

Case File Summary Report
State: Wisconsin
AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006 (2006A)

The purpose of the case file review is to ensure that information that is submitted to AFCARS accurately reflects what is in the hard copy case records. This process generally does not identify new problems, but usually confirms the findings of the test case scenarios and the review of the State's AFCARS system documentation. The case file review involved all members of the State and Federal teams, technical and program.

This summary report provides information on the number of cases selected in the sample, the number of cases reviewed, and any relevant general information regarding the analysis of the results. The matrices that follow provides information on the number of records that had matching information and the number of records that had information that did not match what was submitted to AFCARS. The charts below provide information on how many cases were in the sample and how many were reviewed on-site.

Foster Care

Number of Cases in Sample	80
Number of Cases Reviewed	75
Number of Cases Analyzed	73

The most significant finding of the case file review was the number of records missing information that occurred prior to the counties implementing eWiSACWIS. There were also cases that reflected dates that were later than the actual date of removal or placement.

Foster care element #18, the date of the first-ever removal episode, and element #21, date of latest removal, contained several errors. For element #18, 19% of the records analyzed had errors. For element #21, 22% of the records analyzed had errors. In most situations for both elements, the actual date of removal was earlier than what was reported to AFCARS. In general, the dates were six to seven years earlier than what was reported. There were situations where the child only had one removal, not two as reported to AFCARS. Consequently, element #21 was incorrect because an earlier removal date should have been reported to AFCARS.

There were also several errors found in 14% of the cases analyzed, in element #19. In general, it appears that the child had more removal episodes than what is reported to AFCARS. In most instances, the child's first ever removal was not entered into the system at the time of conversion. There also seems to be instances in which the child only had one removal, not two as reported.

Additionally, there appears to be a problem with the number of placements reported for the current removal episode. Of the cases analyzed for element #24, number of placements, 30% of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The majority of the error cases were due to there being more placements for the current removal episode than what was reported to AFCARS. This, too, was related to conversion.

There was an underreporting of information for elements #26 – 40, circumstances associated with removal. Also, there were several cases in which all (excluding child disability) were marked as “applies.” This probably is related to how the cases were converted, whether manually or electronically.

Another area in which several errors were found in 17% of the records analyzed are the elements related to whether a child was diagnosed with a disability (element #10) and the disability categories (elements #11 – 15). In general, the AFCARS response was a “no” for diagnosed disability, but the reviewers found that there was a diagnosis.

Based on the case file review, case workers are not updating the case plan goal in the system. There were errors in 17% of the cases analyzed.

Adoption

Number of Cases in Sample	30
Number of Cases Reviewed	29
Number of Cases Analyzed	29

In general, there were fewer errors in the adoption file. The set of elements with the most errors were the ones related to the child’s relationship to the people adopting him/her. AFCARS allows this to be a multi-select field and the State is currently only capturing one relationship. The relationship that was underreported is when the adopting parents were also foster parents.