

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
<p>#5 Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (if applicable)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen: Legal Action and Detail FCRB Person Tracking</u></p> <p><u>State's Mapping Form</u> The form indicates: "SCR 9107 to look for only the following types of Legal Actions: Dispositions, Review Hearings and Permanency Hearings."</p> <p><u>Program Code 30800, C2159-(p 45)</u> 1) There is no parameter to extract dates prior to or the same day as the end of the report period.</p> <p>2) The program code determines whether the child has been in foster care for more than seven months, if not the review date is initialized to spaces.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report:</i> There appears to be a high number of records reported as blank (2,698 (38%)).</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 20 (28%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. There were records reported with this</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1) The State needs to submit a copy of the Legal Action screen showing the drop-down options for the "Hearing Type."</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the program code to check for a periodic review date that is prior to, or equal to, the last day of the report period.</p> <p>2) Modify the program code to extract a review date regardless of the length of time since the beginning of the removal episode.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>		

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		information missing but the reviewers found a review date (7 cases). There also were eight errors because the date reported to AFCARS was after the end of the report period.			
<p>Race: Foster Care #8 Child #52 1st Foster Caretaker #54 2nd Foster Caretaker</p> <p>Adoption #7 Child's Race #25 Adoptive Mother's Race #27 Adoptive Father's Race</p> <p>0 = Does not apply 1 = Apply</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>	2	<p><u>Screens</u> Child and Adoptive Parents: Add Person Foster Parents: Home Detail</p> <p>1) The screen contains the same race values as AFCARS and "Other." The race fields are used by the other programs under NE DHHS.</p> <p>2) The database is shared with other programs in the Department.</p> <p><u>Program Code: 31400 (p 45), 63000 (p 93), 71420 (pg. 113)</u> 1) The State is mapping "unknown" and "other" to</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1) The screen needs to be modified so that a worker cannot select a race plus "other" or "unable to determine."</p> <p>2) The Federal team will provide the State with information on other States that have a shared demographic database.</p> <p><i>Suggestions:</i> A. Since the State has to modify the selections on the screen for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) race categories, the State should consider adding the option "abandoned" at the same time.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction code to map the selection of "other" to blank.</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1)</p> <p>2) 9/2010</p>	

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		<p>“unable to determine” rather than mapping them to blanks. 1a) The screen does not have an option of “unknown.”</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Case File Review Findings, #8:</i> There were cases in which more than one race should have been selected and reported.</p> <p><i>2009B Frequency Report, #8:</i> There are 923 (12.81%) records that are “unable to determine.” “Unable to determine” should only be used for children who were abandoned, incapacitated, or the child and his/her family refused to divulge race.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, #52:</u> There are 4,240 records that are “not reported.”</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, #54:</u> There are 1,793 records reported but there are only 2,162 records reported as a married or unmarried couple in element #49. 5,410 cases are “not reported”, although 2,162 children are placed in foster homes that have a second principal caretaker (FC element</p>	<p>1a) Since the screen does not have an option of “unknown” remove this from the extraction code.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Provide clarification to case workers that Filipino is to be entered as “Asian” and not “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.”</p>		

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		<p>#49), a discrepancy of 369. There are 164 “unable to determine” records, and 5 “two or more races” records.</p> <p><u>AD #7: Frequency Report:</u> There are 37 (13%) records reported with the value “unable to determine.” There are 11 records that have “two or more races” and another four that have “unable to determine” plus a race.</p> <p><u>AD #7: Program Code, 32150 (p 58), 79400 (p 173), 65500 (p 98):</u> The extraction code selects the race information the same as in the foster care file.</p> <p><u>AD #25 Frequency Report:</u> 12 children were adopted to single males (AD element #22) although 23 are “not reported” for this element, a discrepancy of eleven. 26 (7.49%) records are “unable to determine.” There are three records with “unable to determine” plus a race.</p> <p><u>AD #27, Frequency Report:</u> 88 children were adopted to single females although 99 are</p>			

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		recorded as “not reported” for this element, a discrepancy of eleven. There are 16 records reported as “unable to determine.”			
<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>If yes, indicate each type of a disability with a “1.”</p>	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Characteristics</p> <p>1) The process for entering this data appears complicated and is yielding false “no” responses.</p> <p><u>Program Code 31600 (p53), 71620 (p 116), 31700 (p 54), 31750 (p 55)</u></p> <p>1) The extraction code defaults this element to “no.”</p> <p>2) This element is derived from the responses found for elements #11 - 15. There are no conditions in the program code that sets this element to the value “3, not yet determined.”</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report (n=7,203):</i> Yes = 3,287 (46%); No = 3,588 (50%); Not yet determined = 0;</p>	<p><u>Screen</u></p> <p>1) Develop a method to collect this data that is simpler. The Federal team will provide examples on how other States collect this data.</p> <p>2) Make modifications to the screen that includes a question for the worker to answer that reflects if a child has a diagnosis or not.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the extraction code to map missing data to blanks.</p> <p>2) Once the State has decided on modifications to collect this data modify the extraction code accordingly.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u></p> <p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure</p>		

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		<p>Not reported = 328. State and Federal staff believe the frequencies for this element are low.</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings: 7 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In five of the error cases, the AFCARS data indicated “no” but the reviewers found a diagnosed condition.</i></p>	<p>the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>		
<p>FC & AD #11 - #15, Diagnosed Condition Categories</p> <p>#11 Mental Retardation #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired #13 Physically Disabled #14 Emotionally Disturbed #15 Other Diagnosed Condition</p> <p>[0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> Person Characteristics</p> <p>1) See notes in element #10.</p> <p>2) There is a status date and it defaults to the date the worker enters the condition.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u></p> <p>1) Some of the State’s values are not mapped correctly.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u></p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings</i></p> <p>There appears to be some errors related to workers choosing the wrong category and/or related characteristic type. This is especially true when there is a</p>	<p><u>Screen</u></p> <p>1) See task #1 in element #10.</p> <p>2) Replace “status date” with start and end dates of a diagnosis.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) See Appendix I at the end of the findings section for State’s list of codes and items identified for correction.</p> <p>2) Modify the program code to extract diagnosed conditions based on the date of the diagnosis.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u></p> <p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of</p>		

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		diagnosed that is not listed on the screen.	this data.		
<p>#16 Has this child ever been adopted?</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report (n = 7203):</u> Yes = 16 (1%); No = 7,140 (99%); Unable to determine = 0; Not reported = 0</p> <p><u>Screen: Adoption Information</u></p> <p><u>Program Code, 31800 (p 56), 71800 (p 119)</u> 1) There is no logic to set the value to “3” (unable to determine). If there is no information this element is set to “no.”</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1) There needs to be an option of “unable to determine” in case the child is abandoned or the parent is incapacitated and unable to provide this information.</p> <p><i>Suggestion:</i> The State may want to consider replacing the option “unable to determine” with “abandoned” and “incapacitated.”</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the program code to include the option “unable to determine.” 2) Map missing data to blank.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data. 2) Ensure that supervisors are checking the accuracy of this information.</p>		
#21 Date of Latest Removal	2	<p><u>Program Code, 32500 (p 63):</u> The program code does not use the day the agency receives</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> Modify the program code to report the start date of a removal</p>		

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____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)		responsibility for care and placement of a child that is on runaway. <u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 12 (17%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.	episode for children on runaway status at the time the agency obtains responsibility for care and placement.		
#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date #57 Date of Discharge Transaction Date ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<u>#22, Program Code, 32500 (p 63):</u> Production support fixes errors with incorrectly entered removal episodes or dates. They will delete a record and recreate it. This results in a modified transaction date that reflects the date of their edits. These are non-modifiable fields.	1) Make modifications to the system, extraction code and procedures to ensure these dates are not deleted or modified once a case worker enters the child's removal from home or discharge from foster care date.		
#23 Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting	2	<u>Screen: Detail Placement</u> <u>Program Code, 32600 (p 64), 72620 (p 126), 32620 (p 66)</u> The active placement cursor excludes psychiatric hospital medical hospitals.	<u>Program Code</u> Modify the extraction code to report the start date of a non-acute care hospitalization if the child is in a hospital at the end of the report period.		
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	2	<u>Program Code, 32800 (p 68), 72820 (p 131), 32900 (p 69)</u> 1) All hospitalizations are excluded from the placement count.	<u>Program Code</u> 1) Inform the Federal team what the State's Medicaid Plan considers an acute care hospitalization. 1a) Modify the extraction code to exclude acute care hospital stays from the placement count.		

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		<p>2) The State is currently using a 24-hour minimum time period to count a placement.</p> <p>3) Campus placements: If placement moves are on the same physical campus (at same site) the date of placement should not change. See notes in element #41.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report:</i> The data indicates several cases with high number of placement moves.</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 24 (35%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>1b) Include in the placement count non-acute care hospitalizations.</p> <p>2) Modify the extraction code to include placements that are less than 24 hours.</p> <p>3) Identify how these placements are entered into the system and whether changes to the data entry screen needs to be made in order to accurately capture these settings.</p> <p>3a) Check the extraction routine to ensure that moves from one setting to another on the same campus are not included in the placement count.</p>		
#38 Abandonment #39 Relinquishment	2	The State is incorrectly mapping “Safe Haven” to element #38.	Modify the extraction code to map “Safe Haven” to “relinquishment.”		
#41 Current Placement Setting 1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home-Relative 3 = Foster Family	2	<u>Screen:</u> Detail Placement 1) An issue was found in the State’s reporting of group homes that are part of an “umbrella” organization. In some instances during the case file review the child’s AFCARS	<u>Screen</u> 1) Identify if the screen/fields need to be modified to better reflect individual settings (see elements #23 and 24).		

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Home-Non-Relative 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit		<p>data indicated institution but the child was either in a group home or a foster home.</p> <p><u>Program Code, 32600 (p 64), 72620 (p 126), 32650 (p 67):</u> 1) An issue was found in the State’s reporting of group homes that are part of an “umbrella” organization. In some instances during the case file review the child’s AFCARS data indicated institution but the child was either in a group home or a foster home.</p> <p>2) “PA, with parent-abducted” is incorrectly mapped to “runaway.”</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report</i> (n = 7,203): Pre-Adoptive Home = 69 (1%); Foster family home (relative) = 1,277 (18%); Foster family home (non-relative) = 2,531 (35%); Group home = 764 (11%); Institution = 604 (8%); Supervised independent living = 111 (2%); Runaway = 131 (2%); Trial home visit = 1,716 (24%); Not reported = 0.</p> <p>1) Based on the State’s policy</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction code to differentiate between settings under an “umbrella” agency.</p> <p>2) Modify the program code to report the placement setting from which a child was abducted.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Identify a strategy, and implement it, to ensure that pre-adopt placements are being updated for all applicable cases.</p> <p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>3) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of</p>		

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		<p>that prior to an adoption becoming final the child must reside with the adoptive parents for six months the number of children in pre-adoptive homes is low. The State team believes that the records of children being adopted by their foster parents this field is not being consistently updated to reflect the change to a pre-adopt status.</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings: 10 (15%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</i></p>	<p>this data.</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>2</p>	<p><u>Screen: Detail Case Plan</u></p> <p><u>Program Code, 33800 (p 74), 73800 (p 139)</u></p> <p>The State is incorrectly mapping case plan goals of guardianship with relatives to “guardianship.”</p>	<p>Modify the extraction code to map case plan goals of “guardianship with relatives” to the AFCARS case plan goal of “live with relatives.”</p>		
<p>#49 Foster Family Structure</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>Screen: Home Details</u></p> <p><u>Program Code, 35200-FOST-FAM (p 81)</u></p> <p>1) The State has “not</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the extraction code to set element #49 to “not</p>		

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1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male		applicable” and “not reported” reversed. If a child’s current living arrangement (FC #41) is not a foster home setting, then this element must be set to “not applicable.” The program code sets element #49 to space if the child’s placement setting is other than a foster home. <u>Frequency Report:</u> (n = 7203): Not Applicable = 558 (8%); Married Couple = 2137 (30%); Unmarried Couple = 25 (<1%); Single Female = 1083 (15%); Single Male = 74 (1%); Not Reported = 3326 (46%)	applicable” if element #41 is 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 (non-foster home settings).		
Foster Caretaker’s Hispanic or Latino Origin #53 1 st Foster Caretaker #55 2 nd Foster Caretaker [0 = Not applicable] 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<u>Screen: Home Detail</u> <u>Program Code</u> 1) If a child’s living arrangement in element #41 is not a foster home, then this element is to be reported as “not applicable.” <u>Data Quality</u> <u>Frequency Report, #53</u> (n = 7203): Not Applicable = 0; Yes = 170 (2%); No = 805 (8%); Unable to Determine = 9 (<1%); Not Reported = 6,174 (86%). Excluding the errors related to “not applicable” total, 2,848	<u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction routine to set this element to “not applicable” when a child’s living arrangement is other than a foster home setting. <u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Describe how the State will ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data. 1a) Ensure that supervisors provide oversight to the accuracy of data entered.		

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		<p>records remain for which this information is missing.</p> <p><i>Frequency Report, #55</i> (n = 7203): Not Applicable = 0; Yes = 95 (1%); No = 604 (8%); Unable to Determine = 11 (<1%); Not Reported = 6493 (90%).</p> <p>There are 710 records reported but there are 2,162 records reported as a married or unmarried couple in element #49.</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings, #53</i>: 25 (37%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In 22 error cases, this element was blank, but the reviewer found the response was “no.”</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings, #55</i>: 20 (29%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>			
<p>#56 Date of Discharge from foster care</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen: CFS Program Person Information</u></p> <p><u>Program Code, 30400-CURR-EPSP (p 41); 70400-CURR-EPSP (p 100)</u></p> <p>The program code reports a record as discharged at six</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the program code so that it does not automatically discharge a child from foster care after six months.</p>		

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		months regardless of the results of the periodic review hearing. If the judge continues the agency’s responsibility for care and placement from one hearing to the next, or for a lesser time, then the child is to continue to be included in the reporting population.	1a) The State needs to have case workers enter the discharge information.		
<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>	2	<p><u>Screen: CFS Program Person Information</u></p> <p><u>Program Code, 30400-CURR-EPSD (p 41); 70400-CURR-EPSD (p 100)</u></p> <p>The program code reports a record as discharged at six months regardless of the results of the periodic review hearing. If the judge continues the agency’s responsibility for care and placement from one hearing to the next, or for a lesser time, then the child is to continue to be included in the reporting population.</p>	<p><u>Screen</u></p> <p>Option: The State could consider adding a flag for children discharged to adoption that requests TPR fields to be included.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the program code so that it does not automatically discharge a child from foster care after six months.</p> <p>1a) The State needs to have case workers enter the discharge information.</p>		
<p>#59 Title IV-E (Foster Care)</p> <p>0-Does not apply 1-Applies</p>	2	<p><u>Screen: Detail FCRB Person Tracking</u></p> <p><u>Program Code, 35600 (p 86), 75600 (p. 158)</u></p> <p>1) The extraction code does not pick up those records that enter</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the program code to report as “applies” any child determined eligible for title IV-E</p>		

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		<p>foster care the last month of the report period and are determined eligible for title IV-E.</p> <p>2) There appears to be an issue related to the accuracy of this data for cases covered under one of the contract agencies. The billing by the contractor may not occur on a monthly basis and the State agency does not know if there will be a payment.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report (n=7,203):</u> Does not apply = 6,009 (83%); Applies = 1,194 (17%)</p>	<p>even if the determination occurred in the last month of the report period.</p> <p>2) The State needs to investigate this situation and follow-up with the Federal team in writing.</p>		
#61 Title IV-A (Aid to Families with Dependent Children)	2	<p><u>Program Code:</u> 35800-TITLE-4A (p 86), 75800-CHECK-TITLE-IV-A (p 159)</p> <p>The program code does not restrict finding this information to the time frame after a child enters foster care.</p>	<p>Modify the program code to check for an active status <u>after</u> the child's removal date.</p>		
#65 None of the Above	2	<p><u>Program Code</u> The extraction code does not check for additional sources of financial support for the child.</p>	<p>1) Modify the extraction code to check for other sources of income beyond those listed in elements #59-64 (tribal, state or personal sources) prior to setting this element to "does not apply." If another source is found, set this element as "apply."</p>		

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<p>#9 Hispanic/Latino Origin</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Add Person The Ethnicity field is currently not mandatory in system. Case workers are skipping this field when the person is not Hispanic/Latino.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In five of the error cases this field was reported as blank but the reviewers indicated the child was not Hispanic/Latino.</p>	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
<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>	3	<p><u>Frequency Report (n=7203):</u> Not Applicable = 7,140 (99%); Age categories = 63; Unable to determine = 0; Not reported = 0.</p> <p>The accuracy of this element is dependent on element #16. The programming for calculating the age of child at time of previous adoption is correct. However, due to programming for foster care element #16 the information for this element is inaccurate/under-reported.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption Information</p>	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
<p>#18 Date of First Removal from Home</p> <p>__(mo) __</p>	3	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 11 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	The Children's Bureau will reassess this element once corrections are completed in element #21.		

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(day)____(year)		<p><u>Screen:</u> CFS Program Person Information</p> <p><u>Program Code, 32200 (p 60), 72200 (p 122):</u> See notes in foster care element #21 regarding children on runaway status at the time the agency receives responsibility for care and placement.</p>			
<p>Actions or Conditions Associated With Child’s Removal</p> <p>#26 Physical Abuse #27 Sexual Abuse #28 Neglect #29 Parent Alcohol Abuse #30 Parent Drug Abuse #31 Child Alcohol Abuse #32 Child Drug Abuse #33 Child Disability #34 Child’s Behavior Problem #35 Death of Parent #36 Incarceration of Parent #37 Caretaker Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reasons #40 Inadequate Housing</p>	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Detail Removal</p> <p><u>Program Code, 33200, 73220 (p 136), 33300 (p 71):</u> These fields are initialized to zero. The State’s values are mapped to the AFCARS codes. See specific elements - child behavior and abandonment/relinquishment.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u> There are some data quality concerns with these elements. The most common mistake was that only one or two removal reasons were listed in N-FOCUS but more were listed in case file.</p>	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
[0-Does not Apply] 1-Applies					
#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	3	<u>Frequency Report</u> (n = 7,203): Married Couple: 2,750 (38%); Unmarried Couple = 646 (9%); Single Female = 3,382 (47%); Single Male = 357 (5%); Unable to Determine = 0; Not Reported = 68 (1%). <u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
#45 1 st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year #46 2 nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year (if applicable) ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	3	<u>Frequency Report, #45:</u> The number of records reported with a birth year is equal to the number reported as caretakers in element #44. However, 49 records have questionable and invalid data. There is one record with a birth year of 1901, 23 records with a birth year between 2000 – 2009 (under 10 years old), and there are 25 records that have an invalid entry of 0001. <u>Frequency Report, #46:</u> The number of records reported with a year of birth equals the number reported in element #44 for “married couple” and “unmarried couple.” However, there is one record with a birth	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
		year of 1901, 15 records with a birth year between 2000 – 2007 (under 10 years old), and 25 records with an invalid date of 0001.			
#47 Mother’s Date of TPR #48 Legal or Putative Father’s TPR #19 Date of Mother’s TPR #20 Date of Father’s TPR ____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Add Parental Rights</p> <p>Date order signed - The State needs to ensure that case workers are entering the same date consistently across the State.</p> <p>Data Profile: For FY 09 there were 4.8% of the reported discharges to adoption in the foster care file were missing a TPR date for the mother and/or father.</p> <p>Based on the case file review for the TPR dates in the foster care file, there may be TPR dates missing in the AFCARS file due to incomplete conversion of data.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, AD #19:</u> There are four records that were reported as blank.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, AD #20:</u> There are 17 records that were reported as blank.</p>	<p>See notes for element #58.</p> <p>Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>		
#50 1 st Foster Caretaker’s Birth Year	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Detail Organization</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, #50:</u> There</p>	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
#51 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year		<p>are 3,319 records with a family structure reported in FC element #49 but there are 3,613 recorded dates for this element, a discrepancy of 294.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, #51:</u> There are 2,162 records that have a two caretaker family structure as reported in FC element #49, but there are 2,272 reported for this element, a discrepancy of plus 85.</p> <p>There are four records with a birth year of 1997, indicating that the foster parent is younger than the legal age of majority.</p>	this data.		
#62 Title IV-D (Child Support)	3	The frequency for the number of records reported as "applies" appears low.	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW PRELIMINARY ONSITE FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
#8 Child Hispanic Origin #26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin #28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<u>Program Code</u> If no information is found, this element is incorrectly set to "unable to determine." <u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report</i> (n=298): Yes = 41 (14%); No = 230 (77%); Unable to Determine = 4 (1%); Not Reported = 23 (8%)	<u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction code to map missing data to blank. <u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
#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	2	<u>Screen: Detail Subsidy</u> 1) N-FOCUS does not distinguish between actual and at-risk diagnoses. <u>Program Code</u> 32200 (p 59), 73400 (p 137), 32210 (60), 32320 (62), 32330 (p 63), 32340 (p 64) 1) At-risk conditions are incorrectly mapped in elements #11 - 15. <u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report</i> (n = 298): Not Applicable = 135 (45%); Race/Original Background = 0; Age = 5 (2%); Sibling Group = 25 (8%); Medical, etc = 125 (42%); Other = 8 (3%); Not Reported = 0.	<u>Screen</u> 1) Modify the input fields to include a category for conditions that a child is at-risk of developing as diagnosed by a health care professional. <u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction code to map "at-risk" situations to "other." <u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
#29 –32 Relationship of Adoptive	2	<u>Screen: CFS Program Person Information</u>	<u>Screen</u> 1) Identify if there is a field in		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW PRELIMINARY ONSITE FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
Parent to Child – #29 Stepparent #30 Other Relative #31 Foster Parent #32 Other Non-Relative 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies		The information regarding the relationship between the child and the family adopting him/her is derived from the discharge information. However, only one relationship type is identified. <u>Program Code:</u> 32650 (p 82) 1) All applicable relationships are not mapped to AFCARS values. <u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report:</i> There are 20 records missing data for these elements.	the system that collects type of relationship that exist between the child and the adopting parents. 1a) Ensure that the collection method captures all possible combinations of these elements. <u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the program code to extract all applicable relationships. <u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy 1 = Yes 2 = No	2	For #35-37, State staff believe that the code is looking at actual payments, not the subsidy agreement amount. Medicaid only subsidies are to be included.	<u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction of this data to report the amount on the subsidy agreement and not the payment amount. 2) Check the extraction code to ensure it is including Medicaid only subsidies.		
#36 Monthly Amount	2	<u>Program Code:</u> The extraction code is incorrectly including both recurring and non-recurring subsidies (one-time payments).	<u>Program Code</u> Modify the extraction code to include only recurring subsidies.		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW PRELIMINARY ONSITE FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
		<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 8 (57%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.			
#37 Adoption Assistance - title IV-E	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 2 (14%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.	The State needs to double check how this data is entered and extracted to ensure that this information is correct.		
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs 1 = Yes 2 = No	3	<u>Screen:</u> Detail Subsidy <u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report</i> (n = 298): Yes = 163 (55%); No = 135 (45%); Not Reported = 0. There is a discrepancy between what is reported as “yes” for this element and “yes” for element #35. In element #35 the number of records reported as child receiving a monthly subsidy is 217. The State team believes there are data entry errors in this element.	<u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	3	<u>Screen:</u> Placement Additional Details <u>Frequency Report</u> (n=298): Within State = 273 (92%); Another State = 10 (4%); Another Country =0 State staff suspect that workers are selecting <i>another state</i>	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW PRELIMINARY ONSITE FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009 (2009B)

Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Dates	Notes/Comments
		when they are placing a NE child in another state instead of the other way around.			
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	3	<u>Screen:</u> Placement Additional Details This element is rated a “3” due to the findings in General Requirements item #11.	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		