



# North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

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Michael F. Easley, Governor  
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**Dear County Director of Social Services**

**Subject: Federal Outcome Measures Report**

North Carolina had our first federal Child and Family Services Review in March 2001. As a part of that review process, states were encouraged to develop the capacity to measure the State's progress towards meeting and achieving the Federal Outcome Measures. The Division has developed a new report detailing each county's performance on the Federal Outcome Measures. The report for your county is attached. The statewide Federal Outcome Measures will continue to be reported to the federal government as part of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process, in addition to the on-site review of individual cases. The federal government has created six national data standards and benchmarks that states must meet in order to be in substantial conformity on the CFSR. The six data elements are as follows:

<b>Six National Data Standards for Child Welfare</b>		
<b>Standard</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
Recurrence of Maltreatment	Of all children who were victims of substantiated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the period under review, what percent had another substantiated report of maltreatment within six months?	A state passes if 6.1% or fewer of children who were victims of abuse and/or neglect experience another incident of abuse and/or neglect within six months.
Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care	Of all children in foster care in the state during the period under review, what percentage were the subjects of substantiated maltreatment by a foster parent or a facility staff member?	A state passes if .57% or fewer children in foster care experience maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff.
Foster Care Re-entries	Of all the children entering care during the year under review, what percent of those children had a prior foster care episode in the previous twelve months?	A state passes if 8.6% or fewer children entering care during the year under review had a prior foster care episode within the previous twelve months.
Stability of Foster Care Placements	Of all children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal, what percent experienced no more than two placement settings?	A state passes if 86.7% or more of children in foster care less than twelve months experience two or fewer placement settings.
Length of Time to Achieve Reunification	Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percent reunified within twelve months of the time of the latest removal from home?	A state passes if 76.2% or more children reunified with parents or caretakers are reunified within twelve months of their latest removal from home.

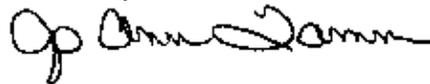
Length of Time to Achieve Adoptions	Of all children exiting foster care to adoption during the year under review, what percent are adopted in less than 24 months from the time of their latest removal from home?	A state passes if 32% or more of the children adopted from foster care are adopted within 24 months of their latest removal.
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In addition to the six national data standards, the Federal Outcomes Measures report also shows the percentage of children under age 12 in group homes for each county. Although this percentage is not reported to the federal government as part of the CFSR process, it is a number that Congress asks for each year as part of its report from the Children s Bureau. The Division has included this information in each county report.

You will receive a copy of the Federal Outcomes Report for your county quarterly. Each report consists of five columns. The first column names the data standard, the second column lists the federal benchmark, the third column shows North Carolina s performance on the measure, the fourth column shows your level counties performance, and the fifth column details your individual counties performance. Eventually, we hope to post this data on a county-by-county basis on the Division s website. We will notify you as soon as this is available.

The Division hopes that the Federal Outcomes Report will be helpful to you. This information can be used to update your staff and the community concerning your progress on ensuring the safety, permanence and well-being of the children in your county and in the state. If you have questions about the information contained in these reports, the interpretation of that information, or the specific programming logic used to develop this report, please contact Kate Johnson at [Katherine.Johnson@ncmail.net](mailto:Katherine.Johnson@ncmail.net) or 919-733-3801.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Lamm, Chief  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

#### Attachments

cc: Pheon Beal  
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