

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
#1 State	4	
#2 Report Date ____(mo) ____ (year)	4	
#3 Local Agency (County or Equivalent Jurisdiction)	4	<p>The DSS-5094 form contains a field to record the county code.</p> <p><i>Post Site-Visit Finding:</i> The program code has been modified for foster care element #3. The county codes 056, 057, 058 and 059 are now handled separately from the rest of the county codes, but appear to achieve the same result as the general computation formula. The State needs to explain why the program code was changed? (LNs 70410-70504)</p>
#4 Record Number	1	<p>North Carolina is a county administered State. A county case number and a Services Information System (SIS) client identification (ID) number are assigned to each child and each county assigns its own client ID numbers. The SIS ID is used for the AFCARS record number, but this number does not remain the child's ID statewide and a child's foster care history is not associated with the record number. Each county maintains a history based on the activities (removals) that occurred in that county. Consequently, a child who entered and was discharged from foster care in one county with one ID, who later enters foster care in another county with a different ID will not have the earlier foster care experience available for reporting purposes. This affects historical information on the number of removals, the start date of first removal from, and the end date of the foster care episode prior to the current removal episode, if applicable.</p> <p>The absence of statewide IDs has many implications for AFCARS as well as the Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSR). For AFCARS purposes, the same client may be reported multiple times as different clients.</p> <p>North Carolina has a project to develop a process for a statewide ID number assignment system. This project has been on hold for the past couple of years.</p>
#5 Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (if applicable) ____(mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)	2	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section VII. Case Reviews</p> <p>There are date fields for agency reviews as well as court reviews. The case worker</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>fills out the form whenever a periodic review is completed and this information is entered into the Child Placement and Payment Tracking System CPPTS.</p> <p>The State conducts administrative reviews (agency review). These occur at 30 and 60 days, then every six months as needed. There are also periodic reviews conducted in court in addition to the permanency hearing. The staff indicated that court reviews are averaging every three months.</p> <p>The State needs to modify the instructions to field 43 on the DSS-5094 form to indicate which types of court reviews are applicable and to be recorded on the form. The State can include dispositional hearings. Based on the case file review it appears that court reviews other than those that meet the requirements for a periodic review are being entered on the form.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are records with review dates between 1991 and 2006. 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. It appears that the number of records reported with older review dates and the number of records indicating the youth is over the age of 18 are similar.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings¹:</u> 31 (43%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 109600-113500):</u> The program code reports the most recent of either the court review or the agency review for the removal episode that began before the end of the reporting period.</p> <p>The program code does not restrict extracting a review date that occurs prior to the end of the report period. The extraction code must be modified to ensure that a review date after the end of the report period is not included in the submission.</p> <p>The program code excludes periodic reviews that occurred within the first seven</p>

¹ See the *Case File Review Findings* for additional information.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>#6 Child Birth Date</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p>months of a removal episode. The program code should extract a review date regardless of how soon after a child's removal it occurred.</p> <p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPR), section I. SIS Information</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There 114 (1%) of the records indicating the child is over the age of 18.</p> <p>The State is incorrectly including individuals over the age of 18 in its reporting population. (See General Requirements item #8 and foster care elements #56 and 58.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure these data are accurate due to its use for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).</p> <p>The State must add instructions in the manual that if a child is abandoned (Safe Surrender), to use the 15th day of the month for the estimated date of birth.</p>
<p>#7 Child Sex</p> <p>1 = Male 2 = Female</p>	<p align="center">4</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPR), section I. SIS Information</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 = Applies</p>	<p align="center">2 3</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPR), section I. SIS Information</p> <p>The State uses 64 codes to collect race and ethnicity information. Each code represents a race and ethnicity combination. For example, code 26 indicates that the individual is "Black/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and Hispanic or Latino." The worker enters this value on the form, and clerical workers enter this number into the data collection system. The State team indicated they are aware this method of collecting race data is likely causing confusion and error in the reporting of race and ethnicity elements. Workers are likely to select a combination that is only partially correct, or may try to select a code from memory. An incorrect digit in the code can lead to reporting a race combination that does not reflect the race and ethnicity of the client.</p> <p>This is a mandatory field in CPPTS.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 597 (5%) records indicating two or more races. Note the findings from the case file review. There were cases in which the reviewers did find that the child was multi-racial and the information was not correctly recorded and reported.</p> <p>Missing data are incorrectly mapped to "does not apply." <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to correctly report missing data as blanks in foster care elements #8 a-f (LNs 138836-138861).</p> <p>The State may want to consider making modifications to the collection of race data in order to ensure its accuracy. The State could assign a value to each of the five race categories and instruct case workers to enter all applicable race codes. The form, the manual, and the CPPS would have to be modified to allow for the entry of this information. The extraction code will also need to be modified to extract all race categories.</p> <p>Additionally, in order to make the collection of this data more clear, the State should add the option of "abandoned" that would be used for the infants entering foster care through the State's Safe Surrender program. Additionally, since AFCARS guidance for situations in which an individual refuses to provide their race, the State can report this as "unable to determine." However, it would be clearer if the worker had the option of "declined" to choose from when recording race information.</p> <p>The State will have to modify its options for race reporting in order to meet the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requirements. NYTD includes the values of "unknown" and "declined." The NYTD value of "unknown" encompasses two situations in which it can be used. One of these options is that if a person identifies him or herself as multi-racial but does not know all of their races, then the worker would enter the race category that is known and select "unknown" for the other race(s). Instead of creating more combinations that would include an unknown race(s), the State may want to use language on the form/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>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>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 “unable to determine.” > 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 “unable to determine.” > 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 “unable to determine.” > 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>#9 Hispanic/Latino Origin</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section I. SIS Information</p> <p>North Carolina designates a two-digit code for each race and ethnicity combination, and the worker is to select the appropriate combination from a list of 64 values. The codes currently in use also do not include the option of the AFCARS value “unable to determine” for Hispanic origin. See notes for “race” in element #8.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report (n=13.114):</u> Yes = 1,077 (8%); No = 12,037 (92%); Unable to determine = 0; Not reported = 0</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 126700, 13871-138834):</u> The program code incorrectly initializes this element to “2, no,” and maps all even values of the CRACE code to “1, yes.” The program code never sets this element to “3, unable to determine.” Workers must be allowed to select “3, unable to determine.” See notes in foster care element #8 regarding the use of “abandoned” and “declined.”</p>
<p>#10 Has the child been clinically diagnosed as having a disability(ies)?</p> <p>1=Yes 2=No 3=Not yet Determined</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section II. Child Information</p> <p>The form does not contain a field that collects this data via a question. Instead the case worker indicates the category reflective of the child diagnosed condition (see foster care elements #11 - 15).</p> <p>State policy dictates that children are to have a medical exam scheduled within seven days of entering care.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=13,114): Yes = 1,655 (13%); No = 10,881 (83%); Not yet determined = 578 (4%); Not reported = 0</p> <p>The staff indicated these data are under reported.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code derives the response to this element based on the information entered for elements #11 - 15. If a disability is found, this element is mapped to "yes." If no disability is found, this element is mapped to "no." If FC elements #11-15 are blank, this element is mapped to "not yet determined." There are no conditions under which this element would be reported as missing. If the fields on the 5094 and in CPPS are blank, then elements #10 - 15 must be reported as blanks. <u>Post Site-Visit corrections:</u> The program code has been modified to initialize the value of this element to blank (LN 151800).</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 19 (26%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>
#11 - 15 Diagnosed Conditions		<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section II. Child Information</p> <p>The 5094 form lists the AFCARS disability values as well as the value “none.” In the manual, workers are instructed to indicate a “1” next to the appropriate disability category if a qualified professional has clinically diagnosed the disability, a “2” if there is not disability, and a “3” for “not yet determined.” “Not yet determined” is to be entered “If there appears to be a disability(ies) but a diagnosis by a qualified professional has not yet been conducted.” If the value “none” is selected, all disability values are entered into the system as “no.”</p> <p>There is no guidance in the manual regarding how to match a diagnosis to the appropriate AFCARS disability category other than the following: “Any condition found in the DSM IV or any medically diagnosed disability should be reflected in Field #14 [referring to the field for disability information on Form 5094]. The State needs to include guidance in the manual indicating which category a diagnosed</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		condition belongs in, such as using the AFCARS disability resource list that is included in Technical Bulletin #14.
#11 Mental Retardation [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There were two error records.
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There was one error record.
#13 Physically Disabled [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There was one error record.
#14 Emotionally Disturbed [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	“ADHD” is incorrectly entered as “other medical conditions.” Case workers must be instructed to record it as “emotionally disturbed.” <u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There were 17 (23%) records with errors.
#15 Other Medically [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	There is a field to indicate a child’s HIV status. However, the extraction code does not check this field. The extraction code must be modified to check if a value is entered for this field and if so, indicate “applies” for this element. <u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There were 12 (16%) records with errors.
#16 Has this child ever been adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2 3	<u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPR), section II. Child Information There is a field for “currently free,” “previously adopted,” or “Adopt DISS.” There also is a field for “age at previous adoption.” “Adopt DISS” (dissolved) is used for internal tracking of dissolved adoptions. <u>Frequency Report</u> (n=13,114): Yes = 236 (2%); No = 12,810 (98%); Unable to determine = 68 (.52%); Not reported = 120 (4%) <u>Program Code pqa847 LNs 74000-74400:</u>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>The program code incorrectly maps missing data to “3, unable to determine.” <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to correctly map missing data to blank (LNs 74000-74100).</p> <p>The program code correctly maps the State values “1, child legally adopted domestically” and “4, child legally adopted internationally” to the AFCARS value “1, yes,” “2, child has never been legally adopted” to the AFCARS value “2, no.”</p> <p>The value “3, information unknown” is mapped to “3, unable to determine.” The manual needs to be clear and the State needs to ensure that this value is only being used for situations in which the child is abandoned or the caretaker is incapacitated and unable to provide the information. Otherwise, if this information is not known due to the worker not collecting it or entering it onto the form, then this field must be reported blank.</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=13,114): Not applicable = 12,810 (98%); Unable to determine = 68 (.52%); Not reported = 3</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that case workers understand the use of “unknown” should be used if the child is abandoned or the parent is incapacitated.</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 182300-184700):</u> If the program code finds that previous adoption field indicates “1, child legally adopted domestically,” it then maps the age to the corresponding AFCARS values.</p> <p>The program code does not check for age of children that enter foster care and were previously adopted through an international adoption. The program code must be modified to include the age at the time of the adoption. This is most likely why there were three records reported as blank.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps the situation when the child has been previously adopted, but the age was unknown, to “4, 13 years or older.” In that case, it should be mapped to blank.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>The program code correctly maps this element to “0, not applicable” when the child has not been previously adopted.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps missing information to “3, unable to determine.” <u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The program code has been modified to correctly map missing data to blanks (LNs 184620-184640).</p>
Removal Episodes		Caseworkers are incorrectly entering situations in which the responsibility of a case is transferred from one county title IV-B/IV-E agency to another as a discharge and the reason of “transfer to another agency.” There are also potential issues associated with determining reentry rates, as it is not necessarily clear whether a child entering care has a history in another county’s foster care agency.
#18 Date of First Removal from Home ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p>As noted in element #4, children in foster care are assigned unique IDs within each county, but those IDs do not cross county boundaries. A child who entered and was discharged from foster care in one county with one ID, who later enters foster care in another county with a different ID will not have the earlier foster care experience available for reporting purposes. The State must devise a method to report the first removal date that was associated with an earlier ID number.</p> <p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section III. Placement Authority</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 185100-187600):</u> The date of removal is associated with the date of the first living arrangement within a removal episode and not the date of legal authority. This reflects the date the State physically removed the child instead of the date of the court order of removal. For the date of the child’s first ever removal from home, the program code reports the begin date of the earliest living arrangement of the first removal episode. The program code reports the begin date of the earliest of any living arrangement that is not “50, home of parents” or “51, home of legal guardian.” This means that regardless of the type of out-of-home living arrangement the start date will be reported</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>as the date of the first removal date.</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 care and placement, 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.</p> <p>If a child’s first placement at the time the agency removes the child or is given responsibility for care and placement 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. If the child goes from a locked facility or a hospital to a foster care setting, then at that time the child’s removal episode begins. There is no indication in the program code that these exceptions occur. Since the program code does not check for the child’s placement at the time of removal, the program code must be modified. The program code must be modified to report the start date of a foster care setting. If the child’s first living arrangement after removal is either a locked facility or a hospital, the start is of the first “traditional foster care setting.” <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to correctly exclude removal episodes whose first or only living arrangement type was a hospital or locked facility (LN 185810).</p> <p>The program must also exclude the start date of a removal episode having duration less than 24 hours. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> Although the program code has been modified to eliminate cases in which the current removal episode (foster care element #21) begins and ends on the same day (LNs 67401-67470), the same logic has not yet been applied to the date of first removal, element #18, LNs 185000-187600.</p>
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	2	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p>A child who entered and discharged from foster care in one county with one ID, who later enters foster care in another county with a different ID will not have the earlier foster care experience available for reporting purposes. The State must devise a</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>method to report the total number of removals the child experienced in his/her lifetime within the State of North Carolina.</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 187900-191100,244300-267800.):</u> The program code counts the number of removal episodes after excluding from the count, removal episodes whose only living arrangements types are “50, home of parent,” 51, home of legal guardian,” or “75, trial home visit.”</p> <p>The program code incorrectly does not exclude from the count previous removal episodes whose only living arrangement was a hospital, locked facility, or which lasted less than 24 hours. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to correctly exclude from the count, removal episodes whose only living arrangement type was a hospital or locked facility (LN 185810).</p> <p>Although the program code has been modified to eliminate cases in which the current removal episode (foster care element #21) begins and ends on the same day (LNs 67401-67470), the same logic has not yet been applied for the count of previous removal episodes in foster care element #19 (LNs 187900-191100).</p>
<p>#20 Date Child was Discharged from last foster care episode (if applicable)</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p>A child who entered and discharged from foster care in one county with one ID, who later enters foster care in another county with a different ID will not have the earlier foster care experience available for reporting purposes. The State must devise a method to report the date of a prior removal episode discharge date.</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 191600-194100):</u> The program code reports blank for this element if the total number of removals is less than two. Otherwise, the program code reports the discharge date of the removal episode whose removal date is most recent removal date prior to the maximum removal date for this child.</p> <p>The wrong date may be reported for subsequent data file submissions, if a new</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>removal episode begins after the reporting period but before the date of submission of that subsequent data file.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly does not check for removal episodes whose only living arrangement is a hospital or locked facility or whose duration was 24 hours or less.</p> <p><i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to partially address the findings listed above. The program code now correctly excludes removal episodes whose only living arrangement is a hospital or locked facility (LNs 193110-193141). The program code still does not exclude a removal episode whose duration was 24 hours or less, nor does it contain a check that the discharge date reported is prior to the date of removal for the current removal episode (LNs 192200-193200).</p>
<p>#21 Date of Latest Removal</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPR), section III. Placement Authority</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The date of removal is associated with the date of the first living arrangement within a removal episode and not the date of legal authority. This reflects the date the State physically removed the child instead of the date of the court order of removal.</p> <p>The program code reports the earliest “begin date of living arrangement” that is not type “50, home of parent” or “51, home of legal guardian” and that is equal to or after the latest removal date. When the program code checks for the earliest removal date after the latest, non-blank discharge date, it incorrectly does not check that the latest discharge date is no later than the end of the reporting period.</p> <p>The program code also incorrectly does not check that the first or only living arrangement is a hospital or that the first living arrangement is a locked facility. It does correctly exclude cases when the only living arrangement is a locked facility.</p> <p>The State needs to modify the extraction code to ensure that if a child goes from either a locked facility or a hospital then to a “foster care setting” that placement date is the date of current removal. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date ____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)	4	modified to correctly check for the earliest begin date of the child's living arrangement that is not a hospital or locked facility (LNs 88100-88200). <u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 86900-92200):</u> The program code reports the timestamp of the latest placement authorization record in the client table, where the timestamp is no earlier than the first valid living arrangement of this removal episode. It appears possible, but not likely, that the first valid living arrangement can start after the timestamp of the latest placement authorization record, resulting in a null or incorrect value for this element.
#23 Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting ____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)	2 3	<u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section VIII. Living Arrangement (CPPS Manual page 29 - 33, and page 43 for facility type.) There are three rows on the form for living arrangements. The case workers are instructed to use a second blank page if more than 3 updates are entered at a time. <u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 36 (49%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. <u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 195400-198400):</u> The program code reports the most recent placement begin date that occurred prior to the end of the reporting period, excluding types “50, home of parent,” “51, home of legal guardian,” “75, trail home visit,” “76, runaway,” or “98, respite.” The program code incorrectly excludes living arrangement types of trial home visit and runaway (and home of parent or legal guardian) when reporting the date of placement in current foster care setting. <u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The program code has been modified to correctly include living arrangements of “trial home visit” and “runaway” when reporting the date of placement in the current foster care setting (LNs 196400-196520).
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	2	<u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section VIII. Living Arrangement (CPPS Manual page 29 - 33, and page 43 for facility type.) When a worker enters a new placement for a child, the worker also completes a field that is referred to the “P box.” The four values associated with this field are “Move: Progress toward permanency” (code 1), “Move: No progress toward permanency”

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>(code 2), “Not a move: Progress toward permanency” (code 3) and “Not a move: No progress toward permanency” (code 4). For this element, this field is used to determine whether a change in placement ID indicates a change in placement status (such as a foster home to a pre-adoptive home) or an actual placement move.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 33 (45%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 203400-212900):</u> The program code counts living arrangements in the current removal episode up to the end of the reporting period or the discharge date, whichever is earlier. Living arrangement types of “50, home of parent,” “51, home of legal guardian,” “75, trial home visit,” and “76, runaway” are correctly excluded from the count.</p> <p>The program code currently includes all hospitalizations in the placement count. The State needs to determine if the Medicaid State plan defines a length of stay for “acute care.” If so, provide the Federal team with a copy of the plan with this language. If it does not, then the State needs to determine what they are going to consider an acute care hospital stay and provide the Federal team with their proposal. The program code must be modified to exclude from the placement count hospitalizations for acute care. The code is to continue counting non-acute care hospital stays.</p> <p>When a child returns to the same living arrangement from which he/she ran away or when placed in his/her own home, the program code is incorrectly counting the return to the same living arrangement as a new move (the count is incorrectly incremented).</p> <p>The program code incorrectly sets the count to one (01) in the situation where the State/County gets care and placement responsibility for a child but the child is on runaway status and still is on runaway status as of the end of the report period. The placement count in this situation must be zero.</p> <p>The program code increments the count when the placement setting changes status (e.g. a foster home becomes a pre-adoptive home). <u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The program code has been updated to correctly exclude from the count the living</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>arrangement type "98, respite." The program code now incorrectly excludes from the count living arrangement type "63, hospital," which includes both acute and non-acute hospital stays. Only short-term acute care hospital stays should be excluded from the placement count (LNs 52010-52020).</p> <p>The program code has also been modified to incorrectly increment the count when the living arrangement type changes, despite the facility ID remaining the same (status change). The program code has been modified to correctly not count the "perm box" values of 3 or 4 (LNs 200100-212900).</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">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section III. Placement Authority (CPPS Manual page 14)</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 213400-215500):</u> The type of legal authority is mapped to the appropriate AFCARS values. The State values 1, 2, 3, 8 are mapped to AFCARS "2, court ordered." The program code must be modified to map "8, interstate compact placement agreement into NC" to blank.</p> <p>The State incorrectly maps "4, relinquishment for adoption..." to "voluntary placement agreement."</p> <p>The program code maps the codes "5" and "6" "reserved for later use" are incorrectly mapped to "1, voluntary placement agreement."</p> <p>The State correctly maps "7, voluntary placement agreement with parents or legal guardians." The value "9, contractual agreement for residential Services (CARS)" is mapped to "1, voluntary placement agreement." The value "10, transfer in from another NC county is mapped to "3, not yet determined." (See other issues related to cases being discharged and re-entered as a new removal for these situations.)</p> <p><u>Post site-visit corrections (LNs 214100-215300):</u> The State has corrected the mapping of some values. State codes "5" and "6," "reserved for later use," "8, ICPC into NC" and "other values" are now correctly mapped to blank. "Relinquishment for adoption"</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>is now correctly mapped to "court ordered." The State value "11, placement was originally VPA" is now correctly mapped to "voluntary."</p> <p>The State code "10, transfer in from another NC county" is mapped to "court ordered." This approach must be modified because a case that has the jurisdiction transferred from one county to another is not a new removal episode. The original removal manner is to still be reported for the child.</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><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section III. Placement Authority (CPPS Manual page 14)</p>
#26 Physical Abuse	3	
#27 Sexual Abuse	3	
#28 Neglect	3	The State's list includes "domestic violence." The State could map it to this element.
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	3	
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	3	
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	3	The State needs to provide training that Fetal Alcohol Exposure should be recorded for this element.
#32 Child Drug Abuse	3	The State needs to provide training that Fetal Drug Exposure should be recorded for this element.
#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 incorrectly records Safe Haven (Safe Surrender) as abandonment. The State indicated they will probably add an option of "Safe Surrender" to the options list.
#40 Inadequate Housing	3	

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>#41 Current Placement Setting</p> <p>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</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPRR), section VIII. Living Arrangement (CPRS Manual page 29 - 33, and page 43 for facility type.)</p> <p><u>Program Code Pqa847 LNs 215800-223500):</u> The State code for runaway (76) is incorrectly mapped to AFCARS “3, foster family home – non-relative,” it should be mapped to “7, runaway.” Missing data are mapped to blank.</p> <p><u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The State code for runaway (76) is now correctly mapped to AFCARS "7, runaway." Living arrangements with State codes "72" and "74" (still not described by the State), along with "98, respite," are no longer extracted as placement settings, for mapping in foster care element #41. The State code "53, therapeutic home" is now mapped to "foster family home non-relative." State codes "50, home of parents" and "51, home of legal guardian" are now correctly mapped to blank (LNs 217000-221200).</p>
<p>#42 Is Current Placement Out-of-State?</p> <p>1=Yes (Out of State placement) 2=No (In-State placement)</p>	<p align="center">4</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPRR), section III. Placement Authority</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>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPRR), section V. Permanent Plan (CPRS Manual page 23/24)</p> <p>There are no values mapped to “long term foster care.” The manual states “As long as a minor child is in an Agency's custody, the Agency must work toward a permanent plan, even if the child's present status is extended foster care. If return to parents or custody or guardianship with a relative or other suitable person have been eliminated as possibilities, and the child has indicated that he or she will not cooperate with adoptive placement, the plan will be <u>custody with other court approved caretaker, code 07</u> or <u>guardianship with other approved caretaker, code 05.</u>”</p> <p>“Custody with other court approved caretaker” does not include relatives. The manual instructs workers to use the value "not yet established" only during the first 30 days that the child is in care.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=13,114): Reunify = 7,675 (59%); Live With Other Relative(s) = 507 (4%); Adoption = 3,421 (26%); Long-Term Foster Care 0; Emancipation = 299 (2%); Guardianship = 1,028 (8%); Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established = 107 (1%); Not reported = 77</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u>: 14 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 223800-226100)</u> The NC value “guardianship with other court approved caretaker” is correctly mapped to “guardianship.”</p> <p>“Guardianship with relative (04)” is incorrectly mapped to “guardianship;” it should be mapped to “live with relative.”</p> <p>The program code maps the value "Custody with non-removal parent or relative" (code 6) to "live with other relative." The State must replace this value and separate it into two different values. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections</i>: The State code "6, custody with non-removal parent" is now mapped to "reunification" (LNs 223800-225200). “Custody with non-removal parent” (i.e., non-custodial parent) is to be mapped to “reunification.” “Custody with non-removal relative” is to be mapped to “live with relative(s).”</p> <p>The value “custody with other court approved caretaker” is incorrectly mapped to the AFCARS value “live with other relatives.” This value should be mapped to “guardianship.”</p> <p>The State maps the value “09, Youth is 18-VPA” to “emancipation. Since these youth are to be reported as discharged from foster care for AFCARS reporting purposes, this value should be commented out in the program code. The State needs to identify if there are any other circumstances in which the AFCARS value “emancipation” would be used.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been corrected to no longer use the State code "1, prevention of out of home placement" when mapping this element. It previously was mapped to blank.
#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	2 3	<p>Form: DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section IV. Principal Caretakers Information (complete for all children)</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 157800-158200):</u> The program code maps the State value of "0" to AFCARS "5, unable to determine" for this element. All other State values are copied directly to the AFCARS element. The value "0" is for blank fields and it should be mapped to blank in AFCARS. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to correctly map the State value of "0" to blank, instead of "5, unable to determine." LN 157900.</p>
#45 1 st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year ____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)	3 4	<p>Form: DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section IV. Principal Caretakers Information (complete for all children)</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 158300-160000):</u> The program code correctly sets this element to blank if either the value of the State's field CARETK1YOB equals zero or if the value of element #44, caretaker family structure is "5, unable to determine." Otherwise, the program code correctly converts the State's 2-digit value of CARETK1YOB to the corresponding 4-digit AFCARS value.</p>
#46 2 nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year (if applicable) ____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)	4	<p>Form: DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section IV. Principal Caretakers Information (complete for all children)</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 158300-160000):</u> The program code incorrectly sets this element to blank if the value of the State's field CARETK1YOB equals zero or if the value of element #44, caretaker family structure is "0,??" "3, single female," "4, single male" or "5, unable to determine."</p> <p>Otherwise, the program code correctly converts the State's 2-digit value of CARETK2YOB to the corresponding 4-digit AFCARS value.</p>
#47 Mother's Date of TPR	2	<p>Form: DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section VI. Parental Rights Termination This section only lists mother and father.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>		<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 10 (14%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 162600-163400):</u> The program code does not check for the most recent TPR date if more than one is present. The date that was entered most recently will be reported. This is because only the recent TPR date is stored in the AFCARS table. If the State resubmits a prior report period, the latest TPR and not the one that may exist during the resubmitted report period is submitted. This would appear as a future date. A history of TPR dates must be maintained and the program code revised to pull the most recent TPR date and the for the report period being submitted.</p>
<p>#48 Legal or Putative Father’s TPR</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section VI. Parental Rights Termination This section only lists mother and father.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 9 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 162600-163400):</u> The program code does not check for the most recent TPR date if more than one is present. The date that was entered most recently will be reported. Therefore, the most recently entered, rather than the most recent TPR date, is reported. If the State resubmits a prior report period, the latest TPR and not the one that may exist during the resubmitted report period is submitted. This would appear as a future date. A history of TPR dates must be maintained and the program code revised to pull the most recent TPR date and the for the report period being submitted.</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 align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XII. Substitute Parent Information</p> <p>The CPPTS manual instructions are to complete this section of the form for all children who are residing in a family-type setting, whether licensed or not (living codes “56, family foster care home;” “60, specialized family care home (DSS);” “65, adoptive home (non-relative);” “66, adoptive home (relative);” “67, adoptive home (foster home);” “{71, family foster home, relative;” and, “73, specialized family foster</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>home, relative.”</p> <p>Case workers are not entering the information for relative foster parents. The State needs to have supervisors check that this data is being entered.</p> <p>The manual does not indicate how the worker should code a married couple that is separated. The state indicated they are entering it as “married.”</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 21 (29%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 164500-164900):</u> The program maps the State values to the appropriate AFCARS values. If the current placement type is other than foster home, element #49 is correctly set to “not applicable.”</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps missing information to “not applicable” instead of blanks. <i>Post site-visit corrections:</i> Missing data are now correctly mapped to blanks (LNs 164500-164600). The program code has been modified to incorrectly report this element as blank if the current placement type is other than "1," "2", or "3." When the placement type is not a foster home setting, this element should be reported as "0, not applicable" (LN 221900).</p> <p>State staff indicated that the only table that does not keep a date history is 112T, which contains this information, as well as the information for FC elements #49, and #52-55. Therefore, if the State were to resubmit an AFCARS file, the appropriate information for the applicable report period would not be reported.</p>
#50 1 st Foster Caretaker’s Birth Year	<p align="center">3 2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XII. Substitute Parent Information</p> <p>The CPPS manual instructions are to complete this section of the form for all children who are residing in a family-type setting, whether licensed or not (living codes “56, family foster care home;” “60, specialized family care home (DSS);” “65, adoptive home (non-relative);” “66, adoptive home (relative);” “67, adoptive home (foster</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>home);” “71, family foster home, relative;” and, “73, specialized family foster home, relative.”</p> <p>Case workers are not entering the information for relative foster parents. The State needs to have supervisors check that this data is being entered.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 15 (21%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 165000-166200):</u> The program code correctly sets this element to blank if the value of foster care element #41 is equal to 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.</p> <p>The rating of this element was changed due to a review of the program code and data entry process. This information is not associated with a particular placement. It appears that if a new placement is entered but the foster caretaker's birth date is not updated, the previous foster parent's birth date will be reported.</p>
#51 2 nd Foster Caretaker’s Birth Year	<p align="center">3 2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XII. Substitute Parent Information</p> <p>The CPPS manual instructions are to complete this section of the form for all children who are residing in a family-type setting, whether licensed or not (living codes “56, family foster care home;” “60, specialized family care home (DSS);” “65, adoptive home (non-relative);” “66, adoptive home (relative);” “67, adoptive home (foster home);” “71, family foster home, relative;” and, “73, specialized family foster home, relative.”</p> <p>Case workers are not entering the information for relative foster parents. The State needs to have supervisors check that this data is being entered.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 12 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 166300-167200):</u></p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>The program code correctly does set this element to blank if the value of foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 or if foster care element #49 has a value = 0, 3 or 4.</p> <p>The rating of this element was changed due to a review of the program code and data entry process indicates that this information is not associated with a particular placement. It appears that if a new placement is entered but the foster caretaker's birth date is not updated, the previous foster parent's birth date will be reported.</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 = Applies</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XII. Substitute Parent Information</p> <p>The CPPS manual instructions are to complete this section of the form for all children who are residing in a family-type setting, whether licensed or not (living codes “56, family foster care home;” “60, specialized family care home (DSS);” “65, adoptive home (non-relative);” “66, adoptive home (relative);” “67, adoptive home (foster home);” “71, family foster home, relative;” and, “73, specialized family foster home, relative.”</p> <p>Case workers are not entering the information for relative foster parents. The State needs to have supervisors check that this data is being entered.</p> <p>See FC element #49 for recommendations regarding a date history for these elements.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 15 (21%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 167800-181800):</u> The program code incorrectly does not set this element to blank if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8. If all race values are missing, the program code incorrectly maps all race values in foster care element #52 a-f to “0, does not apply,” instead of to blank. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to correctly set this element to blank if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 (LNs 221300-221450). If all race values are missing, the program code now correctly sets all race values in foster care element #52 a-f to blank (LNs 181948-</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>181961).</p> <p>The foster caretaker’s race may not be associated with the current placement. In such cases, it is possible that race is reported even when it is not applicable to the current placement setting.</p>
<p>#53 1st Foster Caretaker’s Hispanic or Latino Origin</p> <p>0 = Not applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPR), section XII. Substitute Parent Information</p> <p>The CPPS manual instructions are to complete this section of the form for all children who are residing in a family-type setting, whether licensed or not (living codes “56, family foster care home;” “60, specialized family care home (DSS);” “65, adoptive home (non-relative);” “66, adoptive home (relative);” “67, adoptive home (foster home);” “{71, family foster home, relative;” and, “73, specialized family foster home, relative.”</p> <p>Case workers are not entering the information for relative foster parents. The State needs to have supervisors check that this data is being entered.</p> <p>See FC element #49 for recommendations regarding a date history for these elements.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 15 (21%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> (pqa847 LNs 167800-181946): The program code incorrectly does not set this element to “not applicable” if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.</p> <p>This element is incorrectly initialized to “2, no.”</p> <p>The foster caretaker’s Hispanic origin may not be associated with the current placement. In such cases, it is possible that Hispanic origin is reported even when it is not applicable to the current placement setting.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<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 f. Unable to Determine 0 = Does not apply 1 = Applies</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The program code has been modified to incorrectly set this element to blank if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. It should be set to "0, not applicable" (LNs 221300-221500).</p> <p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XII. Substitute Parent Information</p> <p>The CPPS manual instructions are to complete this section of the form for all children who are residing in a family-type setting, whether licensed or not (living codes "56, family foster care home;" "60, specialized family care home (DSS);" "65, adoptive home (non-relative);" "66, adoptive home (relative);" "67, adoptive home (foster home);" "{71, family foster home, relative;" and, "73, specialized family foster home, relative."</p> <p>Case workers are not entering the information for relative foster parents. The State needs to have supervisors check that this data is being entered.</p> <p>See FC element #49 for recommendations regarding a date history for these elements.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> Between nine and 11 of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code pqa847 LNs 167800-181800:</u> The program code incorrectly does not set this element to blank if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8, or if foster care element #49 has a value = 0, 3 or 4. If all race values are missing, the program code incorrectly maps all race values in foster care element #52 a-f to "0, does not apply," instead of to blank.</p> <p>The foster caretaker's race may not be associated with the current placement. In such cases, it is possible that race is reported even when it is not applicable to the current placement setting.</p> <p><u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The program code has been modified to correctly set this element to blank if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. The program</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>#55 2nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin</p> <p>[0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>still does not check if element #49 has a value = 0, 3, or 4. LNs 221300-221650. If all race values are missing, the program code now correctly sets all race values in foster care element #54 a-f to blank (LNs 181948-181961).</p> <p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XII. Substitute Parent Information</p> <p>The CPPS manual instructions are to complete this section of the form for all children who are residing in a family-type setting, whether licensed or not (living codes “56, family foster care home;” “60, specialized family care home (DSS);” “65, adoptive home (non-relative);” “66, adoptive home (relative);” “67, adoptive home (foster home);” “{71, family foster home, relative;” and, “73, specialized family foster home, relative.”</p> <p>Case workers are not entering the information for relative foster parents. The State needs to have supervisors check that this data is being entered.</p> <p>See FC element #49 for recommendations regarding a date history for these elements.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 10 (14%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 LNs 167800-181946):</u> The foster caretaker's Hispanic origin may not be associated with the current placement. In such cases, it is possible that Hispanic origin is reported even when it is not applicable to the current placement setting.</p> <p>Additionally, the program code incorrectly does not set this element to blank if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8. This element is incorrectly initialized to “2, no” and the program code never sets this element to “0, not applicable” or “3, unable to determine.”</p> <p><u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The program code has been modified to incorrectly set this element to blank if foster care element #41 has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. It should</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>#56 Date of Discharge from foster care ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>be set to "0, not applicable." The program still does not check if element #49 has a value = 0, 3, or 4 (LNs 221300-221700).</p> <p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPRR), section III. Placement Authority (CPPS Manual page 16)</p> <p><u>Program Code (pqa847 102100-107700):</u> The program code selects the placement authority termination date and timestamp of data entry, for the record having the maximum (latest) timestamp and the maximum (latest) placement authority begin date for this child. If the placement authority termination date is blank or after the end of the reporting period, the program code reports blanks for both element #56 and #57. Otherwise, the program code reports the placement authority termination date as the discharge date and the timestamp as the transaction date of discharge.</p> <p>The program code fails to include a condition that checks if the placement authority termination date is no later than the end of the reporting period within the select statement itself. The current logic may result in discharges not being reported, especially for subsequent submissions in cases where another removal and/or discharge occur after the reporting period but before the time the subsequent data file is generated. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to correctly report as date of discharge the latest placement authority termination date that is no later than the end of the reporting period (LN 103510).</p> <p>For youth that turn 18 within the reporting period, if element 56 is blank, set element 56 to the youth's 18th birthday. (See General Requirements item #8.)</p>
<p>#57 Date of Discharge Transaction Date ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Program Code (pqa847 102100-107700):</u> The program code selects the placement authority termination date and timestamp of data entry, for the record having the maximum (latest) timestamp and the maximum (latest) placement authority begin date for this child. If the placement authority termination date is blank or after the end of the reporting period, the program code reports blanks for both element #56 and #57. Otherwise, the program code reports the placement authority termination date as the discharge date and the timestamp as the transaction date of discharge.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>The program code fails to include a condition that checks if the placement authority termination date is no later than the end of the reporting period within the select statement itself. The current logic may result in transaction dates of discharge not being reported, especially for subsequent submissions in cases where another removal and/or discharge occur after the reporting period but before the time the subsequent data file is generated.</p>
<p>#58 Reason for Discharge</p> <p>[0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section III. Placement Authority (CPPS Manual page 16)</p> <p>Caseworkers are incorrectly entering situations in which the responsibility of a case is transferred from one county title IVB/IVE agency to another as a discharge and the reason of “transfer to another agency.” These are not discharges as the child is still in foster care in the responsibility of a county title IVB/IVE agency. Transfer to another agency is applicable for exits from foster care due to transfers of jurisdiction to an agency outside of the child welfare agency.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 226600-233200):</u> The placement authority termination reason field is selected from the client_id table, as the record where the timestamp and removal dates are the maximum values in the table. This logic could produce the wrong values for a subsequent data file submission, if a new record with a later timestamp and removal date has been entered prior to submission of the data.</p> <p>The NC value “guardianship with other court approved caretaker” is correctly mapped to “guardianship.”</p> <p>The program code maps the value "Custody with non-removal parent or relative" (code 05) to "live with other relative." The State must replace this value and separate it into two different values. “Custody with non-removal parent” (i.e., non-custodial parent) is to be mapped to “reunification.” “Custody with non-removal relative” is to be mapped to “live with relative(s).”</p> <p>The value “custody with other court approved caretaker” is incorrectly mapped to the</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>AFCARS value “live with other relatives.” This value should be mapped to “guardianship.”</p> <p>For youth that turn 18 within the reporting period, if element 56 is blank, set element 58 to “4 (Emancipation).” (See General Requirements item #8.)</p> <p><i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified to map the State code "5, custody with non-removal parent or relative" to AFCARS "1, reunification." This is still incorrect. If the relative that the child was returned to was not the individual(s) from whom the child was removed, then the “custody to a relative” must be mapped to “live with relative(s).” For any other State value other than those specifically and correctly mapped to AFCARS values in the program code, this element is now correctly set to "0, not applicable" (LNs 231300-232800).</p>
<p>Source(s) of Federal financial support/assistance for child</p> <p>0-Does not apply 1-Applies</p>		<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section X. Eligibility Information</p> <p>This information is collected in checkboxes on the lower right-hand side of the form. Immediately to the left of this section is a section for IV-E eligibility with the instructions "Complete for all children for whom FC payments are made." State staff indicated that they think that workers are carrying over these instructions for the collection of data on IV-A, Child Support, Medicaid and SSI. Due to this misunderstanding, workers may not be completing this section for children in an unpaid placement.</p>
#59 Title IV-E (Foster Care)	4	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XI. Federal Assistance</p> <p>The State uses the codes “F” and “E” as indicators that payment made on behalf of a child is IV-E reimbursable. Review of the new mapping documentation noted incorrect payment code parameters (i.e., “P” and “F”) for determining whether a payment is IV-E. Discussion with State staff noted that the parameters in current version of the program code are correct (i.e., “F” and “E”).</p> <p>This is a direct mapping of the information on the form.</p>
#60 Title IV-E (Adoption Subsidy)	4	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XI. Federal</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements
State: North Carolina
AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>Assistance</p> <p>This is a direct mapping of the information on the form.</p>
#61 Title IV-A (Aid to Families with Dependent Children)	4	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XI. Federal Assistance</p> <p>This is a direct mapping of the information on the form.</p>
#62 Title IV-D (Child Support)	3 4	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XI. Federal Assistance</p> <p>The State needs to clarify the instructions that this information applies only if a child support payment was made on behalf of the child during the report period, and not that there is a child support order in place.</p> <p>This is a direct mapping of the information on the form.</p>
#63 Title XIX (Medicaid)	3	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XI. Federal Assistance</p> <p>This is a direct mapping of the information on the form. The number of records reported as applies appears to be under reported.</p>
#64 SSI or other Social Security Act Benefits	4	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section XI. Federal Assistance</p> <p>This is a direct mapping of the information on the form.</p>
#65 None of the Above	2	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section X. Eligibility Information</p> <p>The program code must be modified to also check the field “child’s resources.”</p> <p><u>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</u> The program code has been modified to set this element to "applies" when a non-zero value of CPARFEE is found in addition to support indicated as "applies" in one or more of the elements #59-64. Ask the State to confirm that CPARFEE is the amount of support provided during the reporting period not</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>already indicated in elements #59-64. If so, then the update has corrected the program code for this element. CPARFEE was not discussed during the on-site review. The program code continues to correctly set this element to "apply" if all elements #59-64 "do not apply" (LNs 239900-240010).</p>
#66 Amount Of Monthly Foster Care Payment (regardless of source)	2	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-5094, Child Placement and Payment Report (CPPR), section IX. Payment</p> <p>The program code reports the amount last paid to the provider, which may not be a full monthly payment. The extraction code must be modified to extract a full monthly payment. <i>Post Site-Visit Corrections:</i> The program code has been modified for this element, but the changes do not appear to address the findings, i.e., the amount reported may not be a full monthly amount (LNs 241000-243800).</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
#1 State FIPS Code	4	
#2 Report Period End Date	4	<u>Program Code:</u> The AFCARS extraction process is run from the AIMS user interface along with error reports and other functionality selected from menus.
#3 Record Number	4	<u>Program Code:</u> The AFCARS number is a random generated number; if selected the number is assigned and remains with the record.
#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	2	The program only checks whether the placement type is “public N.C. agency” and either the child was placed by a public agency or the “prior DSS custody” indicator must be “yes.” These are set to “yes” in AFCARS. The program code must be modified to identify private agency adoptions, whether the private agency was in-state or out-of-state, of children with special needs adoptions and map this element to “yes.” The State may want to either add a field in AIMS to distinguish those records that are to be reported for AFCARS as “state agency involvement.” Or, the State needs to derive the response from the appropriate elements.
#5 Child Date of Birth	4	Missing data are correctly mapped to blank.
#6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	4	The program code maps the State’s value of the sex field to the corresponding AFCARS values. Missing data are mapped to blank.
#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 = Applies	2	Foster care issues carry over here regarding the multiple codes. If no race is selected the race elements are set to blank. The State should consider removing the bi-racial field on the screen.
#8 Child Hispanic Origin	2	Review of the frequency report revealed four cases with the invalid value of "0."

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine		Review of Form 1808 revealed that this information is collected through the 64 race codes. However, the AIMS child information screen collects this information into the Hispanic field through a question on the screen with the possible values of "yes," "no," and "unknown." The value "unknown" is mapped to "unable to determine." The program code maps missing values to the invalid value of "0." Missing data must be mapped to blank.
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs 1 = Yes 2 = No	2	<u>Frequency Report (n=72):</u> Yes = 52 (72%); No = 20 (28%); Not reported = 0 <u>Form:</u> DSS-1808, Section I.D. Special Needs Status Question 1 asks whether the child has special needs and the options are “yes” or “no.” <u>Screen:</u> AIMS, I. History of Child, D. Special Needs Status The screen has the same field as the 1808 form with the same selections options. <u>Program Code:</u> The program code checks the “basis” field (question 1) and sets this element to “yes” if the “basis” field has a value of “yes.” Otherwise, this element is set to “no.” The program code must be modified to also check for the value “B” or “no” and map it to AFCARS value “2, no.” Missing data must be mapped to blank.
#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	3	<u>Frequency Report (n=72):</u> Not applicable = 20; Race/Original Background = 1 (1.39%); Age = 11 (15%); Sibling group = 10 (14%); medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities = 21 (29%); Other = 9 (13%); Not reported = 0 <u>Form:</u> DSS-1808, Section I.D. Special Needs Status Question 2 on the form asks what is the primary basis for special needs with the options of “membership in a sibling group,” “medical conditions or mental, physical, or emotional disabilities,” “need for placement with known and approved family,” “age,” “racial/origin background,” and “other.” There is not an option of “not applicable.”

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		<p><u>Screen:</u> AIMS, I. History of Child, D. Special Needs Status The screen has the same field as the 1808 form with the same selections options.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> Missing data are correctly mapped to blank.</p> <p>The State value of “need for placement with known and approved family” is mapped to AFCARS “other.” All other State values are mapped to their identical AFCARS values.</p> <p>See changes for element #10. Data will be assessed to determine continued accuracy.</p>
<p>#11 - 15</p> <p>0 = Does not apply 1 = Applies</p>		<p><u>Program Code:</u> Values for elements #11-15 are reported regardless of whether or not the value of element #10 is “4, Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities.” The State must modify the extraction code to only extract elements 11 - 15 if the response to #10 is “medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities.”</p> <p>The State needs to include guidance in the manual indicating which category a diagnosed condition belongs in, such as using the AFCARS disability resource list that is included in Technical Bulletin #14.</p>
#11 Mental Retardation	2	
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	2	The program code incorrectly maps deaf/hearing impaired children to AD element #15: Other Diagnosed Condition.
#13 Physically Disabled	2	
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	2	
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	2	Review of the program code revealed that deaf/hearing impaired children are incorrectly mapped to AD element #15: Other Diagnosed Condition.
#16 Mother's Birth Year	4	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-1808, Section II. History of Birth Parents (or last adoptive parents), C. Birth Mother</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code reports the year of birth for the birth (or legal) mother from the</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		<p>birthday field.</p> <p>This element is correctly mapped to blank for missing data and for the case of a single male adoptive parent.</p>
#17 Father's Birth Year	4	<p><u>Form:</u> DSS-1808, Section II. History of Birth Parents (or last adoptive parents), A. Birth Father</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code reports the year of birth for the birth (legal) father from the birthday field.</p> <p>This element is correctly mapped to blank for missing data and for the case of a single female adoptive parent.</p>
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<p><u>Frequency Report (n=72):</u> Yes = 7 (10%); No = 44 (61%); Unable to determine = 0; Not reported = 21 (29%)</p> <p><u>Form:</u> DSS-1808, Section II. History of Birth Parents (or last adoptive parents), C. Birth Mother</p> <p>Question 9 asks for the marital status at the time of the child's birth. The options are "unknown," "single," "divorced," "married to birth father," "married to legal father," "married to adoptive spouse," "widowed."</p> <p>The State needs to clarify in the instructions that "unknown" should only be used for abandoned children. The State may want to change "unknown" to "abandoned."</p> <p>The State needs to clarify the option "married to adoptive spouse." For children that were in foster care, had been previously adopted, and have a subsequent adoption, element #18 is to be reported on the biological mother only.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The State's value "unknown" is mapped to the AFCARS value "unable to determine."</p> <p>Review of the program code revealed that missing data are incorrectly defaulted to "unable to determine."</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	4 2	<u>Program Code:</u> The program code reports the TPR date for the biological mother. The program code must also report a legal mother's TPR date.
#20 Date of Father's TPR	4 2	Form 1808 indicates that there are spaces to enter TPR dates for the biological father and the legal father. On AIMS, the instruction is to enter the latter of the biological, legal, or putative father's TPR date in the field "date birth father's parental rights terminated." <u>Program Code:</u> The program code reports the TPR date for the biological father. The program code should also report a legal father's TPR date.
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	4	<u>Program Code:</u> The program code reports the date from the final decree date field. Missing data is mapped to blank.
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	2	<u>Form:</u> DSS-1808, Section III. History of Adoptive Parents, A. Adoptive Father, and section B. Adoptive Mother, Question 9 The options are: single, divorced, married to biological parent, married to adoptive spouse, widowed, and married/waiver spouse not joining. <u>Program Code:</u> The code first checks for an adoptive mother and father who both have a marital status of single, divorced, or widowed. If that condition is met, this element is set to "unmarried couple." The code then checks for either an adoptive mother or an adoptive father with a marital status of married, and if either is found, this element is mapped to "married." The code then checks for an adoptive father or an adoptive mother with a marital status of single, divorced, or widowed, and if found, this element is reported as "single male" or "single female," respectively. The code then checks for an adoptive mother or father with a missing marital status and if found, this element is incorrectly mapped to "single female" or "single male," respectively. If no marital status has been found, this element is incorrectly mapped to "single male." The program code incorrectly maps "married/waiver spouse not joining." It must be mapped to "married couple (1)".

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	4	<p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code correctly reports the year of birth from the value of the State's birthday field for the adoptive mother.</p> <p>This element is correctly mapped to blank for missing data and for the case of a single male adoptive parent.</p>
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	4	<p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code correctly reports the year of birth from the value of the State's birthday field for the adoptive father.</p> <p>This element is correctly mapped to blank for missing data and for the case of a single female adoptive parent.</p>
<p>#25 Adoptive Mother'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 = Applies</p>	2	<p>Foster care issues carry over here regarding the multiple codes.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code correctly maps the State value of race field to the AFCARS elements 25 a-f, by generating the appropriate six-character string consisting of "0s" and "1s" for each State race code value.</p> <p>This element is correctly mapped to blank for missing data and for the case of a single male adoptive parent.</p> <p>Same logic for the adopted child's race.</p>
<p>#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p>Form 1808 collects this information through the 64 race codes, as referenced in the Foster Care Matrix of this report.</p> <p>AIMS collects this information as a separate questions with the possible values of "yes," "no," and "unknown." The value "unknown" is mapped to "unable to determine."</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code maps the State values of the Hispanic field to corresponding</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		<p>AFCARS values: “A” and “Y” are correctly mapped to “1, yes,” “B” and “N” are correctly mapped to “2, no,” “U” is correctly mapped to “3, unable to determine.” All other values and missing data are incorrectly mapped to “0, not applicable.” Missing data must be mapped to blank. The value “0, not applicable” should be reported for the adoptive mother’s Hispanic origin only if the adoptive family structure element #22 is “4, single male.”</p>
<p>#27 Adoptive Father'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 = Applies</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>Foster care issues carry over here regarding the multiple codes.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code correctly maps the State value of race field to the AFCARS elements 25 a-f, by generating the appropriate six-character string consisting of “0s” and “1s” for each State race code value.</p> <p>This element is correctly mapped to blank for missing data and for the case of a single female adoptive parent.</p>
<p>#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>Form 1808 collects this information through the 64 race codes, as referenced in the Foster Care Matrix of this report.</p> <p>AIMS collects this information as a separate questions with the possible values of "yes," "no," and "unknown." The value "unknown" is mapped to "unable to determine."</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code maps the State values of the Hispanic field to corresponding AFCARS values: “A” and “Y” are correctly mapped to “1, yes,” “B” and “N” are correctly mapped to “2, no,” “U” is correctly mapped to “3, unable to determine.”</p>
<p>#29 –32</p> <p>0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies</p>	<p align="center">[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Underreporting may be due to the large number of private and international adoptions with missing relationship information.</p> <p>Review of Form 1808 where this information is collected revealed that all AFCARS</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		<p>are available for the worker to select. However, the form does not instruct the worker to select all that apply. The system used to collect this data also only allows for one option to be entered.</p> <p>Review of the program code revealed that relationships are checked independently of one another. If the system were able to collect multiple relationships, the code should report all applicable relationships.</p>
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent	2	<p>Review of the program code suggests that this element is reported as missing if only one adoptive parent is reported.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> If the relation field is not empty for both adoptive parents and the relation value is “D, step parent” for at least one of them, the program code reports “1, applies” for this element.</p> <p>If the relation field is empty for one or both adoptive parents, the program code reports blank for this element. Otherwise, the program code reports “0, no.” The program code appears to report missing data correctly as blank (relation fields are empty for both adoptive mother and adoptive father).</p>
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative	2	<p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code correctly reports this element as “1, applies” if one or both of the adoptive parents are related by blood or marriage.</p> <p>Missing data are mapped to blank.</p>
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	2	<p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code correctly reports this element as “1, applies” if one or both of the adoptive parents were foster parents.</p> <p>Missing data are mapped to blank.</p>
#32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative	2	<p><u>Program Code:</u> The program code correctly reports this element as “1, applies” if one or both of the adoptive parents are not related through blood or marriage.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: North Carolina

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (2008A)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings
		Missing data are mapped to blank.
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	4	<u>Program Code:</u> The program code maps the State’s value of placed from field to the identical AFCARS values. Missing data are mapped to blank.
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	4	<u>Program Code:</u> Missing data are mapped to blank.
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy 1 = Yes 2 = No	2 4	<u>Program Code:</u> The program code checks the adoption assistance agreement flag for this element. If the flag is “A” or “Y” this element is set to “1, yes,” otherwise this element is set to “2, no.” The caseworkers are instructed to enter “yes” for “Medicaid only” adoption agreements.
#36 Monthly Amount	2	<u>Program Code:</u> The program code reports the amount in the adoption assistance agreement amount field if the agreement source is Title IV-E or Title IV-B. The program code incorrectly excludes the amount of State funding sources.
#37 Adoption Assistance - title IV-E 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	<u>Program Code:</u> The program code checks if the agreement source is Title IV-E, then sets this element to “1, yes.” Otherwise it sets this element to “2, no.”