

Data Quality Criteria for Child Welfare Outcomes 2018–2022

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System: Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes	States Excluded from
Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) IDs don't match from one period to the next	Percentage of records that do not match for a given record number in the next 6-month period	Number of children reported in the first 6-month file for the fiscal year	Number of children whose records have AFCARS IDs that do not match in the next 6-month file for the fiscal year	>50%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, and 7.1 and entry rate calculations. Additionally, states that do not meet this threshold are excluded from the numbers of children in care, entries, and exits as well as the numbers of children waiting for adoption and who have been adopted.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: None 2021: None 2022: None
Dropped records	Record is missing a date of discharge, suggesting the child is still in care, but a record for this same child in the next 6-month period does not exist	Number of children reported in the first 6-month file for the fiscal year	Number of children reported without discharge dates in the first 6-month file for the fiscal year that do not appear in the subsequent 6-month file for the fiscal year	>10%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, and 7.1 and entry rate calculations. Additionally, states that do not meet this threshold are excluded from the numbers of children in care, entries, and exits as well as the numbers of children waiting for adoption and who have been adopted.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: MD 2021: None 2022: None

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System: Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes	States Excluded from Analysis by Year
Missing child disability status	Percentage of records missing data for child disability status	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of children whose records are missing data for their disability status	>15%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measure 3.2.	2018: CO, * MT, PA, SC 2019: CO, * MT, SC, SD 2020: CO, * MD, SD 2021: CO, * MN 2022: CO*
Missing date of birth	Percentage of records with a missing date of birth	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of children whose records are missing data for their date of birth	>15%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measures 3.3 and 7.1.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: None 2021: None 2022: None
Missing date of latest removal	Percentage of records with a missing date of latest removal	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of children whose records are missing data for their date of latest removal	>15%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measures 4.1, 5.1, and 6.1.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: None 2021: None 2022: None
Missing discharge reason	Percentage of records where the date of discharge from the most recent foster care episode exists, but the reason for discharge is missing	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of children whose records include their date of discharge exists but the discharge reason is missing	>15%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, and 5.1.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: None 2021: None 2022: None
Missing number of placement settings	Percentage of records with a missing number of placement settings	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of children whose records are missing data for their number of placement settings	>15%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measure 6.1.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: None 2021: None 2022: None
Missing current placement setting	Percentage of records missing the current placement setting	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of children whose records are missing data for their current placement setting	>15%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measure 7.1.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: None 2021: None 2022: None

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System: Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes	States Excluded from Analysis by Year
Missing current placement setting date	Percentage of records missing the date for the current placement setting	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of children whose records are missing data for the date of their current placement setting	>15%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measures 6.1 and 7.1.	2018: None 2019: None 2020: None 2021: None 2022: None

* States marked with an asterisk are excluded from analyses due to incomplete data and not to data quality issues.

National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Data Quality Checks

Title	Description	Denominator	Numerator	Limits	Notes	States Excluded from Analysis by Year
Child IDs for victims match across years	Percentage of records with IDs that do not match across years	Number of children with at least one substantiated or indicated	Number of children who had another substantiated or indicated	<1%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measure 1.1.	2018–2019: None 2019–2020: PR 2020–2021: AZ 2021–2022: AZ, ME, VT
Child IDs match across years but the dates of birth, age, and sex do not	Percentage of records that have matching IDs across years but the dates of birth, age, and sex do not match	maltreatment report in a 12-month period	maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report	>5%		
Missing age for victims	Percentage of records missing the age for victims			>5%		
Missing data on perpetrator relationship if 95% of perpetrators have a known relationship	Percentage of records that do not have perpetrator relationship data and at least 95% of perpetrators have a known relationship to the child	Number of children reported in a fiscal year file	Number of cases that are missing perpetrator relationship data if at least 95% of perpetrators have a known relationship to the child	> 25%	States that do not meet this threshold are excluded from measure 2.1.	2018: LA 2019: LA 2020: LA 2021: LA 2022: AZ, LA, ME

States Excluded From 2022 Analyses

Measure	Number of States with Quality Data	States Excluded from Analyses
Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during a 12-month period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 12-month period of the initial victimization?	49	AZ, ME, VT
Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the year, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?	49	AZ, LA, ME
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	52	None
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	51	CO*
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	52	None
Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care during the year to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?	52	None
Measure 3.5: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	52	None
Measure 4.1: Of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care during the year, what percentage were reunified in the following time periods? (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, (b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months, (c) At least 24 months but less than 36 months, (d) At least 36 months but less than 48 months, (e) 48 or more months	52	None
Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the year, what percentage reentered care in the following time periods? (a) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode, (b) More than 12 months after a prior foster care episode	52	None
Measure 5.1: Of all children discharged from foster care during the year to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods? (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, (b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months, (c) At least 24 months but less than 36 months, (d) At least 36 months but less than 48 months, (e) 48 or more months	52	None
Measure 6.1: Of all children served in foster care during the year who had been in care for the following time periods, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period? (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, (b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months, (c) 24 or more months	52	None

Measure	Number of States with Quality Data	States Excluded from Analyses
Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or an institution?	52	None
Entry rate: Rate of children entering care per 1,000 in a state's child population	52	None

* States marked with an asterisk are excluded from analyses due to incomplete data and not to data quality issues.

States Excluded from Cross-Year Analyses

Measure	Number of States with Quality Data	States Excluded from Analyses
Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during a 12-month period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 12-month period of the initial victimization?	48	AZ, ME, PR, VT
Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the year, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?	49	AZ, LA, ME
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	51	MD
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	45	CO, * MD, MN, MT, PA, SD, SC
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	51	MD
Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care during the year to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?	51	MD
Measure 3.5: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	51	MD
Measure 4.1: Of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care during the year, what percentage were reunified in the following time periods? (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, (b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months, (c) At least 24 months but less than 36 months, (d) At least 36 months but less than 48 months, (e) 48 or more months	51	MD

Measure	Number of States with Quality Data	States Excluded from Analyses
Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the year, what percentage reentered care in the following time periods? (a) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode, (b) More than 12 months after a prior foster care episode	51	MD
Measure 5.1: Of all children discharged from foster care during the year to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods? (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, (b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months, (c) At least 24 months but less than 36 months, (d) At least 36 months but less than 48 months, (e) 48 or more months	51	MD
Measure 6.1: Of all children served in foster care during the year who had been in care for the following time periods, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period? (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, (b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months, (c) 24 or more months	51	MD
Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or an institution?	51	MD
Entry rate: Rate of children entering care per 1,000 in a state's child population	51	MD

* States marked with an asterisk are excluded from analyses due to incomplete data and not to data quality issues.