AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements
State: Idaho
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005 (2005B)

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
#1 State	4	The correct FIPS code for the State of Idaho, 16, is hard-coded in the program code.
#2 Report Date	4	The report date is derived from a user supplied date. The batch run option performs additional checking to ensure the correct report period end date is recorded.
#3 Local Agency(County or Equivalent Jurisdiction)	2	The program code combines the hard-coded 2-digit state FIPS code with the 3-digit code mapped from the user-entered county code. Idaho has seven regions and each region covers multiple counties. Not every county has an office; one office may cover many counties. The program code is extracting the county where the intake occurred and the county that has court jurisdiction; not the office where the worker is assigned. This element should be extracted from the system based on the location of the office affiliation of the social worker with primary responsibility for the case.
#4 Record Number	4	The State uses a person identification number that remains with the individual.
#5 Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (if applicable) ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	~~2~~ 3	Screen: Placement Review Profile; Removal Episode File Program code: 732N, Line Numbers (LNs) 1120, 1720-2465, 3135-3290 Frequency Report (n=2,563): 2004 = 74 (3%); 2005 = 1,454 (57%); and Not reported = 1,035 (40%) A review of the frequencies indicates there are several blank records. The State staff indicated they thought this number is high. The agency conducts a periodic review every six months, but some offices do reviews every 90 days. The program code extracts the review date for the current removal episode. However, there is no parameter to prevent a review date that occurs after the end of the report period from being extracted. The State must modify the program code to ensure dates after the end of the report period are not extracted. *Post site-visit analysis: The State modified the program code (732n, LN 3260) to exclude review dates that occur after the end of the report period.* Case file review findings: 10 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		reported in AFCARS. In the majority of cases, the reviewers found a periodic review date later than the one reported in AFCARS. In one case, the AFCARS file did not have a review date, but the reviewer found one.
#6 Child Birth Date ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	4	Screen: Person Profile screen. Case workers are trained to use the 15th when the date of birth is estimated and to check the "approximate" box.
#7 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	4	Screen: Person Profile screen.
#8 Child's Race 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	2	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732Nn LNs 0945, 3960-4025, 4090-4100, 4135; and 800A, LNs 1180-1570 There are six fields on the screen for the entry of race information. One is on the person profile screen and it lists: Multiple; Alaskan Native, American Indian, Black/African American, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander, Unable to determine and White. If "multiple" is selected, then another screen appears that contains five race fields. All six selection boxes include the same list of options. Including the option "unable to determine." The person profile screen cannot be saved without race information being entered. The worker can enter a race and enter "unable to determine." The State needs to modify the selection list so that "unable to determine" and a race cannot both be selected. One option is to remove "unable to determine" from the five additional selection boxes and only list it on the first selection list. The State incorrectly maps "Filipino" to AFCARS "native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander." It should be mapped to "Asian." *Post site-visit analysis: The program code*

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		was modified to correctly map "Filipino" to "Asian." The program code incorrectly maps "other" to AFCARS "unable to determine." *Post site-visit analysis: The option "other" has been removed from the program code.* Case file review findings: For the category "American Indian or Alaska Native" there were eight (14%) error cases. The reviewers found that this race category should have been reported as an additional race.
#9 Hispanic/Latino Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	~~2~~ 3	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732N, LNs 4035, 4235-4290; 4040 Frequency Report (n=2,563): Yes = 401 (16%); No = 2,162 (84%); Unable to determine = 0 *Frequency Report 2006A (n=2,622); Yes = 430 (16%); No = 2,162 (84%); Unable to determine = 30 (1%)* The screen provided to ACF for the AFCARS review included the option "not classifiable." This option was not in the program code sent to ACF. The State indicated the screen was recently updated and no longer includes this option. The program code reviewed was modified accordingly. In the program code, missing data are mapped to AFCARS "unable to determine." Missing data are to be mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4325) no longer maps missing data to "unable to determine."*
#10 Has the child been clinically diagnosed as having a disability(ies)? 1=Yes 2=No 3=Not yet Determined	2	Screens: Health Exam Profile; Health Diagnosis Profile; Education Evaluation Profile Program code: 731N, LN 3360; and, 733N, LNs 1115, 1380, 1670,1955, 2150, 6075-6155 Frequency Report (n=2,563): Yes = 723 (28%); No = 0; Not yet determined = 1,840 (72%) *Frequency Report 2006A (n=2,622): Yes = 752 (29%); No = 1,221 (47%); Not yet*

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
If yes, indicate each type of a disability with a "1."		*determined = 246 (9%)* The frequency report indicates a high number of "not yet determined" and no children with an AFCARS value of "no." AFCARS policy is that the value of "yes" indicates the child has been evaluated by a qualified professional and has been diagnosed as having a disability in FC element #11-15. The value "no" indicates that a professional has diagnosed the child and no diagnosis for disability was found. The value "not yet determined" should only be used if a qualified professional has not yet evaluated the child. Review of the screen for disability information indicates there is no field to input "yes," "no," or "not yet determined." The program code is correctly initialized to blank. If a diagnosed condition is found on one of the three screens, then the program code sets this element to "yes." Also, the program code checks for a health exam, EPSDT, or a physical exam date that is within the report period from 30 days prior to the start of the removal period through the end of the removal period. If there is a date, and there are no diagnosed conditions selected, this element is mapped to "no." This is a recent change to the program code and the 2005B data does not reflect the change. ACF will review the 2006A data and check for a change in the data. *Post site-visit analysis: The frequencies do reflect this change.* The program code sets this element to "not yet determined" if the child was in care for less than 30 days, there are no diagnosed conditions, and no EPSDT, or health exam date exists. The code sets this element to blank if there are no diagnosed conditions, the child was in care for more than 30 days, and an EPSDT or health exam was not entered. The State's design of the input screens for the entry of this information may be contributing to the underreporting of this information. The State will need to monitor the data to ensure that not only the dates of the exams are entered into the system, but case workers are also entering the diagnosed conditions, if applicable. *Post site-visit analysis:*

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		There was no significant change in the number of records reported as "yes" in the 2006A foster care file. Based on the case file review findings, the State needs to consider modifications to the system to better collect this information. The State needs to provide additional supervisory oversight to ensure that this information is entered into the system in a timely manner. The State may want to conduct refresher training on the entry of this information. Case file review findings: 17 (29%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In six of the error cases, the child was diagnosed with a condition that is to be reported to AFCARS, but the AFCARS data indicated "not yet determined." In nine of the error cases, the AFCARS response was "not yet determined," but the reviewer found the child had been examined by a medical professional and had no health issues. In two error cases, the child had been in care for a year and the AFCARS response was "not yet determined."
#11 – 15		For elements #11 – 15, the State modified its mapping of certain conditions. These changes should be reflected in the 2006A data.
#11 Mental Retardation [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	~~2~~ 3	Screens: Diagnosis on education evaluation, Diagnosis on Multi-axial Diagnosis Profile, Diagnosis on Health Condition Profile Program code: 733N, LNs 1120,1525-1595, 1895-1930, 2090-2095 Initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."* The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Mental Retardation" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from either of two slightly different sets of State codes in the Multi-axial Diagnosis Assessment screen or the Education Evaluation screen. The mapping for this element is correct.
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	~~2~~	Screens: Diagnosis on Multi-axial Diagnosis Profile, Diagnosis on Health Condition

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
[0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	3	Profile Program code: 733N, LNs 1125, 1530-1600, 2100-2105 This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."* The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Visual, Hearing Impaired" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from a slightly different set of State codes in the Education Evaluation screen. The mapping for this element is correct.
#13 Physically Disabled [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	~~2~~ 3	Screens: Diagnosis on Multi-axial Diagnosis Profile, Diagnosis on Health Condition Profile Program code: 733N, LNs 1130, 1605-1620, 2110-2115 This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."* The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Physically Disabled" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from a slightly different set of State codes in the Education Evaluation screen. The mapping for this element is correct.
#14 Emotionally Disturbed [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	Screens: Diagnosis on Multi-axial Diagnosis Profile, Diagnosis on Health Condition Profile Program code: 733N, LNs 1135, 1625-1645, 1810-1890, 2120-2125 This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If*

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply." The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Emotionally Disturbed ICD-9" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from either of two slightly different sets of State codes in the Multi-axial Diagnosis Assessment screen or the Education Evaluation screen. The State's document "AFCARS Diagnosis Mapping," and the program code, indicates that "autism" is mapped to "emotionally disturbed." In documents previously sent to ACF, the State showed this mapped correctly to element #15. Modify the program code to map "autism" to element #15. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to map "autism" to "other diagnosed condition."* If the State includes "post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," map it to element #14. Currently, it is mapped to element #15. See notes in element #15. Case file review findings: 27 (52%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of the cases the response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." Many of the diagnosed conditions reported were incorrectly mapped to "other diagnosed condition."
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	<u>Program code</u>: 733N, LNs 1140, 1650-1655, 1935-1940, 2130-2135 This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."* The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any State code not listed for the other conditions in data elements #11-14, in any of

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		the Health Conditions, Multi-axial Diagnosis Assessment, or Education Evaluation screens. There is not a separate listing of diagnosed conditions. The State needs to identify only those diagnoses that are to be mapped to this element. Currently, the State's method of mapping for this element is including a very wide range of diagnoses, based on the case file review, which includes some that should not be included in AFCARS. Also, any diagnosed behavioral or emotional condition that is not in the mapping for element #14 is mapped to element #15. There are several that should be mapped to element #14. Case file review findings: 24 (46%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. Most of the errors were due to incorrectly mapping mental health diagnoses to this element instead of element #14.
#16 Has this child ever been adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	Program code: 733N, LNs 1185, 2195 Frequency Report (n=2,563): Yes = 97 (4%); No = 2,447 (95%); Unable to determine = 19 (.74%) *Frequency Report 2006A (n=2622): Yes = 16 (.61%); No = 2,606 (99%); Unable to determine = 0* There is not a field in the system to collect the data for elements #16 and #17. The State is currently deriving whether the child had ever been adopted by reviewing the legal status history of a child. If the program code finds that the child had been previously adopted from the Idaho child welfare system, this element is "yes." Otherwise, the response is "no." The State staff indicated that they are aware this is incorrect and have plans to change the way it is collected. The State could add it to the person profile screen or to assessments. The State needs to add "unable to determine" as an option in case the child is abandoned and no one is available to provide this information. The State incorrectly includes "step-parent" adoptions. Step-parent adoptions should not be included for this element.

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
#17 If yes, how old was the child when the adoption was legalized? [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	2	Program code: 733N, LNs 1200, 2210, 2560-2590 Frequency Report (2,563): Not applicable = 2,466 (96%); Unable to determine = 0; Not reported = 0 *Frequency Report 2006A (n=2,622): Not applicable = 2,606 (99%); Unable to determine = 0; Not reported = 0* The frequencies indicate there is an inconsistency between the number of records reported as "no" in element #16 and the number of "not applicable" responses in element #17. If the response to element #16 is "yes," but an age is not found, this element is correctly mapped to blank. Since the program code is only checking for prior adoptions in the Idaho child welfare system, there is no mapping for the value "unable to determine." This will need to be added when the system is redesigned in order to collect this value in the instances of an abandoned child. The program code maps the State age range 3-5 to the AFCARS data element value "2-5." This needs to be corrected. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to correctly map the age group of two to five years of age to the AFCARS value "2."* Case file review findings: 9 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In six of the error cases, there should have been an age range because the child had been previously adopted.
#18 Date of First Removal from Home ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	2	Program code: 732N, LNs 1720-2080, 2550-2790 For children that have been previously adopted from the Idaho child welfare system, the program code correctly checks for removals under the child's old client number in addition to those related to the new client number.

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		If there are more than one removal episodes, the program code orders them by descending order (i.e., most recent date first). This element gets set to the removal date from the last removal record it reads (i.e., the earliest date). For AFCARS reporting purposes, if a child's first living arrangement while under the agency's responsibility for care and placement is a locked facility or a hospital, then the child's removal episode does not begin until (or if) the child is placed in a foster care setting such as a foster home or group home or other institutional setting. The State currently includes these situations in its AFCARS file. The State must modify the program code to not extract the date of removal as the custody date for these situations, and to begin reporting the child at the time he/she enters the foster care setting. The program code must extract this date as the AFCARS removal date. Case file review findings: 9 (20%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. Also, there were twelve records that the reviewers could not verify this information due to incomplete case files. There were five records that should have had an earlier date of removal and three that should have had a later date.
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	~~3~~ 4	Program code: 732N, LNs 1720-2080, 2550-2790 For children that have been previously adopted from the Idaho child welfare system, the program code correctly counts removals under the child's old client number in addition to those related to the new client number.
#20 Date Child was Discharged from last foster care episode (if applicable) ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	~~3~~ 4	Program code: 732N, LNs 1720-2080, 2550-2790, 2475-2535 For children that have been previously adopted from the Idaho child welfare system, the program code correctly checks for the discharge date from the prior removal episode even if it is the date the child was legally adopted. The program code ensures that if foster care element #19 is two or more, this data element will contain the end date for the last removal episode.
#21 Date of Latest Removal	2	For AFCARS reporting purposes, if a child's first living arrangement while under the

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)		agency's responsibility for care and placement is a locked facility or a hospital, then the child's removal episode does not begin until (or if) the child is placed in a foster care setting such as a foster home or group home or other institutional setting. The State currently includes these situations in its AFCARS file. The State must modify the program code to not extract the date of removal as the custody date for these situations, and to begin reporting the child at the time he/she enters the foster care setting. The program code must extract this date as the AFCARS removal date. The State staff asked how much history is required on Tribal children that they have joint custody with a Tribe. The State staff indicated there may have been prior removals, but they were under the jurisdiction of the Tribe. *Response: The State would treat these situations the same as a child who moved into Idaho from another State and had prior removals in that State, the prior removals would not be included. Therefore, do not include the removals a child experienced while under the sole custody of the Tribe. The State is to only count those removal episodes in which it is involved in, either solely or with joint custody with the Tribe.* Case file review findings: 7 (13%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In three error cases the actual date of removal was later than the date reported to AFCARS. In two of these cases, the date reported to AFCARS included the date the child was placed in the hospital or detention as the first placement. In three error cases the actual date of removal was earlier than the date reported to AFCARS.
#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date	4	This element contains a computer generated date which is not modifiable by the user.
#23 Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	2	The State correctly extracts the start date of a "trial home visit." The program code checks for whether hospital stays are less than 30 days. If the stay is for less than 30 days, the program code does not include them as placements. There is no State policy that defines acute care as being 30 days. The State will need to determine based on medical practice and insurance guidelines within the state what is considered an acute care stay. For hospital stays beyond this time frame, but shorter than 30 days, the

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		date the child entered the hospital is to be reported for this element. The program code incorrectly does not extract the "start" date of a runaway. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (731n, LN 3250 and 732n LN 4825) was modified to look for the end date of a placement when the end placement reason is "runaway." This date then is reported for element #23 as the placement date for the current foster care setting.* Case file review findings: 6 (13%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In four of the error cases, the reviewers found an earlier date than the one reported to AFCARS. In two of the error cases, the dates found by the reviewers were later than the one reported to AFCARS.
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	2	Screen: Placement Request Program code: 733N, LNs 1300, 3150-3750, 4845-5515, 3760-4040, 4845-5515, 4050-4115; and, 738N Frequency report: There are four records with "00" placements. The State should verify if these are due to children entering care and being on a runaway status as the first, and only, placement. The program code checks for whether hospital stays are less than 30 days. If the stay is for less than 30 days, the program code does not include them as placements. There is no State policy that defines acute care as being 30 days. The State will need to determine based on medical practice and insurance guidelines within the state what is considered an acute care stay. For hospital stays beyond this time frame, but shorter than 30 days, the program code should count the stay for this element. Idaho Youth Ranch has several facilities, and one location contains several individual cottages onsite. If a child moves from one cottage to another on the same site, then these are not counted as placement moves for this element. However, if the child goes to a different facility operated by Idaho Youth Ranch, then it should be counted for this

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		element. Case file review findings: 8 (18%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. There was generally an over count of placements reported to AFCARS.
#25 Manner of Removal From Home for Current placement Episode 1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined	4	Screens: Legal status profile and Voluntary status profile
Actions or Conditions Associated With Child's Removal [0-Does not Apply] 1-Applies	Screens	_____: Removal Reason Profile, Removal from Home There are two fields on the screen that is used to record the conditions associated with a child's removal. One field "removal reason" is where the case workers enter the "legal" reason for removal. The second field "contributing conditions" is a multi-selection box that case workers can select all other contributing factors. The State developed this screen to contain separate fields because State statute requires each case to have indicated one of the following as a reason for removal: Abandonment, Homeless, Neglect, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, or Voluntary Placement. The list of contributing conditions does not include the legal removal reasons that are listed in the "removal reason" drop-down box. Therefore, if there is both neglect and sexual abuse, only one will be recorded and reported. During the onsite review, the staff indicated this has been corrected since they submitted the documentation to ACF for the AFCARS review. The contributing conditions list now includes all conditions associated with removal. The old way may have contributed to some of the underreporting noted during the case file review. *Post site-visit analysis: The State submitted an updated copy of the screen indicating the legal reasons for removal are also listed as contributing conditions.*

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		ACF encourages the State to consider modifying the current approach for entering this data. Currently, it is a two-step process that the workers must complete in order to identify all of the actions or conditions associated with a child's removal. Since the field "contributing conditions" is not directly linked to the removal reasons, the worker does not have to complete it, thus under recording/reporting the circumstances leading to a child's removal from home. By including all of the contributing conditions into one field, the State can still meet the statute requirements for noting one of the legal requirements. An internal edit can be programmed that prompts the worker prior to leaving the screen if one of the legal reasons was not included. Having the conditions on one selection list may be a better visual reminder to case workers to select all of the conditions that applied and were the basis for removing the child from his/her home. The State needs to provide refresher training on the importance of this data. The State needs to ensure that supervisors provide oversight that this data is being entered completely and in a timely manner. Case file review findings: The majority of the elements between #26 and 40 had errors.
#26 Physical Abuse	2	Case file review findings: 4 (7%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#27 Sexual Abuse	2	Case file review findings: 2 (4%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#28 Neglect	2	Case file review findings: 3 (5%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	2	Case file review findings: 5 (9%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	2	Case file review findings: 13 (22%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In all of the cases, the AFCARS file indicated "does not apply," but the reviewers found this element did "apply."
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	2	
#32 Child Drug Abuse	2	
#33 Child Disability	2	Case file review findings: 2 (4%) of the records analyzed did not match what was

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		reported in AFCARS.
#34 Child's Behavior Problem	2	Case file review findings: 10 (17%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of the cases, the AFCARS response was "did not apply," but the reviewers found it did "apply."
#35 Death of Parent	2	
#36 Incarceration of Parent	2	Case file review findings: 6 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. This element should have been reported as "applies."
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reasons	2	Case file review findings: 4 (7%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#38 Abandonment	2	
#39 Relinquishment	2	
#40 Inadequate Housing	2	Case file review findings: 3 (5%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#41 Current Placement Setting 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	2	Screens: Placement request; Foster family profile; Facility license profile Program code: 732N, LNs 1140, 4695-4950, 4965-5175 Frequency Report: Pre-Adoptive Home = 133 (5%); Foster Family Home-Relative = 494 (19%); Foster Family Home-Non-Relative = 1,307 (51%); Group Home = 199 (8%); Institution = 168 (7%); Supervised Independent Living = 0; Runaway = 10 (.39%); Trial Home Visit = 252 (10%) The agency does not operate supervised independent living programs as defined for this element. Therefore, there will be no data reported for this value. The State maps "alcohol drug treatment facilities" to "institution." The State staff need to check on the size of these facilities and provide the information to ACF. If the facility is between seven and twelve beds, then it should be mapped to "group home." The drop down list for placement request shows the alternate care types of "children's recreation camp," "work program," and "maternity home." "Children's recreation camp" is not a living arrangement. This option should be removed from the types of living

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		arrangements and the program code modified to map it to blank for those records that have it selected. The State can run a report then to identify these cases and update the living arrangement. The State clarified that "work program" is run by Job Corp and they do have living arrangements for youth involved in their programs. The staff indicated these settings are licensed, but they don't place children there. If the State does not use these as placements then the option should be removed from the list so workers cannot accidentally select it. Any records with this as a living arrangement should be mapped to blank. The State indicated there no longer is a maternity home in the State. This option should be removed from the selection list or disabled. Records that contain this option as a living arrangement should be mapped to blank. Idaho Youth Ranch has several facilities, and one location contains several individual cottages onsite. The staff need to confirm with the licensing staff the size of each cottage. The State is to map the child's placement based on the size of these cottages. If a child moves from one cottage to another on the same site, then these are not counted as placement moves for foster care element #24. The program code checks for whether hospital stays are less than 30 days. If the stay is for less than 30 days, the program code does not include them as placements. There is no State policy that defines acute care as being 30 days. The State will need to determine based on medical practice and insurance guidelines within the state what is considered an acute care stay. For hospital stays beyond this time frame, but shorter than 30 days, include them as a placement setting for this element. Case file review findings: 6 (11%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the error cases, the AFCARS data indicated the child as being in a "group home," but the reviewer found the child was in a "foster family home."
#42 Is Current Placement Out-of-State?	4	

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
1=Yes (Out of State placement) 2=No (In-State placement)		
#43 Most recent case plan goal 1 = Reunify With Parent(s) Or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live With Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	2	Screen: Permanency plan goal Frequency Report (n=2,563): Reunify = 1,156 (45%); Live with Relative(s) = 21 (.82%); Adoption = 342 (13%); Long Term Foster Care = 194 (8%); Emancipation = 0; Guardianship = 47 (2%); Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established = 785 (31%); Not reported = 0; Invalid values = 18 The State does concurrent planning. The input screen contains three fields. The first field is the "permanency plan goal" field. If there is no concurrent plan for the child, the program code extracts the permanency goal entered by the case worker. If the case worker selects "concurrent planning" in the field "permanency plan goal," then they are required to complete the two additional fields "primary permanency goal" and "secondary permanency goal." The selection list includes several old goals that were used by the Children's Mental Health Division. These are: "aid child to live in the family home," "aid child to work or school problems," "obtain skills to live independently within family," and "prevent movement to more restrictive placement." Since these values are no longer used, they should be removed from the selection list. The program code should map these values to blank. The State needs to provide ACF with screen prints showing the drop down lists for "primary permanency goal" and "secondary permanency goal." The program code correctly extracts the "primary permanency goal" if "concurrent" is selected from the "permanency plan goal" field. The program code maps missing data to "not yet established" for records in which the child has been in foster care for 60 days or less. After 60 days, if no case plan goal is

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		entered, this element is correctly mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: Based on the case file review this is not the case. Did the State modify the program code with this requirement after the 2005B data were submitted? The frequency report reflects a difference between the 2005B and 2006A files for the values "not yet established" and missing. Please provide a clarification in the first improvement plan response.* The State maps "post adoptive services" and "prevent alternate placement" to "reunification." The staff indicated that "prevent alternate placement" is a goal used when the child is in his/her own home and is not in foster care. This option should either not be available for selection once the child enters foster care, or it should be mapped to blank. However, if the State uses the option when a child is placed back in his/her own home while under the agency's responsibility for care and placement, then it is appropriate to map it to "reunification." The program code includes the value "COP" for "concurrent planning" and it is mapped to "reunification." This value should be mapped to blank. The State incorrectly maps "permanency placement – other parent" to "live with other relatives." It should be mapped to "reunification." The State value "relative guardianship" is correctly mapped to "live with other relatives." But it is also mapped to "guardianship," which is incorrect. The State's value "legal guardianship – relative" is incorrectly mapped to "guardianship." It should be mapped to "live with relative." The State maps "termination of parental rights" to "guardianship." This is incorrect and it should be mapped to blank because it is not a goal. The Federal team clarified for the State staff that the AFCARS definition of "emancipation" is not a legal one and is not reflective of the legal standing of

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		emancipation. According to the State's definition, policy, and practice related to the goal "long-term foster care, non-relative," this goal should be mapped to AFCARS "emancipation." In Idaho a child is not eligible for Chafee services until he/she is 15 years old. For youth younger than 15, this goal should be mapped to the AFCARS value "long–term foster care." The State should keep their wording and selections on the screen for permanency plan goal related to long term foster care. Case file review findings: 8 (14%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. There were five error cases that had "case plan goal not yet established" in the AFCARS file and the child had been in care for more than 60 days. In one case the child had been in foster care since 2002.
#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	~~2~~ 3	Screens: Family member profile and Person profile Program code: 732N: LNs 1230, 4305-4380, 5870-6080, 4390-4455, 4075-4120, 4465-4540, 4075-4120, 4590-4600, 4545-4585; and, 800N The program code maps missing information to "unable to determine." If the caretaker family structure is unknown, or missing, it should be mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4450 – 4465 and 5650) was modified to map missing data to blank.* Same sex couples may be reported as "unmarried couple" to represent two people from whom the child is removed. Currently the State reports as "single female" or "single male." Case file review findings: 7 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In most instances, "single female" was reported to AFCARS, but the reviewer found the child was removed from a married couple.
#45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	4	Screen: Family Profile This field is initialized to blank.
#46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year (if	4	Screen: Family Profile

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
applicable) ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)		This field is initialized to blank.
#47 Mother's Date of TPR ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	2	Screen: Parent information Program code: 733N, LNs 1225, 2765-2970 The State only records TPR if working towards adoption. This field is initialized to blank. The program code reads the "parental rights terminated" records for this child and then determines the gender of the parent in order to set the date value in this data element if female. Deceased dates are to be reported as TPR dates. The program code does not extract a deceased date. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code now checks for a deceased date. If there is a TPR date prior to the deceased date, the program code will extract the TPR date.* If there are multiple TPR dates, the program code should extract the latest TPR date. Based on the case file review of the foster care and adoption records, there appears to be some confusion as to which date (hearing, signed, or filed) is to be entered into the system. The State should instruct its workers to use the hearing date. Case file review findings: 7 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In three of the error cases, reviewers found dates of TPR, but the AFCARS field was blank. In two of the error cases, the reviewers found a TPR date later than the date reported to AFCARS. In two error cases, the reviewers found TPR dates earlier than information provided in AFCARS.
#48 Legal or Putative Father's TPR	2	Screen: Parent information

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)		Program code: 733N, LNs 1225, 2765-2970 The State only records TPR if working towards adoption. This field is initialized to blank. The program code reads the "parental rights terminated" records for this child and then determines the gender of the parent in order to set the date value in this data element if male. Deceased dates are to be reported as TPR dates. The program code does not extract a deceased date. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code now checks for a deceased date. If there is a TPR date prior to the deceased date, the program code will extract the TPR date.* If there is more than one TPR date, the program code should extract the latest TPR date. In the event that a single female or male adopts a child and is the only legal parent, and there is a subsequent reason to terminate his or her parental rights, there should only be one TPR date. Based on the case file review of the foster care and adoption records, there appears to be some confusion as to which date (hearing, signed, or filed) is to be entered into the system. The State should instruct its workers to use the hearing date.
#49 Foster Family Structure 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	2	Screen: Person Profile; Family member profile Program code: 732N: LNs 5485 The program code is incorrectly initialized to "not applicable." It should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified and is now initialized to blank.*

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		The program code inserts a value other than "not applicable" only if foster care element #41 has a value of "1," "2," or "3" (indicating that the child is in a foster family or pre-adoptive home). *Post site-visit analysis: In the 2006A frequency report, there are 64 more records reported for "not applicable" than there are records of children in a non-foster home setting in element #41. ACF will review the 2006B data to assess a need for other modifications.* The program code maps missing information to "unable to determine." If the foster family structure is unknown, or missing, it should be mapped to blank. "Unable to determine" is not a valid value for this element. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4450 – 4465 and 5650) was modified to map missing data to blank.* Same sex couples may be reported as "unmarried couple" to represent two people from whom the child is removed. Currently, the State reports as "single female" or "single male." Case file review findings: 7 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The errors were due to the incorrect information reported for the current placement setting. The reviewers found that the child was placed in a foster home and not a group home as reported. Therefore, the foster family information was also incorrect.
#50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3	Screens: Family Profile and Person profile This field is initialized to blank. Case file review findings: 7 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The errors were due to the incorrect information reported for the current placement setting. The reviewers found that the child was placed in a foster home and not a group home as reported. Therefore, the foster family information was also incorrect.
#51 2nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3	Screen: Person profile

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		Frequency report: For the number of married and unmarried couples reported in element #49, this element is missing 5 dates of birth. This field is initialized to blank.
#52 1st Foster Caretaker's Race 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	2	Screen: Person Profile There are six fields on the screen for the entry of race information. The first field on the person profile screen lists: Multiple; Alaskan Native, American Indian, Black/African American, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander, Unable to Determine and White. If "multiple" is selected, then another screen appears that contains five race fields. Each of these selection boxes includes the same list of options, including "unable to determine." The worker can enter a race and enter "unable to determine." The State needs to modify the selection list so that "unable to determine" and a race cannot both be selected. One option is to remove "unable to determine" from the five additional selection boxes and only list it on the first selection list. The person profile screen cannot be saved without race information being entered. The State incorrectly maps Filipino to AFCARS "native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander." It should be mapped to "Asian." *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to correctly map "Filipino" to "Asian."* The program code incorrectly maps "other" to AFCARS "unable to determine." *Post site-visit analysis: The option "other" has been removed from the program code.* ACF strongly encourages the State to address how this element is to be self-reported by clients in training with caseworkers. The State may want to add the option "decline" in order to better track when an individual

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		refuses to provide their race information.
#53 1st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic or Latino Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	~~2~~ 3	Frequency Report (n=2563): Not applicable = 629 (25%); Yes = 136 (5%); No = 1,707 (67%); Unable to determine = 91 (4%); Not reported = 0 *Frequency Report 2006A (n=2622): Not applicable = 665 (25%); Yes = 158 (6%); No = 1,733 (66%); Unable to determine = 66 (3%); Not reported = 0* This field is initialized to "0." It should be initialized to blank. The screen provided to ACF for the AFCARS review included the option "not classifiable." This option was not in the program code sent to ACF. The State indicated the screen was recently updated and no longer includes this option. The program code reviewed was modified accordingly. In the program code, blank is mapped to AFCARS "unable to determine." Missing data are to be mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4325) no longer maps missing data to "unable to determine."*
#54 2nd Foster Caretaker's Race (if applicable) 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	2	Screen: Person Profile There are six fields on the screen for the entry of race information. The first field on the person profile screen lists: Multiple; Alaskan Native, American Indian, Black/African American, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander, Unable to Determine and White. If "multiple" is selected, then another screen appears that contains five race fields. Each of these selection boxes includes the same list of options, including "unable to determine." The worker can enter a race and enter "unable to determine." The State needs to modify the selection list so that "unable to determine" and a race cannot both be selected. One option is to remove "unable to determine" from the five additional selection boxes and only list it on the first selection list. The person profile screen cannot be saved without race information being entered.

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		The State incorrectly maps Filipino to AFCARS "native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander." It should be mapped to "Asian." *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to correctly map "Filipino" to "Asian."* The program code incorrectly maps "other" to AFCARS "unable to determine." *Post site-visit analysis: The option "other" has been removed from the program code.* ACF strongly encourages the State to address how this element is to be self-reported by clients in training with caseworkers. The State may want to add the option "decline" in order to better track when an individual refuses to provide their race information.
#55 2nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin [0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	3	Frequency Report (n=2563): Not applicable = 1,036 (40%); Yes = 117 (5%); No = 1,336 (52%); Unable to determine = 74 (3%); Not reported = 0 *Frequency Report 2006A (n=2622): Not applicable = 1,098 (42%); Yes = 111 (4%); No = 1,348 (66%); Unable to determine = 65 (3%); Not reported = 0* This field is initialized to "0." It should be initialized to blank. The screen provided to ACF for the AFCARS review included the option "not classifiable." This option was not in the program code sent to ACF. The State indicated the screen was recently updated and no longer includes this option. The program code reviewed was modified accordingly. In the program code, blank is mapped to AFCARS "unable to determine." Missing data are to be mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4325) no longer maps missing data to "unable to determine."*
#56 Date of Discharge from foster care ___(mo) ___ (day)____(year)	2	Screen: Removal episode profile Program code: 732N, LNs 2180-2185 The screen is used to record both the placement information and the placement end

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		reason. In the "end placement reason" list there are outcome reasons associated with discharge. If the case worker selects one of these reasons, a pop-up window appears asking whether this is really the end of the removal episode, yes/no. If the worker selects yes, then this will end the removal episode and the reason is mapped to element #58 and the date to element #56. This field is initialized to blank. The value reported for this element is the end date of the last removal period that occurred prior to the end of the reporting period. For children that turn 18, the State is to report them as discharged as of their 18th birthday and set the discharge reason as "emancipation," unless another goal is appropriate. The State needs to modify the system/program code to allow case workers to discharge the case on the person's 18th birthday and end the removal episode. The State staff indicated there is not a specified period of time defined by policy or statute for the length of time a trial home visit can last. Judges often will specify that the child be returned home under the agency's responsibility for placement and care and the case will be reviewed at the next periodic review hearing. However, a specified time is not always indicated by the judge. The State is reporting the case as opened and the placement as a trial home visit until the judge dismisses the custody order. The State needs to develop a way to report these children as discharged in the event a child is returned to his/her own home for a non-specified period of time and the time at home is six months or more.
#57 Date of Discharge Transaction Date	4	
#58 Reason for Discharge [0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary	2	Screen: Removal episode profile Program code: 732N, LNs 2180-2205, 5190-5340 Frequency report: The number of records reported with a date of discharge in element

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
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		#56 equal the number of records with a discharge reason in element #58. The screen is used to record both the placement information and the placement end reason. In the "end placement reason" list there are outcome reasons associated with discharge. If the case worker selects one of these reasons, a pop-up window appears asking whether this is really the end of the removal episode, yes/no. If the worker selects yes, then this will end the removal episode and the reason is mapped to element #58 and the date to element #56. There is an option on the screen of "order vacated," which is mapped to "reunify." The State noted that there can be other reasons for the order to be vacated by the judge. Since this is a broad category, the State should remove it from the option list and replace it with the actual reasons for the order being vacated. The program code must be modified to map this option to blank. The State can run a report to see how many of the records would have been blank and follow up on its use. The program code initializes this element to "blank" and changes the element only if the user entered one of the State codes that maps to a valid AFCARS value. The program code ensures that if this element has a response, then the date of discharge from foster care data element will contain a date. The discharge reason "relative guardianship" is incorrectly mapped to "live with other relative." If the family receives legal guardianship of the child, then the discharge reason must be "guardianship." The State should provide footnotes on how many of the guardianships reported are relative guardianships. For children that turn 18, the State is to report them as discharged as of their 18th birthday and set the discharge reason as "emancipation," unless another goal is appropriate. The State needs to modify the system/program code to allow case workers to discharge the case on the person's 18th birthday and end the removal episode.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements
State: Idaho
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005 (2005B)

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
Source(s) of Federal financial support/assistance for child		Elements #59 – 65 are initialized to "does not apply." The program code that extracts the information for elements #59 – 65 is based on an invoice date. However, the invoice may not be paid until the first month of the next report period. The AFCARS elements #59-65 is to reflect Federal sources of income on behalf of the child during the six-month reporting period. The payment/benefit can be for less than a full month and still qualify as "applies" for any one of these elements.
#59 Title IV-E (Foster Care) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	Program code: 731N, LNs 3360-3410, 1300 The code excludes any invoice for which the service was performed completely outside the reporting period range. The code sets this element to "applies" if the rainy day fund source code = IVE and the service task code is not "subsidy." If a child is determined to be eligible for title IV-E for the last month of the report period, but the payment is not made until the first month of the next report period, this element should be set to "applies." *Post site-visit analysis: The State and ACF need to further discuss the method the State implemented in code for this correction (733n, LN5610).*
#60 Title IV-E (Adoption Subsidy) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	The State does make adoption subsidy payments to the pre-adoptive parents prior to the finalization of the adoption. The program code includes children that have been adopted. It looks for both an old client ID and a new client ID. The program code needs to be modified so that it only checks for the old client ID. *Post site-visit analysis: The State and ACF need to discuss.*
#61 Title IV-A (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	The code sets this element to "applies" if the "rainy day" fund source code = "TNF" and the service task code is not "subsidy." The State staff indicated this represents an Emergency Assistance payment; not the TANF payment. Emergency Assistance funds are used for the first 90 days of a relative placement. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (733n, LN5295) was modified to map the value "TNF" to element #65.*

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		The State staff indicated that if the child is placed with a relative and the relative caretaker is not receiving a foster care payment, they do not have a means to find out if the relative applied for TANF on behalf of the child. Therefore, this element is not capturing if title IV – A, TANF is a source of income for the child.
#62 Title IV-D (Child Support) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	Screen: Invoice showing funding source The code sets this element to "applies" if the rainy day fund source code = "TRO" and the service task code is not "subsidy." The State staff indicated that "TRO" might include funds other than child support. These other trust funds must be mapped to element #65. The State staff indicated they do plan to enhance this element and to tease out the different trust payment sources.
#63 Title XIX (Medicaid) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	4	Screen: Eligibility Summary List
#64 SSI or other Social Security Act Benefits 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	Screen: Invoice showing funding source, SSI Medical Determination Profile The program code checks for invoices that have been paid for periods that start exactly on the first day of a month and whose invoice periods end on exactly the last day of the same month on which they started (i.e., exactly one month in duration.) The program code excludes all other invoices from consideration in determining the value of this data element. The code excludes any invoice for which the service was performed completely outside the reporting period range. The code checks that the payment has been made, but it does not check when the payment was made. The timing conditions are based exclusively on the invoice start and end dates, and not the payment dates.
#65 None of the Above	2	Screen: Invoice showing funding source

AFCARS Data Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
0-Does not apply 1-Applies		The code sets this element to "applies" if the service task code is not "subsidy" and the rainy day fund source code is not equal to one of the codes "IVE," "TRO," "TNF," "TRI" or "TRA." Additionally, this element should be mapped independently from elements #61- 64. If a funding source other than those that are indicated by elements #61-64 is found, this element should be set to "applies." State uses emergency assistance funds to pay the first 90 days of care. EA must be mapped to element #65. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (733n, LN5295) was modified to map the value "TNF" to element #65.*
#66 Amount Of Monthly Foster Care Payment (regardless of source)	~~2~~ 4	The program code checks for invoices that have been paid for invoice periods that start exactly on the first day of a month and whose invoice periods end on exactly the last day of the same month on which they started (i.e., exactly one month in duration.) The program code excludes all other invoices from consideration in determining the value of this data element. The code excludes any invoice for which the service was performed completely outside the reporting period range. This element contains the payment amount of the invoice for a full month invoice.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Idaho
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005 (2005B)

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
#1 State FIPS Code	4	The correct FIPS code for the State of Idaho, 16, is hard-coded in the program code.
#2 Report Period End Date	4	The report date is derived from a user supplied date at the time the AFCARS report is generated.
#3 Record Number	4	
#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	Frequency Report: There is one record reported as "no." The state has since amended the program code. The program code checks for any service having been provided to the child prior to or after adoption. If a service record is found, this element is set to "yes." If not found, this element is set to "no."
#5 Child Date of Birth	4	The program code retrieves the birth date entered by the user in the Person Profile screen.
#6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	4	
#7 Child Race a = American Indian or Alaska Native b = Asian c = Black or African American d = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander e = White f = Unable to Determine	2	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732N, LNs 0945, 3960-4025, 4090-4100, 4135 and 800A, LNs 1180-1570 There are six fields on the screen for the entry of race information. The first field on the person profile screen lists: Multiple; Alaskan Native, American Indian, Black/African American, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander, Unable to Determine and White. If "multiple" is selected, then another screen appears that contains five race fields. Each of these selection boxes includes the same list of options, including "unable to determine." The worker can enter a race and enter "unable to determine." The State needs to modify the selection list so that "unable to determine" and a race cannot both be selected. One option is to remove "unable to determine" from the five additional

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		selection boxes and only list it on the first selection list. The person profile screen cannot be saved without race information being entered. The State incorrectly maps Filipino to AFCARS "native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander." It should be mapped to "Asian." *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to correctly map "Filipino" to "Asian."* The program code incorrectly maps "other" to AFCARS "unable to determine." *Post site-visit analysis: The option "other" has been removed from the program code.* ACF strongly encourages the State to address how this element is to be self-reported by clients in training with caseworkers. The State may consider the use of "decline" as an option in order to better track when an individual refuses to provide their race information. Case file review findings: 3 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS for American Indian. The reviewer found that it should have been reported as an additional race. In four (13%) of the cases, "white" should have been reported as an additional race.
#8 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	~~2~~ 3	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732N LN 4035, 4235-4290; 4040 Frequency (n=74): Yes = 9 (12%); No = 65 (88%); Unable to determine = 0 The screen provided to ACF for the AFCARS review included the option "not classifiable." This option was not in the program code sent to ACF. The State indicated that the screen has been recently updated and no longer includes this option. The program code reviewed has already been modified accordingly.

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		In the program code, blank is mapped to AFCARS "unable to determine." Missing data are to be mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4325) no longer maps missing data to "unable to determine."* Case file review findings: 3 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In each case the child was reported as not being Hispanic but the reviewer found that he or she was identified by a parent as being Hispanic.
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs? 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	Screen: Eligibility Profile for Adoption Subsidy; Field: Eligibility Factors Frequency Report (n=74): Yes = 71 (96%); No = 3 (4%) The program code checks for IV-E or State subsidy eligibility and if found, checks that a special need has been entered for the child. If both conditions are met, this element is set to "yes." If not, this element is set to "no."
#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 State Defined Special Needs	2	Screen: Eligibility Profile for Adoption Subsidy; Field: Eligibility Factors Frequency Report (n=74): Not applicable = 3; Race = 0; Age =48 (64.86%); Sibling group = 1 (1%); Medical, etc. = 10 (14%); Other = 12 (16%) The field contains the options: behavioral needs; age; close emotional ties; physical needs; sibling group; and psychological/social. The State noted in its documentation that race is no longer used in the State as a primary basis for special needs. Case workers can indicate all bases for special needs, but are not able to indicate which is the primary basis. During the onsite review, staff indicated there is a draft revision of this field. They explained it will be a multiple selection box and the worker can select all applicable special needs. The case worker will highlight the primary basis for special needs. The program code needs to be changed once the screen is implemented.

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		The program code checks for the special needs values in a specific order (beginning with age) and stops once it finds one and maps it to the appropriate AFCARS value. This is why there are such a large number of cases with "age" as the primary basis for special needs. Also, see the findings from the case file review. There were several records with "age," but also "sibling group" and/or diagnosed conditions were also found. The State has additional reasons for determining special needs (i.e., at risk for health/mental health conditions) that are not on the selection screen. These need to be included and mapped to the value "other State defined special need." Currently, at-risk factors are incorrectly reported as a diagnosed condition. Case file review findings: 5 (21%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. One error case was reported as "age," but the reviewer found the reason was "medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities." In two error cases, the AFCARS file indicated "medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities," but the child was at-risk for one of these conditions. In two error cases, the AFCARS indicated "other," but the reviewer found diagnosed conditions.
#11 - 15		If the response to element #10 is other than medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities, then elements #11 – 15 must be blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (742n, LN 1770) was modified to set elements #11 – 15 to blank if the response to element #10 is not the AFCARS value "4."* Case file review findings: There were 11 cases reported as "age" and one of the elements #11 – 15 were reported as "applies."
#11 Mental Retardation	~~2~~ 3	This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."*

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Mental Retardation" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from either of two slightly different sets of State codes in the Multi-axial Diagnosis Assessment screen or the Education Evaluation screen. The mapping for this element is correct.
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	~~2~~ 3	This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."* The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Visual, Hearing Impaired" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from a slightly different set of State codes in the Education Evaluation screen. The mapping for this element is correct.
#13 Physically Disabled	~~2~~ 3	This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."* The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Physically Disabled" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from a slightly different set of State codes in the Education Evaluation screen. The mapping for this element is correct.
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	2	This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."*

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any of the State codes listed in the "Emotionally Disturbed ICD-9" mapping table in the Health Conditions screen. It also sets the value to "applies" if the user selects from either of two slightly different sets of State codes in the Multi-axial Diagnosis Assessment screen or the Education Evaluation screen. The State's document "AFCARS Diagnosis Mapping," and the program code, indicates that "autism" is mapped to "emotionally disturbed." In the documents previously sent to ACF, the State showed this mapped correctly to element #15. Modify the program code to map "autism" to element #15. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to map "autism" to "other diagnosed condition."* If the State includes "post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," map it to element #14. Currently, it is mapped to element #15. See notes in element #15. Case file review findings: 3 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	2	This field is initialized to "does not apply." This field should be initialized to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. If no appropriate diagnoses are found, it is set to "does not apply."* The program code sets this data element to "applies" if a diagnosis exists and the user selects any State code not listed for the other conditions in data elements #11-14, in any of the Health Conditions, Multi-axial Diagnosis Assessment, or Education Evaluation screens. There is not a separate listing of diagnosed conditions. The State needs to identify only those diagnoses that are to be mapped to this element. Currently, the State's method of mapping for this element

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		is including a very wide range of diagnoses, based on the case file review, which includes some that should not be included in AFCARS. Also, any diagnosed behavioral or emotional condition that is not in the mapping for element #14 is getting mapped to element #15. There are several that should be mapped to element #14. Case file review findings: 18 (64%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#16 Mother's Birth Year	4	This field is initialized to blank.
#17 Father's Birth Year	4	This field is initialized to blank.
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	The State collects this information on its adoption screens. This question should be part of the person profile or an assessment screen. It is information that should be collected closer to the beginning of a case. Case file review findings: 6 (20%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In four of the error cases, the AFCARS indicated "no," but the reviewer found that the mother was married at the time of the child's birth. In two error cases, the mother was not married and the AFCARS file indicated "yes."
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	2	This field is initialized to blank. The program code reads the "parental rights terminated" records for the child and then determines the gender of the parent in order to set the date value. Deceased dates are to be reported as TPR dates. The program code does not extract a deceased date. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code now checks for a deceased date. If there is a TPR date prior to the deceased date, the program code will extract the TPR date.* If there are multiple TPR dates, the program code should extract the latest TPR date.

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		Based on the case file review of the foster care and adoption records there appears to be some confusion as to which date (hearing, signed, or filed) is to be entered into the system. The State should instruct its workers to use the hearing date. Case file review findings: 8 (27%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#20 Date of Father's TPR	2	This field is initialized to blank. The program code reads the "parental rights terminated" records for this child and then determines the gender of the parent in order to set the date value. Deceased dates are to be reported as TPR dates. The program code does not extract a deceased date. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code now checks for a deceased date. If there is a TPR date prior to the deceased date, the program code will extract the TPR date.* If there are multiple TPR dates, the program code should extract the latest TPR date. In the event that a single female or male adopts a child and is the only legal parent, and there is a subsequent reason to terminate his or her parental rights, there should only be one TPR date. Based on the case file review of the foster care and adoption records there appears to be some confusion as to which date (hearing, signed, or filed) is to be entered into the system. The State should instruct its workers to use the hearing date. Case file review findings: 5 (17%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. It appears from the data reported to AFCARS and from the reviewer's notes that the latest TPR date for all fathers is being reported to AFCARS.

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	4	Screen: Legal status summary
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	4	
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	4	The value for this data element is obtained from the client info data after the relationship to the child is confirmed.
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	4	The value for this data element is obtained from the client info data after the relationship to the child is confirmed.
#25 Adoptive Mother's Race a = American Indian or Alaskan Native b = Asian c = Black or African American d = Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander e = White f = Unable to Determine	2	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732N, LNs 0945, 3960-4025, 4090-4100, 4135; and, 800A, LNs 1180-1570 There are six fields on the screen for the entry of race information. The first field on the person profile screen lists: Multiple; Alaskan Native, American Indian, Black/African American, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander, Unable to Determine and White. If "multiple" is selected, then another screen appears that contains five race fields. Each of these selection boxes includes the same list of options, including "unable to determine." The worker can enter a race and enter "unable to determine." The State needs to modify the selection list so that "unable to determine" and a race cannot both be selected. One option is to remove "unable to determine" from the five additional selection boxes and only list it on the first selection list. The person profile screen cannot be saved without race information being entered. The State incorrectly maps Filipino to AFCARS "native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander." It should be mapped to "Asian." *Post site-visit analysis: The program*

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		code was modified to correctly map "Filipino" to "Asian." The program code incorrectly maps "other" to AFCARS "unable to determine." *Post site-visit analysis: The option "other" has been removed from the program code.* ACF strongly encourages the State to address how this element is to be self-reported by clients in training with caseworkers. The State may consider the use of "decline" as an option in order to better track when an individual refuses to provide their race information.
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	~~2~~ 3	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732N LN 4035, 4235-4290; 4040 The screen provided to ACF for the AFCARS review included the option "not classifiable." This option was not in the program code sent to ACF. The State indicated that the screen has been recently updated and no longer includes this option. The program code reviewed has already been modified accordingly. In the program code, blank is mapped to AFCARS "unable to determine." Missing data are to be mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4325) no longer maps missing data to "unable to determine."*
#27 Adoptive Father's Race a = American Indian or Alaskan Native b = Asian c = Black or African American d = Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander e = White f = Unable to Determine	2	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732N, LNs 0945, 3960-4025, 4090-4100, 4135; and, 800A LNs 1180-1570 There are six fields on the screen for the entry of race information. The first field on the person profile screen lists: Multiple; Alaskan Native, American Indian, Black/African American, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander, Unable to Determine and White. If "multiple" is selected, then another screen appears that contains five race fields. Each of these selection boxes

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		includes the same list of options, including "unable to determine." The worker can enter a race and enter "unable to determine." The State needs to modify the selection list so that "unable to determine" and a race cannot both be selected. One option is to remove "unable to determine" from the five additional selection boxes and only list it on the first selection list. The person profile screen cannot be saved without race information being entered. The State incorrectly maps Filipino to AFCARS "native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander." It should be mapped to "Asian." *Post site-visit analysis: The program code was modified to correctly map "Filipino" to "Asian."* The program code incorrectly maps "other" to AFCARS "unable to determine." *Post site-visit analysis: The option "other" has been removed from the program code.* ACF strongly encourages the State to address how this element is to be self-reported by clients in training with caseworkers. The State may consider the use of "decline" as an option in order to better track when an individual refuses to provide their race information.
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin	~~2~~ 3	Screen: Person Profile Program code: 732N, LNs 4035, 4235-4290; 4040 The screen provided to ACF for the AFCARS review included the option "not classifiable." This option was not in the program code sent to ACF. The State indicated that the screen has been recently updated and no longer includes this option. The program code reviewed has already been modified accordingly. The frequencies for 2006A data should reflect the change. The State will provide ACF with an updated screen print.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Idaho
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005 (2005B)

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		In the program code, blank is mapped to AFCARS "unable to determine." Missing data are to be mapped to blank. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (732n, LN 4325) no longer maps missing data to "unable to determine."*
#29 –32 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies		Case file review findings: There were several instances in which all relationships were not reported. The one with the most errors was "foster parent."
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child – Stepparent	3	
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative	3	
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	3	
#32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative	3	
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	2	The program code is hard-coded to the value of "within state." The State is able to pick up "placed from another country," but there are enhancements that need to be made. The system and/or program code will need to be revised in order to report "another State."
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	2	The program code assigns only the values "public agency" or "private agency" for this data element. It needs to be changed to allow for "tribal agency," "independent person," or "birth parent" as well. *Post site-visit analysis: The program code (742n, LN 7620) was modified to include only Tribal agency.*
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy	~~3~~ 4	Screen: Service Request and Adoption Subsidy

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Idaho
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005 (2005B)

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
1=Yes 2=No		The adoption subsidy screen includes fields for the application date, the agreement date, a review date, the amount, start and end dates. There also is a checkbox for both "Medicaid" and "non-pay." If the service request/adoption subsidy screens are completed, the program code maps this element to "yes." If the agreement is for "Medicaid" only, this element is mapped to "yes."
#36 Monthly Amount	~~3~~ 4	Screen: Subsidy service request/Invoice showing Funding Source
#37 Adoption Assistance IV-E 1=Yes 2=No	~~4~~ 3	Screen: Adoption subsidy eligibility profile *Post site-visit analysis: In the 2006A data file, there were invalid values reported in 17 records. The State needs to explain what value is being extracted, and make corrections.*