

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Missouri

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
#1 State	4	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-STATE</p> <p><u>Extraction Code Para 3000, LN 011170</u> The value of "29" is correctly hard-coded in the program code.</p>
#2 Report Date ___(mo) ___ (year)	4	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-RPT-PER-END-DT</p> <p><u>Extraction Code Para 1500, LNs 5850-6220, 6880-7280; Para 4500 LNs 32360-32400</u> The program code calculates the most recent standard AFCARS report period end date prior to the current date (the run date). In a later section of program code, labeled as "temporary," a hard-coded date entered by the programmer prior to compilation, overwrites the reported date for this element.</p>
#3 Local Agency (County or Equivalent Jurisdiction)	4	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-COUNTY</p>
#4 Record Number	4	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-RECORD-NBR</p> <p><u>Extraction Code LNs 11190-11850</u> The State assigns a unique Departmental Client Number (DCN ID) for each child. Every one in a case gets a DCN. This number remains with the person always.</p> <p>There also is a "call no." that gets assigned. A call number is a case number. The DCN is associated with an individual and is shared across agencies.</p>
#5 Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (if applicable) ___(mo) ___ (day)___(year)	2	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-REC-PERDIC-REV-DT</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Family Support Team Meeting Information and Court Information/ Permanency Hearing There is a checkbox in the Family Support Team Meeting (FST) section for the care worker to indicate if this is a Permanency Planning Review Team Meeting (PPRT).</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are records with review dates between 1997 and 2007 (2%). The State may want to identify the records with the old review dates and determine if these are actually closed foster care cases that were never entered as discharges on the system, or if there is another contributing factor causing the old dates. These old dates</p>

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		<p>may be from the cases of youth over the age of 18 and/or 19.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 11 (18%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS¹.</p> <p><u>Policy/Practice Notes</u> The FST meetings are held within the first 24 hours of a child coming into foster care then again at 72 hours, 30 days, and then every 30 days thereafter to ensure that the plan for the child and family is appropriate. Every 6 months, the FST meeting also qualifies as a PPRT (an outside third-party reviewer participates and provides an impartial assessment). The State team indicated that workers were checking the box to indicate that a particular FST meeting also qualified as a PPRT, but then they were failing to take the next step and actually complete the PPRT screen. There now is a message that appears on the screen message the moment a worker adds an FST and checks the PPRT box that reminds the worker to complete the final step. All reviews after the Permanency Review must be held in court.</p> <p>The State is reporting all types of hearing dates, not just those that meet the meet the section 422(b)(8)(ii) and 475(5)(B) of the Social Security Act standards. Based on the State’s definition, a dispositional hearing review does not meet the requirements for a periodic review.</p> <p>The errors found during the case file review reflect the issues noted above.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3100, LN 012220)</u> The field is correctly initialized to blanks.</p> <p>The program code checks for the most recent PPRT date prior to the end of the reporting period from the FST meeting table. It then checks for the most recent court order date. The program code reports the more recent of the two dates (PPRT date or court order date).</p>

¹ See *Case File Review Findings Matrix* for detailed findings regarding the error cases.

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		<p>The program code does not restrict the review date to be after the start of the removal episode (element #21). Modify the program code to check for dates after element #21.</p> <p>The State’s values for this element are incorrect. The only review types that are appropriate for this element are “permanency hearing.” When modifying the extraction code, the State will need to exclude the FST dates that do not meet the requirements of section 422(b)(8)(ii) and 475(5)(B) of the Social Security Act (those held before the child is in care for six months).</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications (LNs 1195-1307)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section of code has been removed that set this element to blank if the child has not been in care for more than nine months. • The program code now checks the FST meeting history table instead of the FST meeting table. • The program code has been modified to only include the court types of "permanency hearing" and "dispositional hearing." However, based on what the State team indicated during the review, a “dispositional hearing” does not meet the requirements for a periodic review. • The program code now requires that the creation timestamp for a FST meeting or a hearing date be within the report period. Why was the condition added that looks within the report period instead of just looking for a date prior to the end of the report period?
<p>#6 Child Birth Date</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-CHL-DOB</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual</p> <p>There is a field “role” that identifies whose information is being entered and displayed.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 381 records of youth more than 18 years of age (6%).</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200, LN 013290</u></p> <p>The program code reports the date of birth of the child from the individual table. The default value is blank.</p>

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		This element is rated a “3” because of the need for corrections to the reporting population. The technical corrections will be implemented under foster care elements #56 and #58. (See General Requirements item #8 and foster care elements #56 and #58.)
<p>#7 Child Sex</p> <p>1 = Male 2 = Female</p>	4	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-CHL-SEX</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual There is a field “role” that identifies whose information is being entered and displayed.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200, LN 013380</u> The program code reports the sex of the child by mapping the State's code in the individual table to the corresponding AFCARS value. The default value is blank.</p>
<p>#8 Child’s Race</p> <p>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</p> <p>0 = Does not apply 1 = Apply</p>	2 3	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-CHL-RACE</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual There is a field “role” that identifies whose information is being entered and displayed.</p> <p>This information is collected in the common database and is carried over to the FACES screen. Multiple races and “unable to determine” can be selected from the common area. There is an error message that appears if “unable to determine” and a race are both selected, and the screen information cannot be saved.</p> <p>The FACES screen appears to only display one race. If the child is multi-racial all races should be displayed.</p> <p>The State may want to change the language from “unable to determine” to “abandoned” so that it is clear to the case worker when it is a suitable option.</p> <p>The State may want to consider including the option “declined” or “refused” to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide the race of the child, or if age appropriate their own race.</p>

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		<p>Since NYTD data collection will begin October 1, 2010 and includes the values of “unknown” and “declined” the State may want to go ahead and add “abandoned” to its options. Also, since the NYTD definition of “unknown” encompasses two situations in which it can be used, the State may want to use language on the screen that is more meaningful to the worker. Such as, “incapacitated” and multi-racial-other race not known. These would then map in NYTD to “unknown.”</p> <p>Mapping of NYTD race values for AFCARS reporting purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > if a person refuses/declines to provide the worker with his/her, or the parent declines to provide, race, then decline would map to the AFCARS value “f.” > if a child is abandoned and there is no one available to provide the race of the child, then abandoned would be mapped to the AFCARS value “f.” > if a child, youth, or parent, is incapacitated and unable to provide the worker with race information, the worker would select “incapacitated/unknown.” This value would be mapped be to the AFCARS value “f.” > if a person is multi-racial, but does not know the other race(s), the worker would select “multi-racial-other race not known/unknown,” this value would then be mapped to blank and only the known race would be reported in AFCARS. <p>(See the NYTD questions and answers on the Children’s Bureau’s web page regarding mapping for NYTD and AFCARS race.)</p> <p>The State indicated they will probably make the changes on the FACES screen and bring the data over from the common database then have the case workers update the information.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200, LN 013440</u> This field is incorrectly initialized to zeroes.</p> <p>Missing data are incorrectly reported as zeros for races and “unable to determine” as applies.</p> <p>The program code maps distinct State variables to each of the six race elements, thereby allowing multiple races to be reported.</p>

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		<p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize the child's race elements to blank instead of zeroes. The program code checks if the worker entered "yes" or "no" for each race element and maps the response to the corresponding AFCARS value. Any values other than "yes" or "no" are mapped to blank (LNs 1312-1399).</p>
<p>#9 Hispanic/Latino Origin</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-CHL-HISP-LAT</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200, LN 013700</u> The program code maps the State values of "yes" and "no" to the corresponding AFCARS values.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly defaults to “unable to determine.”</p> <p>The State may want to change the language from “unable to determine” to “abandoned” so that it is clear to the case worker when it is a suitable option.</p> <p>The State may want to consider including the option “declined” or “refused” to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide this information.</p> <p>The State may want to add terminology that would also be reflective of an incapacitated parent. (Also see notes regarding NYTD definitions and AFCARS.)</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. The program code checks if the worker entered "yes," "no," or "unable to determine" and maps the response to the corresponding AFCARS value. All other State values are mapped to blank (LNs 1401-1416).</p>
<p>#10 Has the child been clinically diagnosed as having a disability(ies)?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-CLINIC-DIAGNOSE</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic]</p>

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<p>1=Yes 2=No 3=Not yet Determined</p> <p>If yes, indicate each type of a disability with a "1."</p>		<p>Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details There also are Physical Health Information, Mental Health Information, and a Medical Examination History sections within the screen.</p> <p>There is a section (Evaluated Disability Conditions) where the five AFCARS disability categories are listed. The worker selects a severity level for each applicable category (1, mild, 2 moderate, 3 severe, or 4 not yet evaluated)." There is not a question on the screen asking whether the child has a "diagnosed condition."</p> <p>Modifications are needed to the screen/system to collect more diagnosed conditions and the dates of the diagnosed conditions. The State needs to remove the categories and only use the diagnosed condition. The State may want to consider adding screen edits that checks if the child is being placed in a therapeutic foster care setting and no diagnoses are entered. If this is the case then a placement cannot be entered. The State also needs to develop and implement a method to ensure that this data is reviewed and updated.</p> <p>For a new removal episode, the screen for evaluated disability condition fills with conditions from the previous removal episode. The worker must remember to update these conditions for a new removal. There is an update time stamp in the database record for this field, but it does not allow the worker to enter the dates during which the conditions were valid.</p> <p>Frequency Report (n=12,014): Yes = 3,934 (33%); No = 5,932 (49%); Not yet determined = 2,142 (18%); Not reported = 6 (.05%)</p> <p>Case File Review Findings: 21 (32%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. Fifteen of these records should have had a response of "yes." There were eleven of the cases reported as "not yet determined" yet the child had been in care for several months. The use of this value indicates that a child has not had any type of health exam.</p> <p><u>Program Code, Para 3200 LN 013800</u></p>

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		This element is derived from elements #11 -15. If a 4 (not yet evaluated) is present for the categories, this element is set to "not yet determined." If elements 11-15 have not been set to "applies" or "not yet evaluated," then this element is set to "no."
11-15 - Diagnosed Conditions		<p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p>The screen only contains the AFCARS categories and not actual diagnosed conditions.</p> <p>There are no dates associated with diagnosed conditions.</p> <p>The case worker indicates whether the condition is mild (1), moderate (2) or severe (3).</p> <p>The program code checks for whether the condition is mild, moderate or severe and if one is selected, the element is set to "yes."</p> <p>Based on the case file review workers are not selecting the correct AFCARS category for some medical conditions. This is one reason for having actual diagnosed conditions in the system and the worker can check the one that was made by a health care professional. For additional information regarding diagnosed conditions see AFCARS Technical Bulletin #14.</p>
#11 Mental Retardation	2	
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	2	
#13 Physically Disabled	2	
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	2	
#15 Other Medically Diagnosed Conditions Requiring Special Care	2	
#16 Has this child ever been adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2 3	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): Yes = 394 (3.28%); No = 11,527 (96%); Unable to determine = 68 (.57%); Not reported = 25 (.21%)</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p>

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		<p>The system currently does not collect the information that must be reported under section 422(b)(12) of the Social Security Act (the Act). This section of the Act relates to inter-country adoptions and requires States to identify the number of children who were adopted from other countries and entered into the State’s custody, the reasons for the disruptions or dissolutions, the permanency plan for the children, and identify the agencies that handled the placement or adoption. States are currently required to provide this information in the Five-Year Child and Family Services plan, and annually in the Annual Progress and Services Report. The State may want to consider adding fields to enable the collection of information needed for reporting this information.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200 LN 014600, 014930</u> Missing data are incorrectly mapped to “unable to determine.”</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to map missing data to blank (LNs 1502, 1535-1547).</p>
<p>#17 If yes, how old was the child when the adoption was legalized?</p> <p>[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</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): Not applicable = 11,595 (97%); Unable to determine = 45; Age categories = 349 (2.91%); Not reported = 25</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p>An age can be entered into this field even if the answer to the question “has this child ever been adopted?” is “no.”</p> <p>If an age is not known, but the child had been previously adopted, then this element is to be left blank.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200 LN 014600, 015040:</u> “Other” is defined as “unable to determine” in the code table.</p> <p>Missing data are incorrectly mapped to “not applicable.”</p> <p>The program code is not checking for the relationship between responses in 16 and 17.</p>

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		<p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to check the value of foster care element #16 before setting the values for element #17. If element #16 is "yes," the program code now maps the State codes for age ranges to the appropriate AFCARS values. If the field is blank, this element is set to blank. If element #16 is "no," the program code now maps element #17 to "not applicable." If element #16 is "unable to determine" the code maps #17 to "unable to determine" (LNs 1502, 1535-1547).</p>
#18 - 22		<p>The extraction code looks at the legal status table and for "AC," if active, pending or closed, and if the date is not after the end of the report period.</p>
<p>#18 Date of First Removal from Home ____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 14 (22%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370, 015450</u> The system correctly reports removal episodes that occurred prior to an adoption.</p> <p>When the legal status changes, there is coding within the screen logic that will set the date to the prior day.</p> <p>The date of first removal is extracted from function history table and the date of latest removal is extracted from legal status table. The State needs to evaluate whether this is producing inconsistent data (issue of dates of first removal occurring after discharge of a prior removal episode).</p> <p>If a child's first placement at the time the agency removes the child or is given responsibility for placement and care is a hospital or a locked facility, the child is not to be included in the AFCARS population (see General Requirements #1).</p> <p>If the child's first ever removal from home included an initial placement in a locked facility or a hospital prior to being placed in a foster care setting that is within the scope of title IV-E of the Social Security Act, the date of the foster setting is to always be used as the child's first ever removal from home date.</p>

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		<p><u>Post site-visit modification:</u> The program code was modified to extract both the date of first removal and the date of latest removal from the legal status table. (LNs 1592-1727).</p>
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	2	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 3 (5%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. While the number of error cases was not significant, the issues for the errors may be related to the issues in elements #18 and #21.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370</u> The system correctly reports removal episodes that occurred prior to an adoption.</p> <p>If a child's first placement at the time the agency removes the child or is given responsibility for placement and care is a hospital or a locked facility, the child is not to be included in the AFCARS population. If the child never enters a foster care setting, then this child will never be reported to AFCARS (see General Requirements #1).</p>
#20 Date Child was Discharged from last foster care episode (if applicable) ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 3 (5%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. While the number of error cases was not significant, the issues for the errors may be related to the issues in elements #18 and #21.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370, 016710</u> The system correctly reports removal episodes that occurred prior to an adoption. If a child's first placement at the time the agency removes the child or is given responsibility for placement and care is a hospital or a locked facility, the child is not to be included in the AFCARS population. If the child never enters a foster care setting, then this child will never be reported to AFCARS (see General Requirements #1).</p>
#21 Date of Latest Removal ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Order for Protective Custody There is a legal status field with the options: Care and Custody with CD-Includes Temporary Custody (LS-1); Temporary Custody with Adoptive Parents (LS-2) Supervision Only by CD (LS-3); Care and Custody with Juvenile Court or Other Agency (LS-4); Final Custody Awarded to Adoptive Parents (LS-5); and, Legal Guardianship (LS-9).</p> <p>There are fields for the start and end dates of the legal status.</p>

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		<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 14 (22%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370</u> If a child’s first placement at the time the agency removes the child or is given responsibility for placement and care is a hospital or a locked facility, the child is not to be included in the AFCARS population. If the child never enters a foster care setting, then this child will never be reported to AFCARS (see General Requirements #1).</p> <p>In instances where the child’s first living arrangement is a hospital or a locked facility at the time the agency obtains responsibility for placement and care, the program code incorrectly extracts the date the child entered the hospital or locked facility as the removal date. The program code must be modified to extract the date the child is placed in a foster care setting as the date of removal. This would always be reported as the start date.</p> <p>When the legal status changes, there is coding within the screen logic that will set the date to the prior day. Whenever the legal status is changed back to “LS1” it will cause a new removal in the system.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to extract both the date of first removal and the date of latest removal from the legal status table (LNs 1592-1727).</p>
#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	4	The TS_Legal_Status_PK field is updated only when the record is first created and is reported as the transaction date of removal.
#23 Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placement Information There are fields for the placement begin and end date, placement reason, placement mode, placement type, pre-placement visit, and pre-adoptive placement.</p> <p><u>Policy/Practice Notes</u> The State team indicated that if a hospitalization is seven days or less they would not enter it into the information system if the intent is the child will go back to the same</p>

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		<p>foster home. The State’s information system is to have information on a child’s location 24/7/365 while the child is in the agency’s responsibility for placement and care. Case workers need to enter where the child is instead of dealing with it as a data entry process and have the extraction code ignore hospitalizations that are seven days or less for placement purposes. If the hospitalization is for more than eight or more days then the program code is to consider it a placement.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 14 records with no date.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 25 (39%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In many of the error cases the dates were incorrect by a day. This is due to the manner in which the workers enter the start and end dates of placements. The actual physical placement date is not used but the date that the payment would begin for the next provider. There may be more actual incorrect dates than what was able to be determined in the final analysis.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 017270</u> There were several issues related to how the extraction code selects the date of placement. Some of these are also data entry issues. For example, one issue is that the dates are changing when there is a status change in case, whether it is due to a level of care or a payment change.</p> <p>The State must ensure that the date the child was placed on the trial home visit, or known to have run away from the last placement setting as the “Date of placement in current foster care setting” (foster care element 23) (CWPM).</p> <p>The program code is also reporting the discharge date as a new placement date.</p> <p>If a child’s only “placement” in the removal episode is as a “runaway,” then the date of removal and placement date must be the same.</p>
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	2	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 23 (37%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>

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		<p>The State team indicated a need to provide additional training for workers on how to handle “trial home visits.”</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 017650</u> This element is incorrectly initialized to 1. If a child’s only “placement” in the removal episode is as a “runaway,” the placement count must be zero.</p> <p><u>Children’s Bureau’s Child Welfare Policy Manual, section 1: AFCARS</u> The count must not include a change in status of placement setting (e.g., foster home that becomes pre-adoptive home) (CWPM).</p> <p>The placement count is not to include certain temporary living conditions that are not placements, but rather represent a temporary absence from the child’s ongoing foster care placement. As such, the State must exclude the following temporary absences from the calculation of the number of previous placement settings for foster care element #24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitation with a sibling, relative, or other caretaker (i.e., pre-placement visits with a subsequent foster care provider or pre-adoptive parents) • Hospitalization for medical treatment, acute psychiatric episodes or diagnosis • Respite care • Day or summer camps • Trial home visits • Runaway episodes (CWPM) <p>The placement count is not to include a return from trial home visit into same placement setting (CWPM).</p> <p>The placement count is not to include the return from runaway status and entry to same placement setting (CWPM).</p> <p>In regard to institutions with several cottages on their campus, the State is not to count a move from one cottage to another. Only count if the site is at a different address. If it is a campus that is on two sides of the street, the same logic applies.</p>

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		<p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize this element to zero instead of one (LN 1820).</p>
<p>#25 Manner of Removal From Home for Current placement Episode</p> <p>1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined</p>	<p align="center">4</p>	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> All records reported as “court ordered.”</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Order for Protective Custody There is a legal status field with the options: Care and Custody with CD-Includes Temporary Custody (LS-1); Temporary Custody with Adoptive Parents (LS-2) Supervision Only by CD (LS-3); Care and Custody with Juvenile Court or Other Agency (LS-4); Final Custody Awarded to Adoptive Parents (LS-5); and, Legal Guardianship (LS-9).</p> <p>There are two date fields, one for authorization date to provide emergency alternative care and one for the court order date. There are fields for the begin and end date of the legal status.</p> <p>The State agency does not have removal authority; only law enforcement and doctors have authority to remove a child. The agency must obtain a court order first for all removals. They cannot have care and placement authority or place a child without a court order.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3400, LN 018650</u> This element is set to “court ordered” only.</p>
<p>Actions or Conditions Associated With Child’s Removal (Indicate all that apply with a “1”.)</p> <p>[0-Does not Apply] 1-Applies</p>	<p align="center">4</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Alternative Care Client Information, Conditions Associated with the Removal field.</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3450, LN 019080</u> State is correctly mapping its values to AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 25 records missing data.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> Based on the case file review, these elements are rated a</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>“3.” Almost all elements had one to four errors. The State needs to ensure that case workers are entering all actions or conditions that are associated with why the child was removed from his/her home and placed into foster care.</p> <p>The State may also want to add additional reasons to their list, for instance Domestic Violence or Safe Haven.</p>
#26 Physical Abuse	3	
#27 Sexual Abuse	3	
#28 Neglect	3	
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	3	
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	3	
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	3	Fetal Alcohol Exposure would be reported here if it was a removal condition.
#32 Child Drug Abuse	3	Fetal Drug Exposure would be reported here if it was a removal condition.
#33 Child Disability	3	
#34 Child’s Behavior Problem	3	
#35 Death of Parent	3	
#36 Incarceration of Parent	3	
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reasons	3	
#38 Abandonment	3	
#39 Relinquishment	3	The State does have a Safe Haven program. The State may want to consider adding it as a removal condition. Safe Haven removals are to be entered/mapped to “relinquishment.”
#40 Inadequate Housing	3	
#41 Current Placement Setting	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placement Information</p> <p>There are fields for the placement begin and end date, placement reason, placement mode, placement type, pre-placement visit, and pre-adoptive placement. A history of placements is listed at the bottom of the screen.</p> <p>The State may want to consider grouping the type of settings so that the worker does not have to select from a long single list.</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit</p>		<p><u>Frequency Report (n=12,014):</u> Pre-Adoptive Home = 1,455 (12%); Foster Family Home (Relative) = 2,462 (20%); Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) = 4,946 (41%); Group Home = 97 (1%); Institution = 2,071 (17%); Supervised Independent Living = 515 (4%); Runaway = 193 (2%); Trial Home Visit = 73 (1%); Not reported = 202</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 18 (27%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In 10 of the cases the child was on a “trial home visit” but this is not what was reported to AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3500, LN20150)</u> The extraction code is initialized to spaces.</p> <p>Foster Family Group Homes, Behavioral Foster Family Group Homes, and Medical Foster Family Group Home are mapped to group home. These are actually foster homes. The State needs to correct the mapping in the extraction code.</p> <p>The State indicated that Residential Treatment Facilities could either be the size of a group home or an institution (per AFCARS definitions). They are currently all mapped to institution. The State needs to identify a way to differentiate these settings and map them accordingly.</p> <p>“Medical Family” is incorrectly mapped to “institution” instead of foster home.</p> <p>The program code checks for a subtype of "A" (trial home visit) and if found sets this element to "8, trial home visit" (LNs 020680-020700).</p> <p>The State is incorrectly reporting settings as institutions that are agencies licensed for multiple types of settings. The actual location of the child must be reported, not the parent agency.</p>
<p>#42 Is Current Placement Out-of-State? 1=Yes (Out of State placement) 2=No (In-State placement)</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placement Information On the placement screen there is a section to record the vendor information and the placement address. This address should be the actual physical location the child is currently placed.</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are no records reported as out of State.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3500, LN020760)</u> The program code does not check the address of the placement setting. It looks for a placement code of "ICPC Out-of-State" or "Out-of-State-Non-ICPC Placement." If the worker does not enter the value then the extraction code will not map records as being "out-of-state." The State needs to address this in training and identify another means to ensure this data is extracted. The Federal team recommends that the State consider using the address of the placement to determine this element.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to set the value of this element based on the address of the placement. If the address is missing, the program code reports blank (LNs 2145-2155).</p>
<p>#43 Most recent case plan goal</p> <p>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</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>State's Email re: System Changes</u> Goal: In progress: With the implementation of FACES, the goal is now recorded on the Family Support Team screen as it was in this meeting that a goal is established. An Alternative Care case can be opened, but it could be 24-48 hours before a Family Support Team Meeting is held to establish the goal. Therefore, there is a lapse in time in which the child is showing with no goal. Also, if there is a delay in the worker entering this information, the child will continue to have no goal. We are in the process of making system's changes to set the goal to "Not Yet Established" when the case is initially opened, prior to the first Family Support Team meeting. There will also be edits to require the goal to be changed from "Not Yet established" to some other appropriate goal at the first Team Meeting. These new edits will ensure that the child is never without a goal.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Family Support Team Meeting Information; Primary Permanency Plan for the Child There are two fields, one for the primary permanency plan and one for a concurrent plan. The concurrent plan field is not required. The options are: adoption (02, 03), Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (06), Guardianship (07), Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative (08), Reunification (01). Both fields have the same</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>selection options. The state needs to ensure that the option that is selected as a primary goal cannot also be selected as a concurrent goal.</p> <p>The State needs to add a value for guardianship/relative and guardianship/non-relative. Relative Guardianships are to be mapped to “live with relative.”</p> <p><u>Frequency Report (n=12,014):</u> Reunify = 5,847 (49%); Live With Other Relative(s) = 183 (2%); Adoption = 2,627 (22%); Long-Term Foster Care 0; Emancipation = 2,030 (17%); Guardianship = 654 (5%); Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established = 7 (.06%); Not reported = 666 (6%)</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 8 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3600, LN 020860)</u> The State maps “Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement” to “emancipation.” The State does not map anything to “long-term foster care.” The State does have a policy and practice that all youth in which a case plan goal of “adoption,” “reunification,” etc. is not a current option the case worker is to ensure that the child has a permanent connection to an adult. These goals and situations are to be mapped to “emancipation.” If there is no permanent connection, then the goal must be mapped to “long-term foster care.” The State may want to use language that indicates this as a selection option.</p> <p>There are no date parameters associated with the use of “not yet determined.” The State needs to change so that if the child has been in care for more than sixty days this element is set to blank. Or since the State’s policy is that a goal is to be established within 30 days of removal, use 31 or more days.</p> <p>Missing data are correctly set to blank.</p>
#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple	2 3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p>There is a field “Family Structure at Removal” with a drop-down list of options.</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine</p>		<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): Married Couple = 5,919 (49%); Unmarried Couple = 221 (2%); Single Female = 2,674 (22%); Single Male = 304 (3%); Unable to Determine = 2,895 (24%); Not reported = 1</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u>: 15 (23%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3700, LN21570)</u> Missing data are incorrectly set to "unable to determine."</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to no longer map the non-existent State code "0" to "unable to determine." The program code is now initialized to blank and if no data are found, it remains set to blank (LNs 2233-2258).</p>
<p>#45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year ___(mo) ___ (day)___(year)</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen: Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</u> There are two fields to record the year of birth; one is labeled "mother" and the other is "father." This screen also has a field for "other principal female caretaker" and "other principal male caretaker."</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u>: Dates = 9,009. There should be 9,118 records. There are 24 records indicating 9 year olds and 2 records for 8 year olds.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u>: 15 (22%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3700, LN21810)</u> The code is initialized to blank.</p> <p>Based on post site-visit analysis, the rating was changed to "3." The program code does correctly report the dad's birth year in element #45 if there is no birth year for a mom (caretaker was a single male). If there is a birth year for mom, it is reported in element #45 and dad's birth year is correctly reported in element #46 (LNs 021810-022100).</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>#46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year (if applicable)</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Dates = 4,338. There should be 6,140 records. There are 32 records indicating 9 year olds and 1 record for 8 year olds.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 12 (18%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3700, LN21900)</u> Based on post site-visit analysis, the rating was changed to "3." The program code does correctly report the dad's birth year in element #45 if there is no birth year for a mom (caretaker was a single male). If there is a birth year for mom, it is reported in element #45 and dad's birth year is correctly reported in element #46 (LNs 021810-022100).</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to set this element to blank if element #45 is blank (LNs 2272-2273).</p>
<p>#47 Mother's Date of TPR</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Termination of Parental Rights Information There is a legal status field with the options: Care and Custody with CD-Includes Temporary Custody (LS-1); Temporary Custody with Adoptive Parents (LS-2) Supervision Only by CD (LS-3); Care and Custody with Juvenile Court or Other Agency (LS-4); Final Custody Awarded to Adoptive Parents (LS-5); and, Legal Guardianship (LS-9).</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3800, LN22280)</u> The program code needs to check for multiple moms.</p> <p>Modify program code to check for a TPR for the current removal episode and for the current legal parent.</p> <p>The program code only checks for a deceased date if there is a finalized adoption. The program code should extract a deceased date regardless and not wait until the adoption</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>is finalized.</p> <p>Dates of deceased are checked for natural parent. A check also needs to be added for a legal parent, if applicable.</p> <p>The code is also checking for an appeal date. Remove this check from the program code and extract only the TPR date.</p> <p>The program code does not restrict dates to report period being transmitted.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program code was modified and no longer checks for an appeal date. • The deceased dates for both natural and adoptive parents (if applicable) are extracted. • The program code was modified to report a TPR date only if the TPR date and the timestamp of creation of the TPR action are both within the current reporting period. This change will successfully prevent reporting of TPR dates later than the current reporting period. But it appears to prevent reporting of possibly valid dates of TPRs that occurred in a previous reporting period (LNs 2310-2311; 2412-2413; 2365-2366; 2486, 2378-2384; 2425-2431).
<p>#48 Legal or Putative Father's TPR</p> <p>___ (mo) ___ (day)___(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Termination of Parental Rights Information</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3800, LN22960)</u></p> <p>The program code needs to check for multiple moms.</p> <p>See findings for foster care element #47.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program code was modified and no longer checks for an appeal date. • The deceased dates for both natural and adoptive parents (if applicable) are extracted. • The program code was modified to report a TPR date only if the TPR date and the timestamp of creation of the TPR action are both within the current reporting

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>period. This change will successfully prevent reporting of TPR dates later than the current reporting period. But it appears to prevent reporting of possibly valid dates of TPRs that occurred in a previous reporting period (LNs 2310-2311; 2412-2413; 2365-2366; 2486, 2378-2384; 2425-2431).</p>
<p>#49 Foster Family Structure</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Individual</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): Not applicable = 141 (1%); Married Couple = 5,817 (48%); Unmarried Couple = 204 (2%); Single Female = 2,618 (22%); Single Male = 284 (2%); Not reported = 2,950 (25%)</p> <p>In element #41 there is 2,949 records reported as non-foster home settings. There are 202 records reported as blank.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 25 (38%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590):</u> The program code incorrectly sets this element to blanks if element #41 is a 4 or higher.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to set this element to "0, not applicable" if element #41 equals a value of 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8. Also, missing data are now mapped to blank (LNs 2523, 2547-2551).</p>
<p>#50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Individual</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Dates = 8,157. There should be 8,923 records. There are 8 records with invalid years.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 15 (25%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24960)</u> Regardless if the foster parent is a single male or a single female, the date of birth is to be reported in this element. State is incorrectly reporting single male's date of birth as</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>2nd foster caretaker.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code was modified to report the date of birth of a single male or single female foster parent in this element (Ns 2569-2572; 2602-2605).</p>
#51 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	2 3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Individual</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Dates = 5,728. There should be 6,021 records. There are 8 records with invalid years.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 13 (20%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN25050)</u> State is incorrectly reporting single male's date of birth as 2nd foster caretaker.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code was modified to set this element to blank if the foster parent is a single female or single male (LN 2635).</p>
<p>#52 1st Foster Caretaker's Race</p> <p>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</p> <p>0 = Does not apply 1 = Apply</p>	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Individual</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There were several errors in each of the race categories. In most it was related to the child's placement being a non-foster home setting and these categories should have been blank.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590; 25100)</u> The program code incorrectly sets this element to all zeros if element #41 has an AFCARS value of "4" or higher.</p> <p>If the foster family structure is a single male or a single female, then that individual's race information is to be reported in this element and element #54 is to be reported as blank.</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>The program code incorrectly only reports one race.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code has been updated to set this element to blank if element #41 is a value of 4 through 8 (LNs 2522-2530).</p>
<p>#53 1st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic or Latino Origin</p> <p>0 = Not applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Individual</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> No records reported for "not applicable."</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 34 (57%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590; 25250)</u> The program code incorrectly sets this element to blanks if element #41 is a value of "4" or higher.</p> <p>If foster family structure is a single male or female, the Hispanic/Latino Origin information is to be reported in this element. Currently, this element is set to blank.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code was modified to set this element to "0, not applicable" if element #41 is a value of 4 through 8 (LN 2522-2525). The section of code that incorrectly set this element to blank if the foster family structure is a single male or female has been deleted (LN 2590).</p>
<p>#54 2nd Foster Caretaker's Race (if applicable)</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Individual</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There were several errors in each of the race categories. In most it was related to the child's placement being a non-foster home setting and these categories should have been blank.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590)</u> The program code incorrectly sets this element to 000000 if element #41 is a 4 or</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>f. Unable to Determine</p> <p>0 = Does not apply 1 = Apply</p>		<p>higher. Supported by test case findings.</p> <p>If the foster family structure is a single male or a single female, then that individuals race information is to be reported in this element and element #54 is to be reported as blank.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has been updated to set this element to blank if element #41 is a value of 4 through 8. The code still reports only one race (LNs 2522-2530).</p>
<p>#55 2nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin</p> <p>[0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Individual</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> No records reported for "not applicable."</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 27 (43%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590; 25540)</u> The program code incorrectly sets this element to blanks if element #41 is a value of "4" or higher.</p> <p>If the foster family structure is a single male or female, this element is incorrectly set to blank. It should be set to "not applicable."</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to set this element to "0, not applicable" if element #41 is a value of 4 through 8 (LN 2522-2525). The section of code that incorrectly set this element to blank if the foster family structure is a single male or female has been deleted (LN 2659).</p>
<p>Outcome information</p>		<p><u>State's Email re: System Changes</u> Adoption AFCARS section: In progress: When a child is adopted and their legal status is changed to 5 (adoption), the system is currently not forcing the worker to complete the Adoption AFCARS section as they are located on different screens. Therefore, we</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>were finding that there would be a lapse in time before the worker would enter this information. We are now moving the Adoption AFCARS section to the Court Information screen. This will require that immediately after changing the child's legal status to adoption, the worker will be required to complete the AFCARS section.</p>
<p>#56 Date of Discharge from foster care ___(mo) ___ (day)___(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> The blanks for this element and the “not applicable” for element #58 do not match. There are more “not applicable” responses.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 11 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Order for Protective Custody; and Alternative Care Function On the Court Information Screen, there is a legal status field with the options: Care and Custody with CD-Includes Temporary Custody (LS-1); Temporary Custody with Adoptive Parents (LS-2); Supervision Only by CD (LS-3); Care and Custody with Juvenile Court or Other Agency (LS-4); Final Custody Awarded to Adoptive Parents (LS-5); and, Legal Guardianship (LS-9).</p> <p>There are fields for the begin and end dates of the legal status.</p> <p>On the AC Function Screen there is a field for “close reason.” The State is using this instead of the legal status field to record discharges.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 4000, LN25740)</u> If the date ended field in the legal status history table is not blank and both the begin date and the last updated timestamp are no later than the end of the reporting period, the program code correctly reports the end date as the discharge date.</p> <p>The program code correctly sets both element #56, date of discharge, and element #57, date of discharge transaction date to blank if an edit check finds that the discharge date is prior to the latest removal date.</p> <p>Since there are several issues with the reporting of outcome information, this element is</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		rated a "2." There were dates reported incorrectly in the 08B file as found during the case file review. Some of these issues may relate to the reporting of children with a legal status of "3" (post reunification supervision only cases).
#57 Date of Discharge Transaction Date ____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)	2 4	<p><u>Program Code (Para 4000, LN25740 and Para 4050, LN27220):</u> If the date ended field in the legal status history table is not blank and both the begin date and the last updated timestamp are no later than the end of the reporting period, the program code reports the system-generated timestamp of last update. If the closed date from the function table is not blank, the program code then replaces the last updated timestamp with the date of conference with the supervisor.</p> <p>The Program code is incorrectly not reporting the system-generated date that data element #56 was first entered into the system in situations when the function is closed.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has modified. The section of code that replaced the last updated timestamp with the date of conference with the supervisor in situations when the function is closed was deleted (LN 27350).</p>
#58 Reason for Discharge [0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Alternative Care Closing Function This section of the system is where a case is closed. The closure of a case can occur after the agency no longer has responsibility for care and placement, but is providing services to the family. The selection list for this field includes both outcome reasons (discharges) and other reasons for a case closing.</p> <p>There also is a legal status section of the system where the case worker enters the start and end date of the legal status.</p> <p><u>Policy/Practice Notes</u> The State does return children to their own home and while maintaining responsibility for placement and care. The State has been reporting these cases. However, there have been some issues and inconsistency across the State on when these cases are reported as discharged. There also have been problems related to closing the "case" as opposed to this being a legal discharge. There is a process for the system to "close" the case once</p>

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>the child has been home for six months. The State staff decided they are going to continue reporting the cases until they no longer have responsibility for care and placement. They have been training workers to review these cases and to recommend to the court as soon as appropriate to discharge the case. They believe having the records continued to be reported will provide more information to evaluate what is happening in these cases.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): Not Applicable = 10,307 (86%); Reunification = 1,271 (11%); Living with Other Relative(s) = 43 (.36%); Adoption = 27 (.22%); Emancipation = 41 (.34%); Guardianship = 220 (2%); Transfer to Another Agency = 38 (.32%); Runaway = 50 (.42%); Death of Child = 5 (.04%); Not reported = 12</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u>: 13 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 4000 LNs 26490-27110)</u> There is no parameter to check that the discharge is in the report period being submitted. This is an issue for subsequent submissions. The program code checks the “close reason” field from the function table when the function status is pending, active, or closed then maps the State’s values to AFCARS.</p> <p>If the case worker selects “goal achieved” and the legal status is a 1, 2, 3, or 4, the program code checks the permanency plan goal. This approach assumes that the goal and the outcome are always the same, which may not be the case. It also assumes the goal is current. The goal “APPLA” is incorrectly mapped to “guardianship.” The permanency goals of "CYAC child" and "permanent goal not yet established" are mapped to "not applicable."</p> <p>When “other” the code is set to “not applicable.” Also, all other State values map to "not applicable," including: adoption/guardianship subsidy terminated," CFCIP after care closed," child returned to parent/guardian-SB 1003," "CYAC child," "DMH end date," "returned child to sending State ICPC," "closed trial home visits over 180 days," and "child over age 21." Trial home visit closure must map to reunification.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Missouri

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>Legal status 3: These are cases in which legal custody is given to a relative and the agency is ordered to provide supervision services. The agency no longer has legal custody and a removal would require a court order. These cases are being reported in AFCARS. They should not be, they should be reported as discharged with discharge reason of live with relative.</p> <p>The frequency numbers in elements #56 and #58 do not match. This is also a problem identified in the test cases. The State needs to reevaluate where the information for element #56 and 58 is extracted. Since these elements relate to the legal status of the case and what the outcome is for the child, the State should consider using the legal status screen. The State agreed that the problem is related to the “closing” of a case.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code was modified to check for legal status of 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the legal status history table instead of in the legal status table before setting this element based on the permanency plan code (LNs 2794-2795).</p>
<p>#59 Title IV-E (Foster Care)</p> <p>0-Does not apply 1-Applies</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Eligibility</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The program code checks if the value of the “fund category” is "02" or "04" when reporting the values for elements #59 and #60. Currently this check is incorrectly based on the value of the code at the time the extract is run. It must check if either or both of those values occurred at any time during the reporting period. Also, the extraction code sets element #59 as “applies” if element #60 is “applies.” These two elements must be evaluated independently.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code was modified to require that the date title XIX began or ended is within the reporting period before checking if the fund category code is "02, alternative care IVE" (LNs 2844-2856; 2888-2890). Clarify why the code for title IV-E foster care is checking the dates of title XIX instead of the dates of IV-E eligibility.</p>
<p>#60 Title IV-E (Adoption Subsidy)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Eligibility</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Missouri

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>0-Does not apply 1-Applies</p>		<p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The program code checks if the value of the “fund category” is "02" or "04" when reporting the values for elements #59 and #60. Currently this check is incorrectly based on the value of the code at the time the extract is run. It must check if either or both of those values occurred at any time during the reporting period. Also, the extraction code sets element #59 as “applies” if this element is “applies.” These two elements must be evaluated independently.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code has been corrected to not set element #59 based on this element being “applies.” The program code now requires that the date title XIX began or ended is within the reporting period before checking if the fund category code is "04, adoption subsidy IVE" (LNs 2844-2856; 2892-2894). Clarify why the code for title IV-E foster care is checking the dates of title XIX instead of the dates of IV-E eligibility.</p>
<p>#61 Title IV-A (Aid to Families with Dependent Children)</p> <p>0-Does not apply 1-Applies</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen: Eligibility</u></p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The State is incorrectly reporting this based on the removal family. This element should reflect if title IV-A is a source of income to the child after he/she has entered foster care.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The extraction code for this element checks that the date title IV-A started or ended is within the reporting period. The information is pulled from the removal person table and for the AFCARS report period. Clarify that this information is for after the child has been placed in foster care.</p>
<p>#62 Title IV-D (Child Support)</p> <p>0-Does not apply 1-Applies</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> There was no logic in the extraction code for this element. The State completed its implementation of the eligibility modules in October 2008. Federal team will review new extraction code during the post site-visit phase.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code checks the removal person income table for an income source type of</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements
State: Missouri
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		"child support." It then checks that the date the income began or ended was within the reporting period before setting this element to "applies" (LNs 2953-2981).
#63 Title XIX (Medicaid) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	4	General revenue is correctly mapped to "does not apply."
#64 SSI or other Social Security Act Benefits 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2 3	<u>Screen:</u> Income criteria screen and Demographic Criteria <u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. <u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The extraction code checks for SSI but not OASDI. <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has been corrected to check for both SSI and OASDI income source types (LNs 2923-2951).
#65 None of the Above 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	<u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The program code correctly sets this element to "applies" if elements #59 - 64 are all "does not apply." The program code should also check if there are other sources of income, regardless of what is reported in elements # 59 - 64, and set this element to "applies" if any are found.
#66 Amount Of Monthly Foster Care Payment (regardless of source)	2	<u>Program Code (Para 4200, LN28970)</u> The extraction code adds together the payments of multiple settings if they occur within a month. This needs to be changed to extract the last full monthly payment that was made on behalf of the child. Ideally, it should reflect where the child is currently residing. If the child has not been in the current setting for a full month, then the state can report zeroes.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Missouri

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
#1 State FIPS Code	4	
#2 Report Period End Date	4	
#3 Record Number	4	
#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	Hard-coded to "yes."
#5 Child Date of Birth	3 4	<u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual <u>Program Code</u> Carried over exactly from foster care. The rating was changed as there are no issues with this element.
#6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	3 4	<u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual <u>Program Code</u> Carried over exactly from foster care. The rating was changed as there are no issues with this element.
#7 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 0 = Does not apply 1 = Apply	2 3	<u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual <u>Program Code</u> Carried over exactly from foster care. This field is incorrectly initialized to zeroes. Missing data are incorrectly reported as zeros for races and "unable to determine" as applies. <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize the child's race elements to blank instead of zeroes. Then the program code checks if the worker entered "yes" or "no" for each race

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Missouri

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		element and maps the response to the corresponding AFCARS value. Any values other than "yes" or "no" are mapped to blank (LNs 3763-3779; 1312-1399).
<p>#8 Child Hispanic Origin</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Case Member Demographics/Individual</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> Carried over exactly from foster care.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly defaults to “unable to determine.”</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. Then the program code checks if the worker entered "yes," "no," or "unable to determine" and maps the response to the corresponding AFCARS value. All other State values are mapped to blank (LNs 3763-3779; 1401-1416).</p>
<p>#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=575): Yes = 349; No = 226; Not reported = 0 Element #35 indicates 544 records as receiving monthly subsidy.</p> <p><u>Policy/Practice Notes</u> Missouri statute allows for all children adopted from the Missouri foster care system to get adoption subsidy.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In each of the error cases the response should have been “yes” instead of “no.”</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> This element is derived from whether or not there is a response in element #10.</p>
<p>#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Missouri
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
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 Need		<p>There a single field "Primary Special Need."</p> <p><u>Frequency Report (n=575):</u> Not applicable = 226; Race/Original Background = 47 (8%); Age = 26 (5%); Sibling group = 205 (36%); Medical, etc. = 25 (4%); Other =46 (8%); Not reported = 0</p> <p>The frequencies for elements #11 - 15 have only one record reported as applies but there are 25 records reported for "medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities" in element #10. The response in the 25 records might have actually been "other state defined special need."</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p>The State staff indicated there are issues related to data entry and the understanding of what is to be entered into this field. The State's statutes allow the agency to determine a child as special needs because he/she was in foster care. These are to be entered as "Other State Defined Special Need."</p>
#11 - 15		<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6300)</u> See the findings for foster care elements #11 - 15 regarding how this information is collected in the system and the need for modifications to the screen and extraction code.</p> <p>For elements #11 - 15, the code to extract these elements only if the response to element #10 is a "4" has been commented out. Restore this function.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has been updated to first check if the value of element #10 is a "4" before checking if the individual elements #11-15 apply (LNs 3849-3851).</p>
#11 Mental Retardation	2	

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Missouri
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	2	
#13 Physically Disabled	2	
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	2	
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	2	
#16 Mother's Birth Year	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 4 (17%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6300, LN37260)</u> Checks for the correct legal or biological parent.</p>
#17 Father's Birth Year	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 5 (24%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6300, LN37300)</u> Checks for the correct legal or biological parent.</p>
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details</p> <p>This is on the adoption section and the State needs to move it to a case management section of the system. The State may want to consider adding it to the "Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details" screen.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report (n=575):</u> Yes = 117 (20%); No = 309 (54%); Unable to determine = 143 (25%); Not reported = 6 (1%)</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Missouri
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		<p>reported in AFCARS.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that case workers are entering this information.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6300, LN37160):</u> Direct mapping of the values to AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has been modified to incorrectly set this element to a default value of "3, unable to determine" (LNs 3795; 3853-3860).</p>
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Termination of Parental Rights Information</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Missing TPR dates</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6500, LN39320)</u> See foster care findings, elements #47 and 48.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has been updated to not check for appeal date. It also now reports the deceased dates for both natural and adoptive parents. The program code has been updated to report a TPR date only if the TPR date and the timestamp of creation of the TPR action record are both within the current reporting period. This change will successfully prevent reporting of TPR dates later than the current reporting period. But it appears to prevent reporting of possibly valid dates of TPRs that occurred in a previous reporting period. New paragraph 6550-GET-TPR-INFO.</p>
#20 Date of Father's TPR	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Termination of Parental Rights Information</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Missing TPR dates</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Missouri

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 6 (23%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6500, LN39320)</u> See foster care findings for elements #47 and #48.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has been updated to not check for appeal date. It also now reports the deceased dates for both natural and adoptive parents. The program code has been updated to report a TPR date only if the TPR date and the timestamp of creation of the TPR action record are both within the current reporting period. This change will successfully prevent reporting of TPR dates later than the current reporting period. But it appears to prevent reporting of possibly valid dates of TPRs that occurred in a previous reporting period. New paragraph 6550-GET-TPR-INFO.</p>
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen/Legal Status</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> 1 record missing date.</p> <p>The State needs to address training and timely data entry.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6500, LN39320)</u> Legal status must be a 5, and the begin date is no later than end of report period. There is an edit check that the legal adoption date is after the TPR date.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The Technical specifications document, section 4.3.3.6.2 was modified. The court activity history table was added as well as “The child should not be reported in the adoption file if the date adoption legalized is missing.”</p>
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple	3	<p><u>Frequency Report (n=575):</u> Married Couple = 434 (75%); Unmarried Couple = 5 (1%); Single Female = 116 (20%); Single Male = 12 (2%); Not reported = 8 (1%)</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 6600, LN39840)</u></p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Missouri
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male		Requires a legal status 5.
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	3	<u>Frequency Report:</u> Dates = 542. There should be 555 records. There are 3 records with invalid years.
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	3	<u>Frequency Report:</u> Dates = 434. There should be 451 records. There are 3 records with invalid years.
#25 Adoptive Mother's Race	2	<u>Program Code</u> Only a single race is being reported. If a single father adopts a child the race categories are incorrectly set to "no." <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank, but still only reports one race (LN 4443)
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2 3	<u>Program Code</u> Initialized to not applicable. Defaults missing information to "unable to determine." <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to set the default value for this element to blank (LNs 4486-4489; 4551-4554).
#27 Adoptive Father's Race	2	<u>Program Code:</u> Only a single race is being reported. If a single mother adopts a child the race categories are incorrectly set to "no." <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank, but still only reports one race (LN 4444).
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin	2 3	<u>Program Code</u> Initialized to not applicable.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Missouri
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine		Defaults missing information to “unable to determine.” <i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code was modified to set the default value for this element to blank (LNs 4518-4521; 4584-4587).
#29 –32 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies		<u>Frequency report:</u> there were only 541 responses across 29 - 32, should be at least 575. There were also no multiple relationships reported. <u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details The case worker cannot select more than one relationship. The screen needs to be modified to allow the collection of multiple relationships. The extraction will also need to be modified to report multiple relationships.
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent	2	
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 6 (23%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	2	
#32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative	2	
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	3	<u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details <u>Frequency Report:</u> All reported as “within State.” The State needs to ensure that workers understand the appropriate use of “another State.”
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency	3	<u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements
State: Missouri
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent		<u>Frequency Report:</u> 35 reported as blank. The State needs to ensure that workers understand the appropriate use of “private agency.”
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy 1 = Yes 2 = No	3 4	<u>Frequency Report (n=575):</u> Yes = 544; No = 31; Not reported = 0 Medicaid only agreements are entered and reported as “yes.” The rating was changed as there are no issues with this element.
#36 Monthly Amount	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 3 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. <u>Program Code</u> The program code is pulling what is paid, not the amount in the adoption subsidy agreement.
#37 Adoption Assistance - title IV-E	2 3	<u>Program Code:</u> This is set in the foster care section of the program code. It needs to be checked for independently and within the adoption section of the code because if the child was IV-E eligible but the agreement is only Medicaid then this element is to be reported as no. <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> This element is set in a new section of the adoption extraction code with independent checks for a fund category code of "04" (LNs 4657-4718).