One discharge date reflected six months from the time the child entered a "trial home visit." The actual discharge date was two months later.</p>
<p>#58 Reason for Discharge</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable            1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)            2 = Living with Other Relative(s)            3 = Adoption            4 = Emancipation            5 = Guardianship            6 = Transfer to Another Agency            7 = Runaway            8 = Death of Child</p>	33	5		<p>All of the AFCARS records that did not match the case file had missing data for this element. In three cases the reviewer marked the reason as "emancipation." One record was for a TYC and the reviewer noted the youth left the title IV-E eligible placement.</p> <p>One record missing a discharge reason had a current placement setting of "runaway." Also, the reviewer noted the discharge date was incorrect and that date was the date of the most recent periodic review.</p>
<p>#59 Title IVE Foster Care</p>	37	0	1	<p>Elements #59 - 65 not included in the analysis. Reviewers did spot checks of the information on CAPS.</p> <p>One of the TYC records indicated "does not</p>

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				apply” for this element.
#60 Title IVE Adoption	37	0	1	
#61 Title IVA AFDC	37	0	1	
#62 Title IVD Child Support	36	1	1	
#63 Title XIX Medicaid	33	4	1	
#64 SSI	37	0	1	
#65 None of the Above	36	1	1	
#66 Monthly Amount	2	4	32	Thirty-six of the records reported to AFCARS were blank. Therefore, this element is not included in the analysis.

## 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	Comments
#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	18	0		
#5 Child Date of Birth	18	0		
#6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	18	0		
#7 Child Race				
a. American Indian or Alaska Native	18	0		
b. Asian	18	0		
c. Black or African American	17	1		
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	18	0		
e. White	18	0		
f. Unable to Determine	17	1		
#8 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	17	1		
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs	18			
#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background	18	0		

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AFCARS Element	Data In AFCARS Matches Case File	Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable	Comments
2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other				
#11 Mental Retardation	18	0		
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	18	0		
#13 Physically Disabled	18	0		
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	18	0		
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	18	0		
#16 Mother's Birth Year	17	0	1	
#17 Father's Birth Year	14	4		Reviewers found dates of birth for fathers.
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	16	2		Reviewer found information pertaining to mother's marital status at the time of the child's birth.
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	14	4		In one case the mother was deceased and this was not used as the TPR date. One record the date of TPR was actually a month later then what was reported to AFCARS. The other two records had data entry errors.

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#20 Date of Father's TPR	14	4		One of the records was missing a TPR for the father. One record the date of TPR was actually a month later then what was reported to AFCARS. The other two records had data entry errors.
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	18	0		
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	18	0		
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	18	0		
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	18	0		
#25 Adoptive Mother's Race	18	0		
a. American Indian or Alaska Native				
b. Asian				
c. Black or African American				
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				
e. White				
f. Unable to Determine				
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes	18	0		

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2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine				
#27 Adoptive Father's Race	18	0		
a. American Indian or Alaska Native				
b. Asian				
c. Black or African American				
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				
e. White				
f. Unable to Determine				
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	18	0		
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent	18	0		
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative	18	0		
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	18	0		
#32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative	18	0		In two cases the reviewers noted that the adoptive parents were also foster parents.
#33 Child Was Placed from	18	0		

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1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country				
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	18	0		
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy	18	0		
#36 Monthly Amount	18	0		
#37 Adoption Assistance	18	0		