



House Bill 1414 Response and Evaluation Report for Case Management of Children in Foster Care



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House Bill 1414 Response and Evaluation Report for Case Management of Children in Foster Care

In 2020, the Missouri General Assembly and the Governor enacted §210.112 RSMo, House Bill 1414 into law. The law requires several reforms to Missouri's Child Protection System, including establishing a Research and Evaluation Team to review and evaluate foster care case management in Missouri for both Children's Division and its contracted case management agencies and subsidiaries which include Missouri Alliance for Children and Families, Missouri Alliance Permanency Program, Children's Permanency Partnership, St. Louis Partners, Crittenton, and Great Circle.

The purpose of this law is to implement objective metrics to measure the quality of services for Missouri's children in foster care. The key components of the law are the requirements for the Children's Division to:

- Consider the safety and welfare of children the most important goal
- Establish a Research and Evaluation Team composed of representatives from the Children's Division and key stakeholders
- Establish a uniform, transparent, objective, and consistent tool to evaluate foster care case management services
- Maximize successful outcomes for children and families served by the Children's Division

As part of the implementation process, regulation *13 CSR 35-35.100 Response and Evaluation Process for Case Management of Children in Foster Care* was developed and promulgated.

The purpose of this regulation is to implement the amendments to §210.112 RSMo, that were enacted into law in House Bill 1414 of the 2020 regular session of the Missouri General Assembly. This regulation applies to case management services, whether provided by employees of the Children's Division or by Foster Care Case Management Contractors (FCCM). In implementing this regulation, the safety and welfare of children shall be the paramount consideration.

In addition, the Children's Division in conjunction with the Response and Evaluation Team is required to develop and implement a standard report as outlined in the regulation. The purpose of the report is to share the data from the implemented processes outlined in the statute, to analyze the data, and to report lessons learned from the data. The statute includes all metrics and performance measures shall be designed to take into consideration the following factors:

- Caseloads of FCCM case managers are capped; and
- Foster Care Case Management Contracted Agencies may return cases to the Children's Division due to catastrophic costs or court order for case management.

As with any new reform implementation, there have been successes and unforeseen challenges the team continues to work through:

Successes:

- Development of a Tableau Foster Care Case Management Dashboard available to all case management agencies that will display monthly data reported by county and provider
- Increased collaboration amongst all child welfare case management agencies to work towards improvement in child welfare

Challenges:

- House Bill 1414 was passed in the Missouri Legislature as a cost neutral project which meant no additional fiscal resources were given for implementation. The child welfare system has seen a staffing crisis in the past two years and assets have been critically low. This has impacted resources available for validating data sets and returns of needed data sets from the research department. These issues have impacted timeliness; however, those issues are being addressed with an increase in staffing and are close to resolution to minimize future impact.
- The current system utilized for case management is Family and Children Electronic System (FACES). FACES was implemented in the mid-2000's and is over fifteen years old. As such, the system is not able to keep up with demands and there are some pieces of data and metrics that are difficult to extract and for some data points, the system does not have the capability to capture. In 2022, the Children's Division began the exploration and development phase to replace FACES with a new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS). The Division will address identified constraints with the implementation of the new system. Development and implementation is expected to occur over the next three to five years.

Implementation of House Bill 1414

In 2020, the Response and Evaluation Team began the implementation work of House Bill 1414. Three phases were designed to allow for integrated implementation with the current child welfare system. This report will provide information concerning Phase I Metrics. Phase I Metrics as published July 31, 2022 include:

- Reports for children in foster care where there were preponderance of evidence findings of abuse or neglect
- Healthy Children & Youth
- Number of Workers Per Child In Care (Viewed as In Foster Care Less Than 12 months and Over 12 Months)
- Worker Visit with Child
- Reentry to foster care
- Worker Visit with Parent
- Parent Visit with Child

The following measures as outlined in 13 CSR 35-35.100 must be implemented by the end of Phase III no later than October 1, 2024. All of the measures include, as directly stated in the regulation:

1. Safety Domain

- (a) Worker/child visits
- (b) Reports for children in foster care during a 12-month period, where there was a preponderance of evidence finding of abuse and/or neglect of a child;
- (c) Sentinel events; and
- (d) Any other metrics and outcome goals that may be required by law or that the Children's Division may decide are appropriate.

2. Well-Being Domain

- (a) Parent/child visits to the extent that they are not contrary to the orders of the court;
- (b) Healthy Child and Youth (HCY) program compliance (i.e. compliance with federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements and standards). This will include timely completion of HCY/EPSDT screenings and also timely compliance with diagnosed and prescribed treatment;
- (c) Residential placement of a child in a residential or institutional setting shall be in compliance with the requirements of federal and state law;
- (d) Education, such as achievement of identified, developmentally and age appropriate educational milestones;
- (e) All case managers and supervisors successfully complete training in providing trauma informed and trauma based services; and
- (f) Any other metrics and outcome goals that may be required by law or that the Children's Division may decide are appropriate.

3. Permanency Domain

- (a) Worker/parent visits;
- (b) Re-entries into foster care;
- (c) Timely achievement of the child's court approved permanency plan;
- (d) Stability of Placements;
- (e) Provision of services to meet the needs of older youth;
- (f) Timely development and effective implementation of a primary and concurrent permanency plan for each child;
- (g) Development and implementation of a social service plan to address the reasons why the child is in care; and
- (f) Any other metrics and outcome goals that may be required by law or that the Children's Division may decide are appropriate.

4. Service Domain

- (a) Caseloads, including caseloads per case manager and the number of changes in case manager that a child may experience while a child is in care;
- (b) Effective ratio of supervisors to supervision of case managers;
- (c) Timely reporting of sentinel events;
- (d) Cases returned to the Children's Division due to catastrophic costs or court order for case management by Foster Care Case Management agencies; and

- (e) Any other metrics and outcome goals that may be required by law or that the Children's Division may decide are appropriate.

The above outlined metrics are directly from the regulation 13 CSR 35-35.100, pertaining to the implementation of HB1414. The Response and Evaluation Team made the determination to utilize existing federal benchmarks and definition, where available and appropriate to provide consistency in collection and reporting of data. However, not all measures identified had corresponding benchmarks and the Response and Evaluation Team had to make determinations as to realistic expectations. It is the responsibility of the Response and Evaluation Team as outlined in this regulation to continuously evaluate the most appropriate way to assess outcomes in child welfare. For example, worker with child visits uses the federal best practice standard and Children's Division policy which indicates that a child in foster care should meet face-to-face with their worker a minimum of one time per month with the majority of the visits being in the child's placement to monitor and assess the safety of the child. On the other hand, there is no federal standard for the number of case worker changes a child should have while in foster care. The 'ideal standard' would be no changes but it is unrealistic given all of the factors that are considered for this workforce. By understanding the current baseline, best practices, and research, the Response and Evaluation team will be able to better set the 'standard' for Missouri child welfare system practice.

Evaluation Tool and Metrics (13 CSR 35-35.100)

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard (HB1414, Section 210.112 Performance Data Indicators)

The Foster Care Case Management Dashboard (FCCMD), available to all case management agencies, will display Missouri's data each month by circuit, case management provider, and county. The data and metrics will apply to both the Children's Division and its contracted case management agencies. Each agency's leadership and quality teams, along with the Children's Division Oversight Team, will review the data and create improvement plans as indicated.

Child and Family Services Review

In order to comply with the requirements of case evaluation, the Response and Evaluation Team made the determination to utilize the existing Child and Family Services Review process and tools in the collection of information for purposes of HB 1414 evaluation of case management.

The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) is a federally required process for evaluating child welfare systems nationwide. The Children's Bureau conducts the CFSRs, which are periodic reviews of state child welfare systems, to achieve three goals:

- Ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements
- Determine what is actually happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services

- Assist states in helping children and families achieve positive outcomes

The CFSR review includes all children in foster care under the age of eighteen, regardless of case management agency and requires the Children's Division to select a random sample of children in foster care for a detailed review. The review tool used for CFSR case review tool is comprised of questions applied to the selected sample, which require the assessment of 18 items falling within the outcomes of safety, permanency, and child and family wellbeing.

Missouri implemented a review process in April 2018 that embraced the standards of the federal Child and Family Services Review. While the initial review system was built in to the Children's Division's electronic case management system, it mirrored all aspects of the federal onsite review instrument (OSRI). In September 2022, Missouri made the transition from their internal system to the on line federal online monitoring system (OMS) due to:

1. Missouri would have had to make updates to their internal system that were not fiscally responsible or practical
2. The OMS allows Children's Division to separate out reviews by provider and location where the internal system did not

The CFSR Online Monitoring System (OMS) is a web-based application consisting of the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI), the Stakeholder Interview Guide (SIG), review and user management functions for OMS State Administrators, data indicator visualizations, and data analysis reports and tools. The OMS is used for both Children's Bureau-led CFSRs and State-led CFSRs. States can use the OMS for their own continuous quality improvement (CQI) and training/practice purposes.

The Onsite Review Instrument is the federal review tool used to review both foster care and in-home services cases during the onsite review component of the Child and Family Services Reviews. In completing the instrument, reviewers conduct case file reviews and case-related interviews with children, parents, foster parents, caseworkers, and other professionals involved with the child. The instrument is organized into a Face Sheet and three sections. On the Face Sheet, reviewers document general information about a case, such as the type of case. The three sections focus on the outcome domains that form the basis of the Child and Family Services Reviews: safety, permanency, and child and family well-being. For each outcome, reviewers collect information on a number of "items" related to that outcome. Although reviewers use the instrument to review both foster care and in-home services cases, they should complete the permanency section only if the case under review is a foster care case.

In addition to data that is pulled from the OMS, the state is provided with CFSR Data Profiles. These are produced by the Children's Bureau twice per year, typically in February and August. Data for the profiles is pulled from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

AFCARS was established to provide data that would assist in policy development and program management. Data can be used by policymakers at the federal, Tribal, and state levels to assess how many children are in foster care, reasons why they enter, how they exit, and to develop

strategies to prevent their unnecessary placement into foster care. Specifically, the data includes information about children who enter foster care, their entries and exits, placement details, and foster/adoptive parent information, which makes it possible to identify trends.

The data enables the Children's Bureau to administer the federal title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance programs more effectively. The Children's Bureau and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) use these data sets for several purposes, including:

- Responding to Congressional requests for current data on children in foster care or those who have been adopted.
- Responding to questions and requests from other Federal departments and agencies, including the General Accounting Office (GAO), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General (OIG), national advocacy organizations, States, Tribes, and other interested organizations.
- Developing short and long-term budget projections.
- Developing trend analyses and short and long-term planning.
- Targeting areas for greater or potential technical assistance efforts, for discretionary service grants, research and evaluation, and regulatory change; and
- Determining and assessing outcomes for children and families.

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) is a voluntary data collection system that gathers information from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico about reports of child abuse and neglect. NCANDS was established in response to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of 1988. The data are used to examine trends in child abuse and neglect across the country, and key findings are published in Child Welfare Outcomes Reports to Congress and annual Child Maltreatment reports.

Child and Family Services Review Surveys

CFSR surveys were completed in January 2023 in preparation for the Statewide Assessment required for the Round 4 onsite federal review in July, 2023. Information was collected and reported for the CFSR stakeholder meetings held in February and March 2023. The number of participants who responded is included on each chart. Participants were asked open ended questions regarding their experiences in the child welfare system. Survey questions applicable to each metric are included in this report. The survey was disseminated to Children's Division and contracted case management staff to take on home visits in the month of January 2023. Surveys were provided to the following groups:

- Youth in Alternative Care (12+)
- Foster Parents & Resource Parents
- Adoptive Parents
- Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) of Children in Care
- Juvenile Officers
- Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

In April 2022, a standardized tool currently used by the Children's Division was published as the beginning steps to meeting the requirement of 13 CSR 13 35-35.100 which outlines that all providers will be required to use a standardized stakeholder feedback tool. The Response and Evaluation Team began the work of aligning the survey process that exists in both the Children's Division and each Foster Care Case Management Agency.

The goal of these surveys is to collect data from stakeholders pertaining to the quantity, quality, and effectiveness of case management services provided by the Division and its Foster Care Case Management Agencies (FCCM). The Children's Division and all Foster Care Case Management Agencies will send consumer surveys to a sample selection of the following groups:

- Youth in Alternative Care (12+)
- Foster Parents & Resource Parents
- Adoptive Parents
- Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) of Children in Care
- Juvenile Officers
- Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court

At current, through the discussion and research of current process, it was found that both the Children's Division and FCCM agencies currently utilize consumer surveys but they do not address the same items and, therefore, cannot be used comparatively. Over the course of the last year, the agencies have created partnership to align the surveys and to move forward with finding a universal tool to meet the requirements of House Bill 1414. There have been significant challenges within this process:

- Access to the best electronic platforms to conduct a good survey process
- Differences in accreditation standards between agencies and requirements from those accrediting bodies
- Concerns from all parties about how the information is collected to be able to follow-up on collected information appropriately
- Understanding that overlapping populations may be over surveyed

From August to December 2022, the Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management Agencies met to work through aligning of surveys and process to move forward with the requirements of House Bill 1414. At current, there is research being conducted by the Children's Division to solidify and present options on how best to move forward with utilizing a standardized tool. In March 2023, the Response and Evaluation Team discussed the current constraints and suggestions have been made about how to move forward. Updates will be provided in all quarterly reports for progress made to finalize the process.

The Children's Division currently has consumer survey data available for some of the measures throughout the three phases of implementation. Survey questions that are applicable to implemented measures will be presented.

Family and Children Electronic System (FACES)

The Children's Division electronic case management system (FACES) collects hundreds of case management inputs daily, including the data that is used to reflect the chosen metrics for Phase I. However, not all data points selected were able to be captured due to limitations in the FACES system. Therefore, a data report including logic development had to be established. This was accomplished through collaboration with the Response and Evaluation Team members, the Children's Division's Quality Assurance Team and the Department of Social Services Research Team. The information was then validated by members of Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management representatives.

Other data sources (as listed in RSMo, 13 CSR 35-35.100)

- Data from surveys;
- Detailed case reviews of individual cases of children as described below;
- Data and information from federal CSFR reviews;
- External audits and program reviews;
- Reports from an Council on Accreditation (COA); and
- Other sources of information as may be necessary.

Foster Care Case Management Agency Codes (FCCM)

Due to character limits across many data entry and reporting points, each contract held by a foster care case management agency is assigned an abbreviation and a three character code. The code consists of the number "6" followed by two letters. For any data that is sorted by agency, these codes will represent each contract held by a Foster Care Case Management agency. It should be noted that Missouri Alliance for Children and Families holds multiple contracts across Missouri.

- MACF (6AW): Missouri Alliance for Children and Families (MACF); Specialized Care Contract
- MAPP (6ZA) MO Alliance Permanency Program (MACF)
- CPP (6ZB) Children's Permanency Partnership
- STLP (6ZC) St. Louis Partners
- CRIT (6ZO) Crittenton
- SPCC (6ZM) Springfield Children's Coalition (MACF)
- SWCC (6ZL) Southwest Children's Coalition (MACF)
- CCCC (6ZJ) Central Children's Coalition (MACF)
- SOCC (6ZK) South Central Children's Coalition (MACF)
- KCCC (6ZR) Kansas City Children's Coalition (MACF)
- SECC (6ZS) Southeast Children's Coalition (MACF)
- GC (6ZT) Great Circle

Phase I Data Reporting (Reporting Period: October 1 to December 31, 2022)

Phase I Metrics as published July 31, 2022 include:

- Reports for children in foster care where there were preponderance of evidence findings of abuse or neglect
- Healthy Children & Youth
- Number of Workers Per Child In Care (Viewed as In Foster Care Less Than 12 months and Over 12 Months)
- Worker Visit with Child
- Reentry to foster care
- Worker Visit with Parent
- Parent Visit with Child

For each metric in Phase I, the following is outlined and provided with applicable information in each section. Data sets from available sources were utilized to provide a comprehensive view of the child welfare system pertaining to the metric with information available at time of publication. Each implemented item includes the domain, definition, expected benchmark, pertinent notes, and available data. Each data set and its significance was outlined to provide context in the sections above. Finally, as required, a data analysis with general themes, overviews, trends, and significant findings is presented.

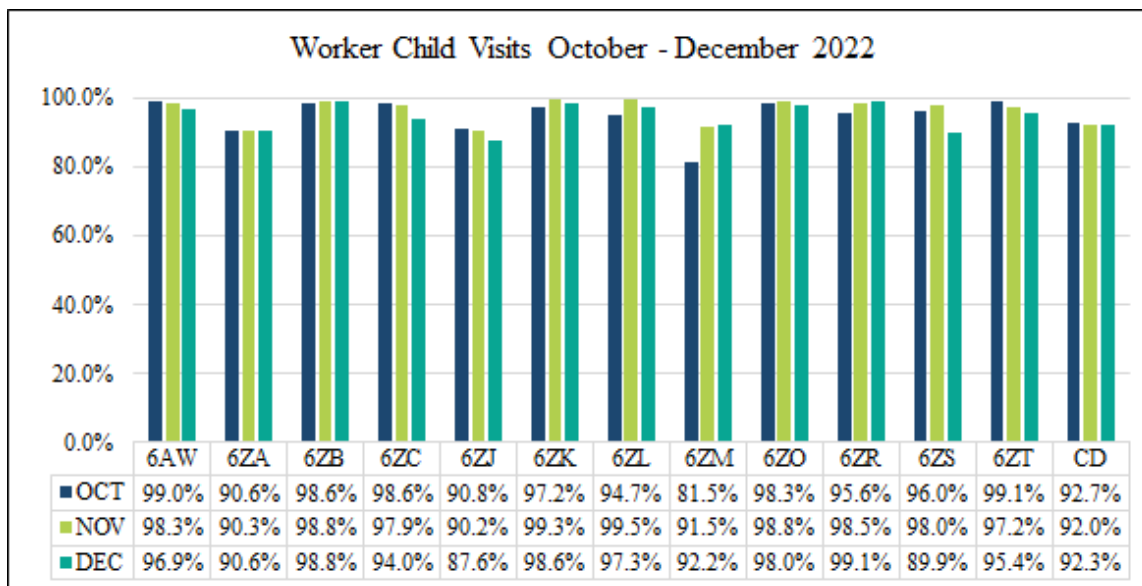
A. Safety Domain:

1. Metric: Worker/Child Visit Completion:

- This measures the percentage of children in foster care seen by a worker each month.
- The expected performance benchmark for Phase I is 95%. As defined 95% of all children in foster care are seen by the worker monthly.
- Children's Division policy indicates that the worker should meet face-to-face with the child a minimum of one time per month with the majority of the visits being in the placement to monitor and assess the safety of the child.

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard

Worker/child visits is a data report that Children's Division produces to monitor frequency for federal reporting. Both Children's Division and FCCM staff receive monthly data by provider and county. The data shows which children in foster care were visited.



*Source: R&E Report RS5HBDM0 30MAR2023

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard data reflects that the FCCM agencies 6ZT, 6ZR, 6ZO, 6ZK, 6ZB, and 6AW met the benchmark of 95% in all three months, October 2022-December 2022. FCCM agencies, 6ZC, 6ZL, and 6ZS met the benchmark two of the three months. The Children's Division and FCCM agencies 6ZA, 6ZJ, 6ZM missed the benchmark all three months.

Child and Family Services Review Data

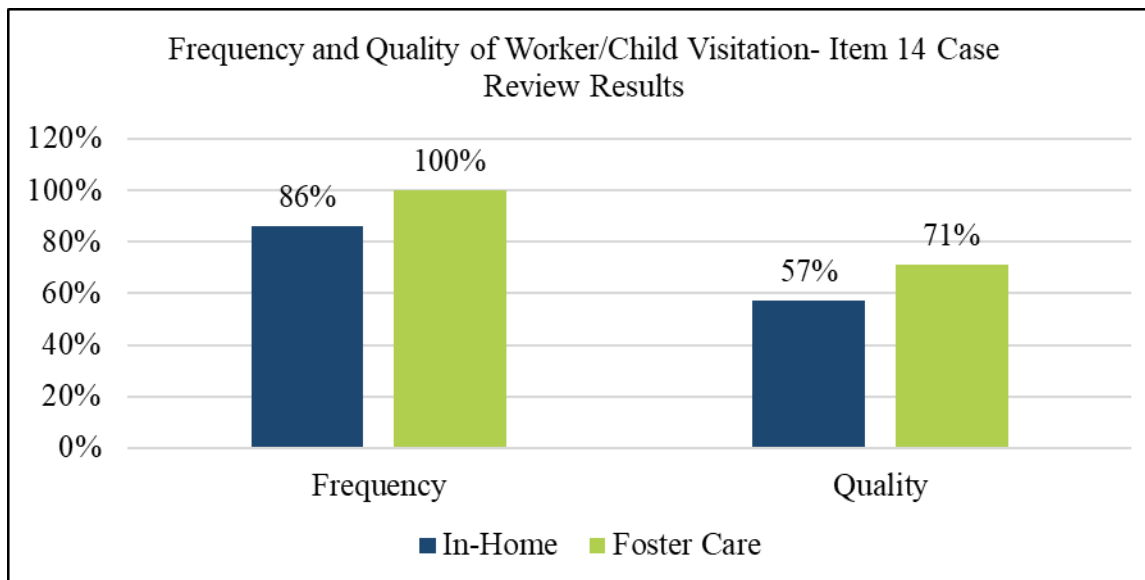
In reference to the eighteen CFSR items, the following items are applicable to this metric:

- Item 14: Caseworker visits with child.

Child and Family Services Reviews assess whether or not the frequency and quality of the worker's visits with the child were sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals. The assessment of the frequency of the visits, or how often they occur, is not tied to compliance with the state's policy. It is assessed based on the circumstances of the case, including the child's age and whether or not there are safety concerns present that might warrant more frequent visits.

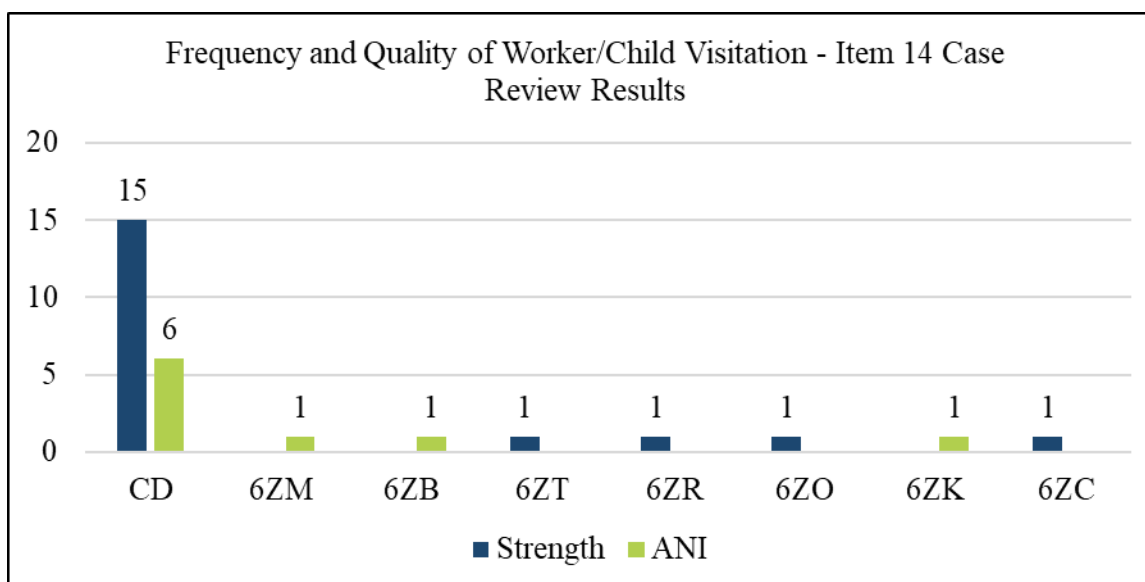
Factors considered in assessing the quality of the worker's visits with the child include, but are not limited to, the duration of visits, whether or not the worker spoke with the child alone, and whether or not the worker addressed issues pertaining to the child's needs, services, and case goals.

This chart indicates the percentage of cases reviewed for which the frequency and the quality of the worker's visits with the child in foster care were found to be sufficient. This chart reflects a statewide view that includes Children's Division and FCCM agencies.



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

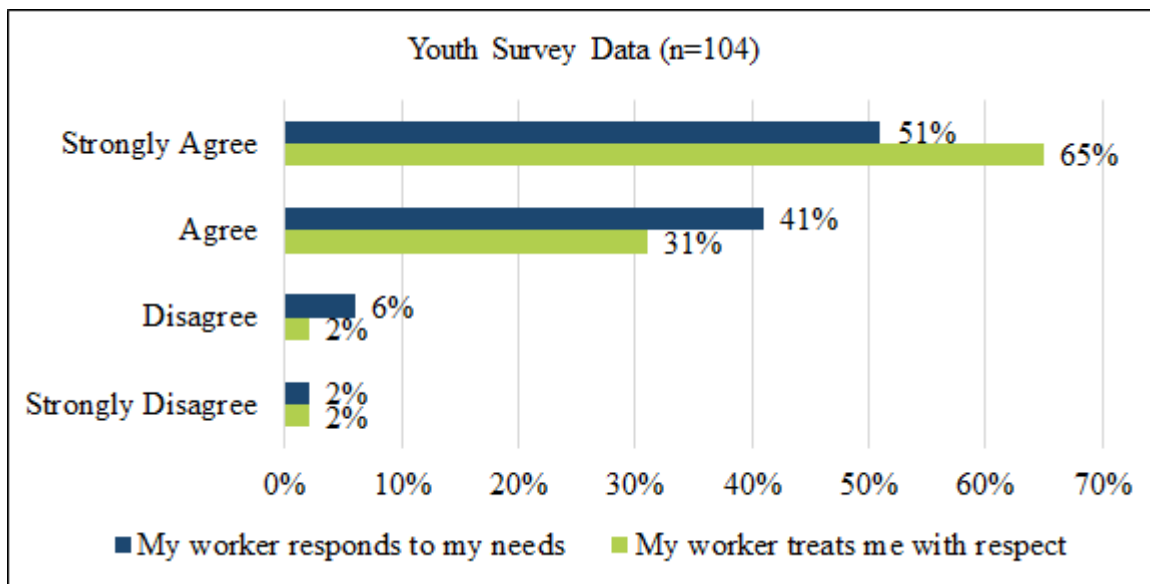
Of cases reviewed, this chart represents how many received an overall rating of “Strength” and how many were rated “Area Needing Improvement” for this item. This chart is broken down by agency. Agencies not listed, had no cases included in the random pull for review during this period



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

Child and Family Services Review Survey Data

Youth in foster care were surveyed regarding whether or not their worker responds to their needs and whether or not their worker treats them with respect. This survey question looks at services provided to children in foster care regarding caseworker visits with child. This was delivered to youth 12 years of age and older.

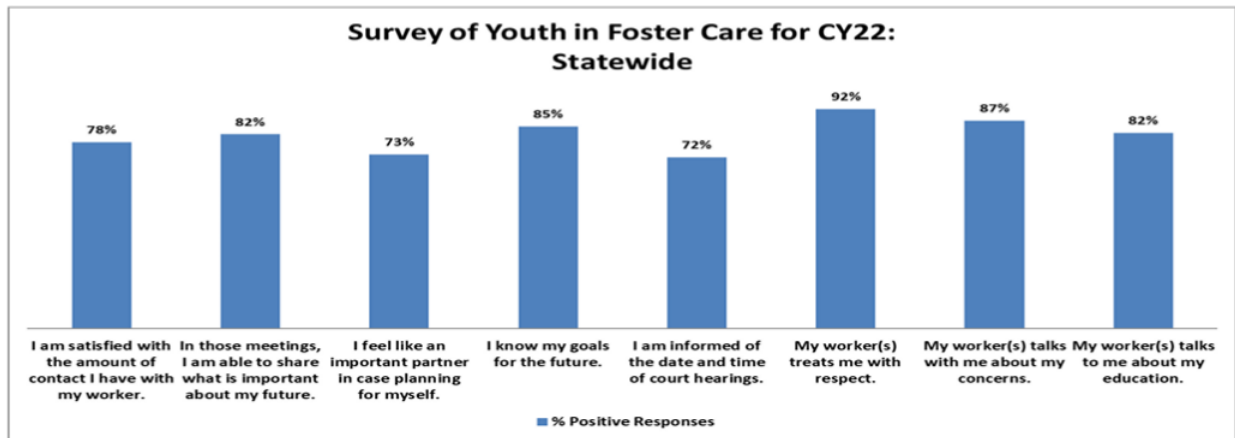


*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

As outlined, there has been significant progress to align all agencies regarding creating and utilizing a Standardized Stakeholder Feedback tool. At current, there are separate consumer surveys utilized from the Children’s Division and each Foster Care Case Management Agency to look at feedback from stakeholders. Under House Bill 1414, the regulation outlines specific schedules of specific groups to examine feedback around the child welfare system. Through the phased in implementation, there has been progress to create a standard stakeholder feedback tool to be utilized and as of March 2023, there is work being done to examine electronic platform capabilities to continue to move the work forward. Updates will continue to be shared and published within the quarterly report.

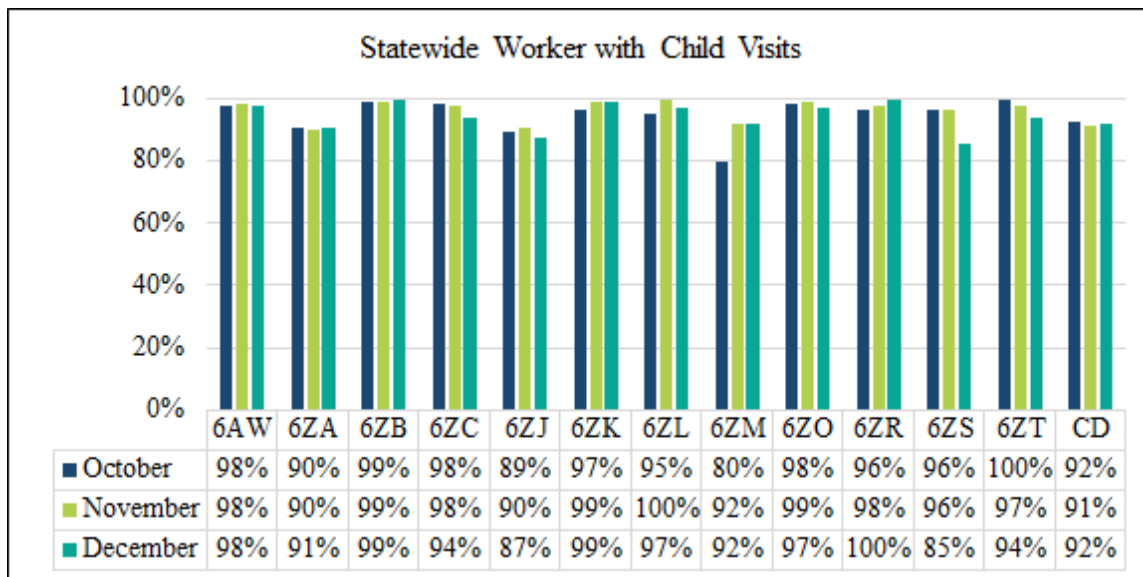
Regarding youth data, the following survey data is available regarding youth’s experience in foster care for Calendar Year 2022:



FACES Electronic Case Management System

Worker/child visits are documented in the FACES system. The charts below show a point in time data for a specific month. Timely documentation of the visitation between a worker and child is essential.

The number of required worker/child visits is based on the number of foster children (not case number) who have been in foster care the entire month. The requirement is one visit per month.



*Source: RS5PFFM0 16FEB23

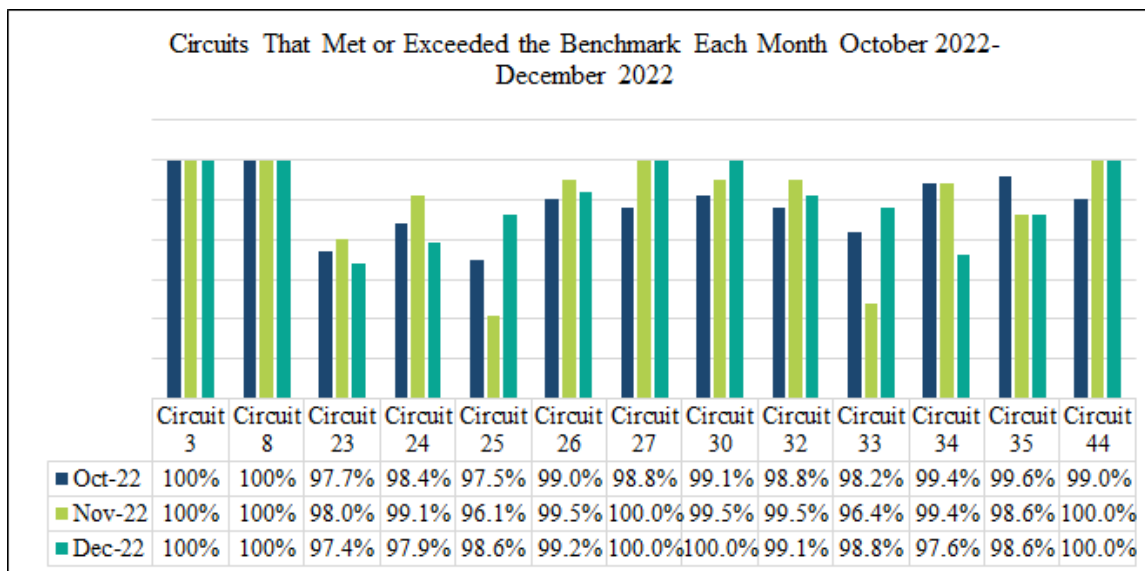
The chart below includes both Children's Division and FCCM. It shows, for each month, how many circuits were meeting or exceeding the goal of 95%, how many are within 4% of the goal, how many missed it by 4%-14%, and how many missed it by 14%-25%.

This is important because the few circuits missing the goal by 14%-25% could heavily impact the state's overall percentage, depending on the number of children in foster care in those circuits.

Percentage of Worker Child Visits Grouped by Circuit				
	70.0%-80.9%	81.0%-90.9%	91.0%-94.9%	95% or greater
Oct-22	2	9	7	28
Nov-22	2	8	8	28
Dec-22	5	8	9	24

*Source: RS5PFFM0 16FEB23

This chart indicates which circuits consistently met the benchmark of 95% each of the three months, October 2022 – December 2022. This data includes both Children's Division and FCCM information.



*Source: RS5PFFM0 16FEB23

This chart reflects the foster care population in each of the 13 circuits listed in the previous chart. This includes both Children's Division and FCCM information.

Average Population of the Circuits That Met or Exceeded the Benchmark Each Month October 2022-December 2022													
	Circuit 3	Circuit 8	Circuit 23	Circuit 24	Circuit 25	Circuit 26	Circuit 27	Circuit 30	Circuit 32	Circuit 33	Circuit 34	Circuit 35	Circuit 44
Average Population	56	14	633	429	499	380	146	211	341	166	165	284	176

*Source: RS5PFFM0 16FEB23

This chart reflects the 5 circuits with the lowest percentages for worker with child visits for the months of October 2022 – December 2022.

Oct-22			Nov-22			Dec-22		
Circuit	Population	%	Circuit	Population	%	Circuit	Population	%
14	182	71.4%	14	233	73.8%	9	100	74.0%
22	892	78.3%	21	1218	80.6%	2	144	77.1%
21	1052	83.4%	22	965	81.6%	14	235	77.9%
37	166	86.1%	2	163	82.8%	21	1120	78.4%
9	143	87.4%	37	184	83.2%	10	234	79.5%

*Source: RS5PFFM0 16FEB23

Data Analysis

The CFSR data, which is constructed from a random sampling of cases from across the state, suggests that the frequency of worker/child visits is generally of sufficient frequency to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and promote achievement of case goals. The quality of those visits, however, is an area needing improvement. Statewide, 19 of 28 cases received an overall rating of “Strength”, indicating that both the frequency and quality of visits was sufficient. Of the 9 that were rated ANI, 7 received that rating solely because the quality of the visits was lacking due to the worker not visiting with the child alone. For another, this was a contributing factor, along with inadequate duration of visits given case circumstances. One case received this rating due to inadequate frequency of visits because, although the child was seen once per month, the particular case circumstances would indicate that this was not sufficient frequency to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of their case goals. This was an area of concern for Children’s Division and three of the FCCM agencies who had reviews during this period. It should be noted that each of the FCCM agencies represented only had one case reviewed.

It was consistently noted, across all agencies who had cases reviewed, that workers were showing strength in discussing case goals with children and ensuring the safety of the environment.

According to the FACES data, this measure has not been met statewide October 2022- December 2022. In October, November, and December more than half of the Circuits met or exceeded the benchmark of 95%. There were 13 circuits who consistently met the benchmark all 3 months. The population of foster children in each of those 13 circuits ranges from 14 to 633 children. The five lowest performing circuits varied from month to month, with only two falling within this category all three months. Circuit 14 and Circuit 21 had the lowest percentage all three months. Although the 14th Circuit has not met the benchmark for this measure, it should be noted there has been improvement in each month despite an increase in the foster care population.

Overall, there appears to be a gradual shift to fewer visits. This could be due to data accuracy issues in that staff do not immediately document the visits. The data captured is reflective of what is seen in the FACES system at report creation date, but may not be an accurate reflection of practice. Other potential contributing factors include staff shortages resulting in larger caseload sizes.

The CFSR survey information indicates that youth generally feel that their worker responds to their needs.

2. **Metric: Victimization in Foster Care**

- Defined as a child in foster care where the state determined at least one preponderance of evidence finding for abuse or neglect):
- This indicator measures whether the child welfare system ensures that children do not experience abuse or neglect while in the State's foster care system.
- The expected Phase I performance benchmark is 9.07 or below. A lower value is desirable.
- Included population in this measure as a victim is a child in foster care where the state determined at least one preponderance of evidence finding for abuse or neglect. It includes children who died and the death was confirmed as a result of child abuse or neglect.
- Excluded from this measure are:
 - Foster care episodes lasting less than nine days are excluded.
 - Child Abuse and Neglect reports that occur within the first nine days of removal are excluded to prevent over counting of reports that are made when a child first enters foster care that reflect what may have occurred prior to the child's foster care entry.
 - Children who enter care at age 18 or older are excluded. For children who start out at age seventeen and turn eighteen during the period, any time in care and victimizations that occur after the eighteenth birthday are not included.
 - Subsequent reports that occur within one day of the initial report are excluded.
 - Reports with disposition or report dates falling outside of the twelve month period are excluded.
- This rate is calculated in the following manner:
 - A denominator is identified. Of the children in foster care during a twelve month period, the total number of days that these children were in foster care as of the end of the twelve month period.
 - A numerator is identified. Of the children in the denominator, the total number of preponderance of evidence reports of child abuse or neglect by any perpetrator during a foster care episode within the twelve month period.
 - In order to express the result as a rate per 100,000 days in care, an adjustment is made. The result of the numerator divided by the denominator is multiplied by 100,000 to produce larger numbers that are easier to understand. Because this indicator is intentionally capturing the maltreatment of a child while in the placement and care responsibility of the State, including when the child is visited by his/her parent or on a trial home visit, the entire length of the trial home visit

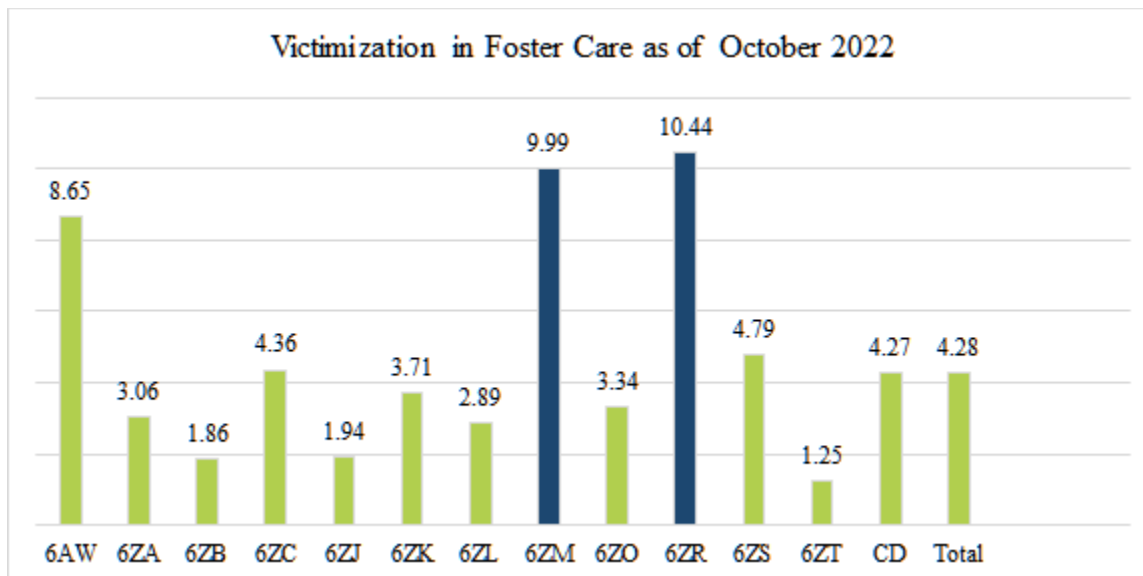
until discharge is factored into the indicator. As such, a trial home visit adjustment is not applied.

*Source: CFSR statewide data indicator series, adjusted for Children’s Division language.

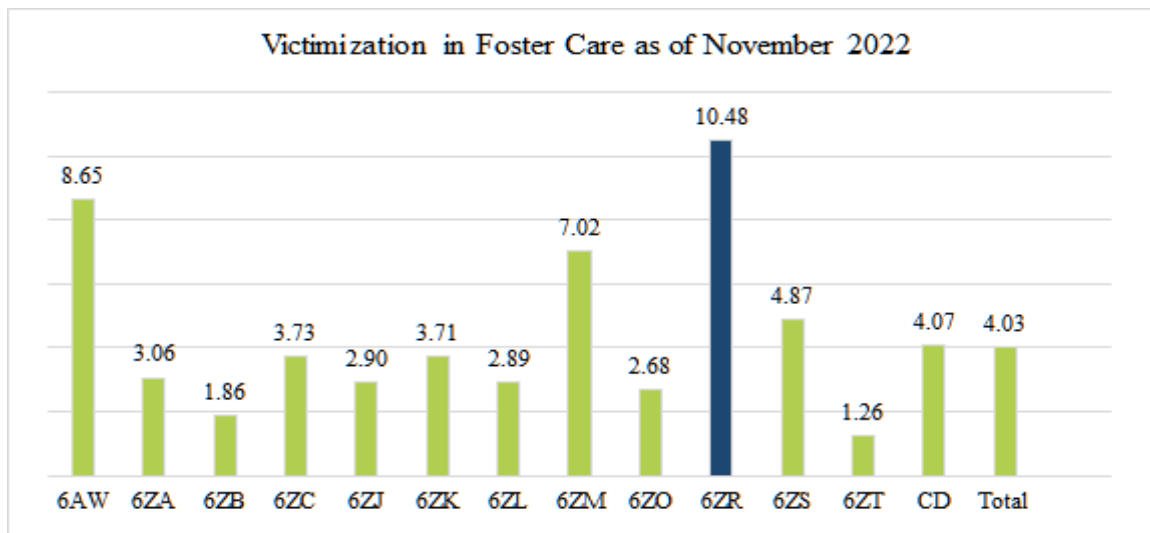
The intent of this metric is to capture the child’s total experience in foster care and could include any alleged perpetrator.

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard Data

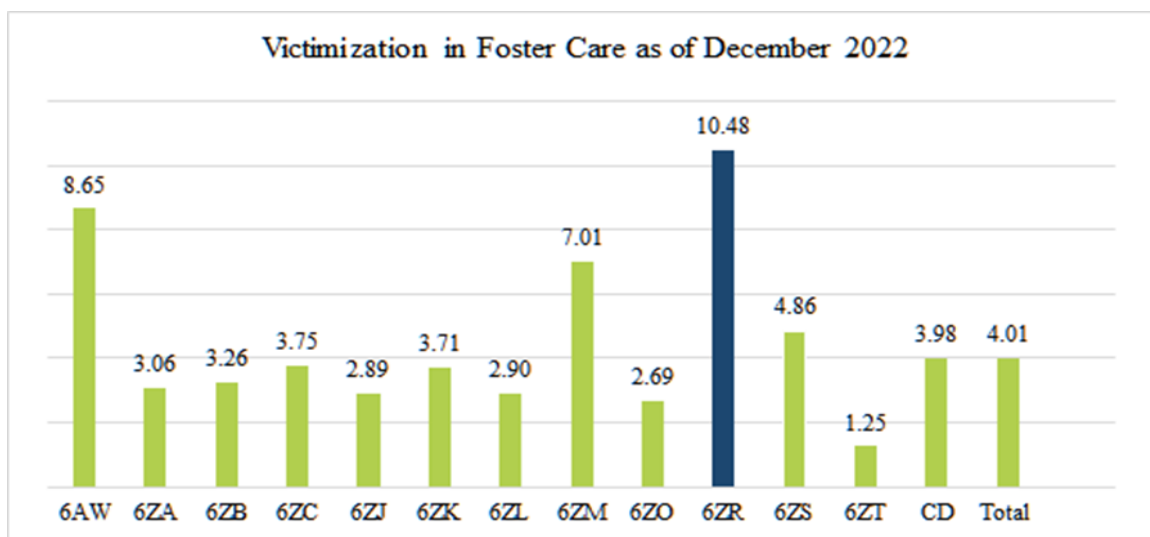
The following charts depict rates of victimization experienced by foster children for the months of October, November, and December 2022, broken down by agency. It should be noted that this metric measures a rolling calendar year so a report counted in one month will be reflected in subsequent months until the twelve month time period has been reached for that report.



*Source: R&E report JIRA RDA-484



*Source: R&E report JIRA RDA-484



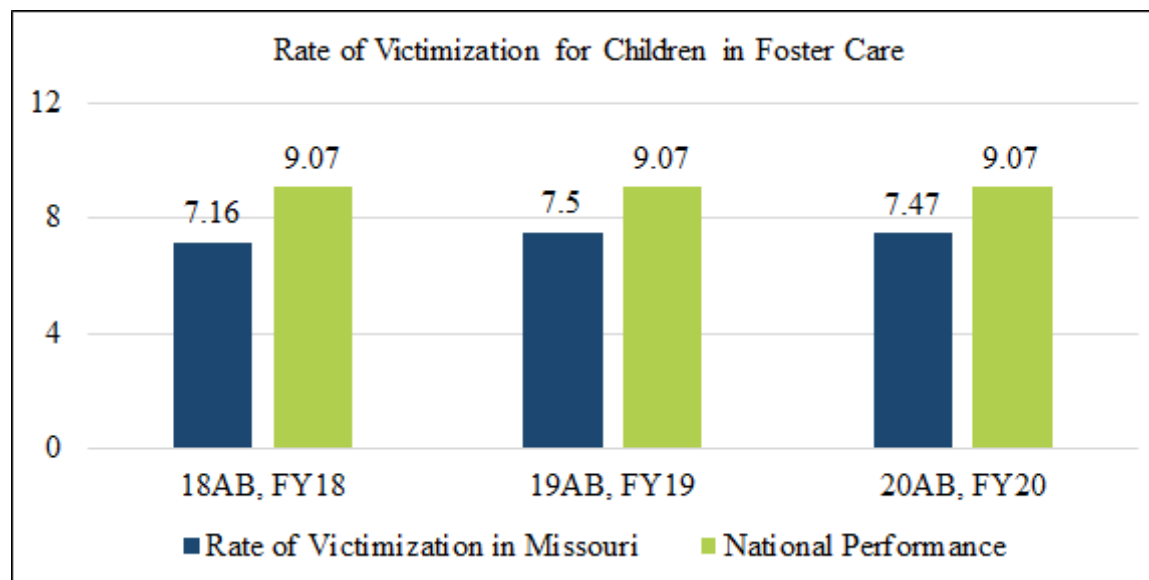
*Source: R&E report JIRA RDA-484

Note: Reports are included every month in the data until the twelve month time period is reached.

The chart below compares the rate of victimization for children in foster care in Missouri to the rate of victimization for children in foster care in the nation as a whole. Because this data is provided twice per year, August is the most recent data available from this source. This chart utilizes Risk Standardized Performance (RSP) data which allows for a comparison of the state's performance relative to states with similar foster children. Taking into account several factors, such as the number of children served by the state and the ages of those children,

RSP adjusts to minimize differences in outcomes due to factors that are outside of the agency's control. This adjustment is made by Children's Bureau and allows for a more fair comparison of the state's performance against that of the nation. The reporting periods for this report correspond to the federal fiscal year. In looking at first column in the bottom row, 18AB, FY18

means that the data is from the fiscal year 2018 AFCARS reporting periods A (October 2017-March 2018) and B (April 2018-September 2018).



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

Child and Family Services Review:

While the CFSR case review tool does not specifically address this measure, context data is provided by the Children's Bureau through data profile measures to inform practice in this area.

Child and Family Services Review Survey Data:

There is no CFSR survey data that is applicable to this measure. Survey questions were not asked around this specific item.

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

The Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool is designed to ask six specific groups (Youth in Foster Care (12+, Foster Parents & Resource Parents, Adoptive Parents, Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) of Children in Care, Juvenile Officers, & Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court) around their experiences with the child welfare system. As outlined, there has been significant progress in creating alignment amongst all agencies regarding these experiences.

In regards to this measure for Victimization in Foster Care, youth data was presented in the first measure around worker/child visits with their experiences. There is not a specific survey data set to present regarding victimization.

FACES Electronic Case Management System:

While the electronic system captures information on reports for children in foster care for whom there was a preponderance of evidence finding of abuse or neglect, there is no additional aggregate report aside from the one developed for House Bill 1414.

Data Analysis

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard data indicates that, overall, this measure is being met statewide. There is a victimization rate that ranges from 4.00 to 4.28. This is well below the National standard of less than 9.07.

Children's Division has a rate of 4.07 in October 2022, which is slightly higher than the state's overall rate of 4.03. The rate decreased slightly in November and again in December when the rate reached 3.98.

Most Foster Care Case Management (FCCM) agencies are meeting this measure with victimization rates below 3.0. There are two FCCM agencies that are not meeting the measure.

6ZM: Springfield Children's Coalition (MACF) were at a victimization rate of 9.99 in October 2022. This is based off of ten Child Abuse and Neglect reports with a preponderance of evidence finding. This was not observed in subsequent months.

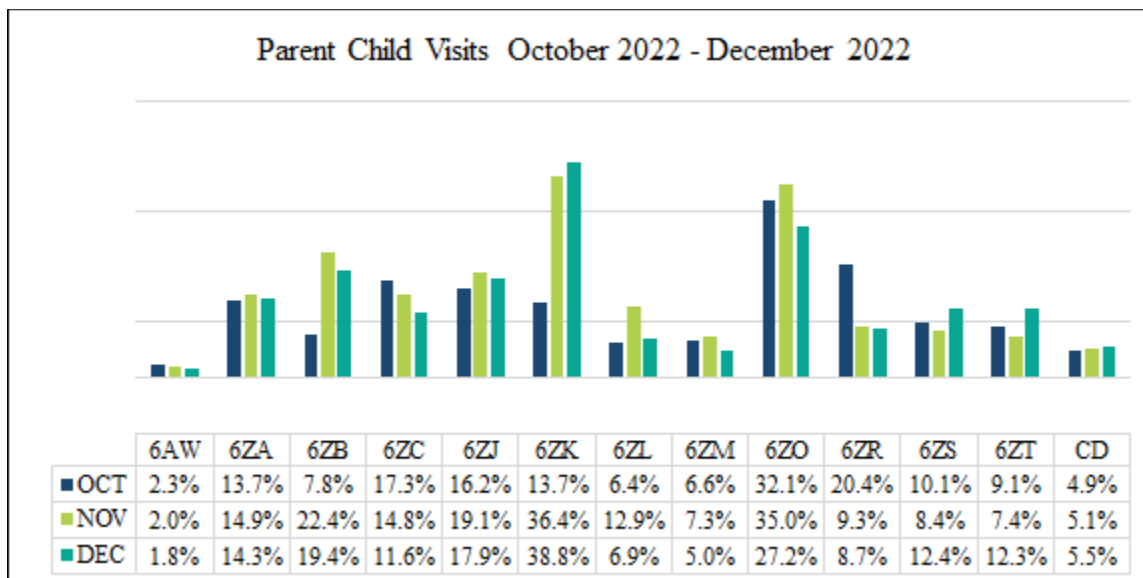
6ZR Kansas City Children's Coalition (MACF) were at a victimization rate of 10.44 and 10.48 in October and November 2022. This is based off of eight Child Abuse and Neglect reports with a preponderance of evidence finding. The victimization rate continued to be elevated in December 2022, likely because the 12 month time period had not been reached on any of the eight reports so all continued to be reflected in their performance on this measure.

B. Well-Being Domain:

1. **Metric: Parent/child visits completion to the extent that the visits are not contrary to the orders of the court:**
 - This measures the current Children's Division policy requirement to facilitate at least one visit a month for each child for parents that are eligible to receive visits.
 - The expected Phase I performance benchmark is 60%.

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard Data

The information is collected with regard to this metric; however, the information has proven difficult to identify and extract from the FACES and information technology system due to irregularities in documentation location within the system. At this time, the Department of Social Services Research and Evaluation team continues to make efforts to produce a solid set of data for use. In addition, Children's Division and FCCM staff work to validate and provide feedback on those efforts.



*Source: R&E Report RS5HBEM0 30MAR2023

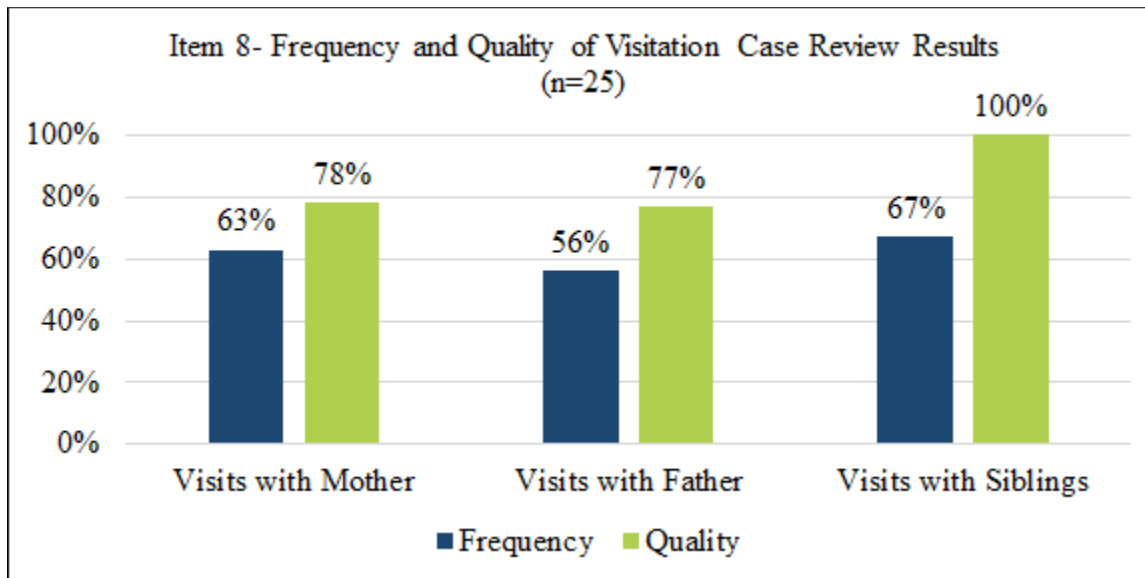
Child and Family Services Review Data

In reference to the 18 CFSR items, the following items are applicable to this metric:

- Item 8: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care. This is the Federal title of this item and visitation with siblings in foster care will not be evaluated in Phase I.

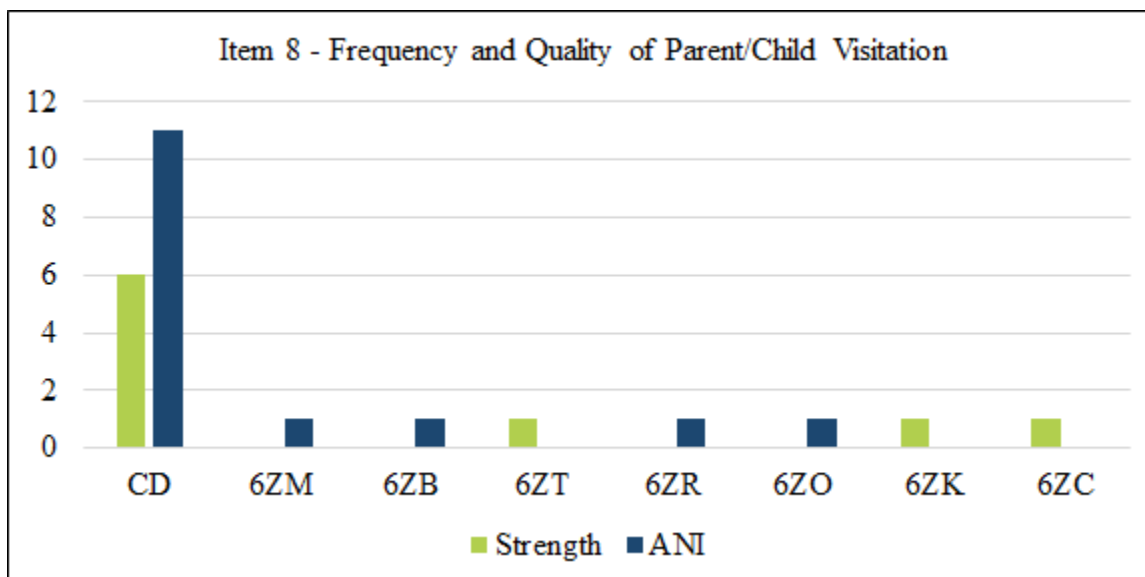
Child and Family Services Reviews assess whether or not the frequency and quality of the child's visits with each of their parents was sufficient to promote continuity in the child's relationships with them. The assessment of the frequency of the visits, or how often they occur, is assessed based on the circumstances of the case, including the child's age and imminence of reunification.

Factors considered in assessing the quality of the child's visits with their parents include, but are not limited to, the duration of visits, whether or not they took place in a comfortable atmosphere that would encourage interaction, and whether unsupervised visits were allowed to take place in the parent's home



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

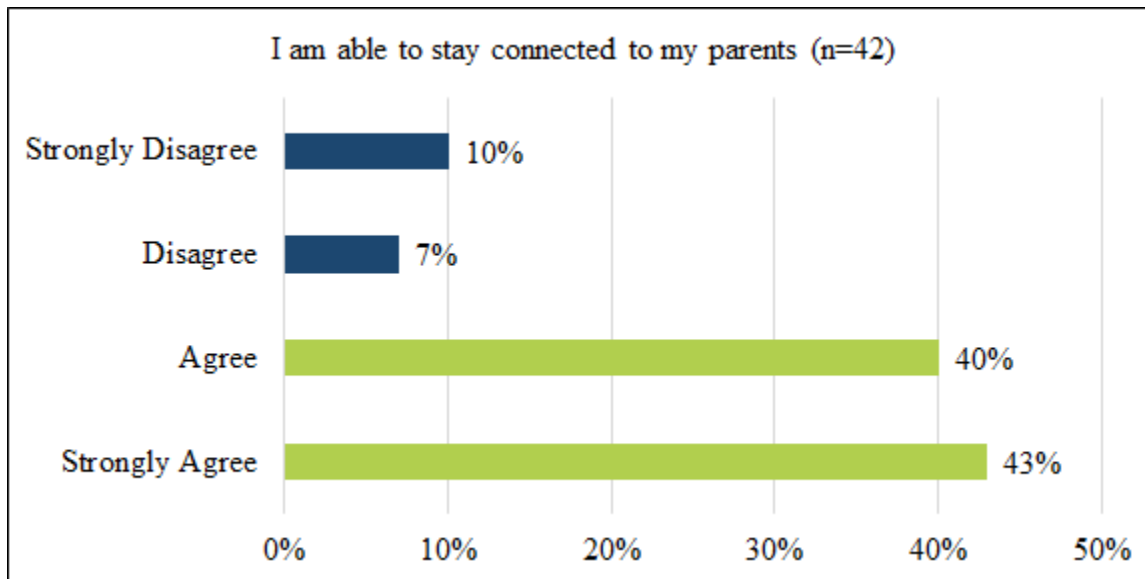
Of cases reviewed, this chart represents how many received an overall rating of “Strength” and how many were rated “Area Needing Improvement” for this item. This chart is broken down by agency. Agencies not listed, had no cases included in the random pull for review during this period. One case was excluded from this data because it received a rating of ANI due solely to the fact that the frequency and quality of the visits with siblings was not sufficient which is not applicable to this metric.



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

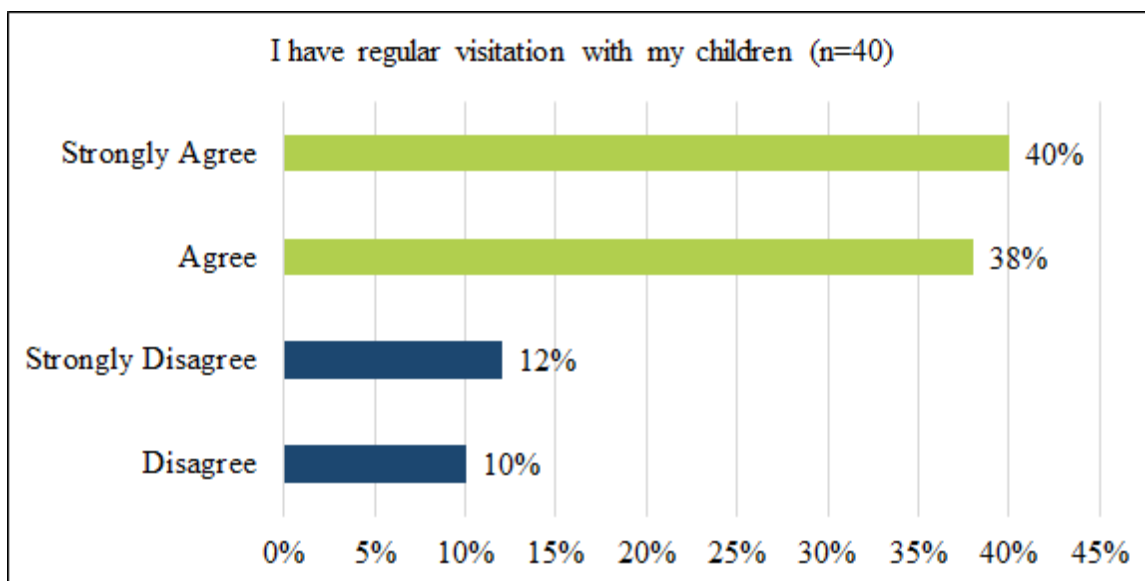
Child and Family Services Review Survey Data

Youth in foster care were surveyed regarding connections to their parents. This survey question looks at services provided to children in foster care regarding visitation. This was delivered to youth 12 years of age and older.



*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

Biological parents who have children in foster care were surveyed regarding connections to their children. This survey question looks at services provided to children in foster care regarding visitation. This was delivered to parents on home visits through case managers in January 2023.



*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

As outlined, there has been significant progress to align all agencies regarding creating and utilizing a Standardized Stakeholder Feedback tool. At current, there are separate consumer surveys utilized from the Children's Division and each Foster Care Case Management Agency to look at feedback from stakeholders. Under House Bill 1414, the regulation outlines specific schedules of specific groups to examine feedback around the child welfare system. Through the phased in implementation, there has been progress to create a standard stakeholder feedback tool to be utilized and as of March 2023, there is work being done to examine electronic platform capabilities to continue to move the work forward. Updates will continue to be shared and published within the quarterly report

The Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool is designed to ask six specific groups (Youth in Foster Care (12+, Foster Parents & Resource Parents, Adoptive Parents, Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) of Children in Care, Juvenile Officers, & Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court) around their experiences with the child welfare system. While there has been significant progress in creating alignment amongst all agencies regarding these experiences, there have been challenges in collecting standardized survey data across the board.

There will continue to be progress made to collect all information in a universal manner, and changes will be implemented during Phase II and Phase III of House Bill 1414 due to the size of the implementation and phased in approach that is necessary to implement these changes.

In regards to the surveys for Parents or Legal Guardians, the Child and Family Services Review survey was conducted and results shared around these experiences.

FACES Electronic Case Management System:

Data from FACES is used to create the House Bill 1414 dashboard report; however, there are no additional reports relevant to this project generated with regard to parent/child visitation.

Data Analysis:

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard data reflects that no agency is meeting the benchmark of 60% for this measure. Performance ranges from 1.8%-38.8%. There are many unique situations that are encountered when attempting to determine who the actual parent of a child is in our FACES system. This can cause issues with the data accuracy of this measure. There are several steps that need to be taken in the FACES system for a parent/child visit to be captured in the data. It is believed that some staff are entering these visits elsewhere in FACES (as contacts) which does not give the option as parent/child for the purpose of the contact. Further education on how to enter visits in the FACES system is needed.

According to the CFSR data, visitation with parents is an area for concern. Visits with mothers were of sufficient frequency to promote the continuity of the child's relationship with them in 63% of the cases reviewed. The quality of visits was sufficient in 78% of cases reviewed.

Visits with fathers were of sufficient frequency to promote the continuity of the child's relationship with them in 56% of the cases reviewed. The quality of visits was sufficient in 77% of cases reviewed.

Statewide, 9 of 24 cases received an overall rating of "Strength", indicating that both the frequency and quality of visits was sufficient. Of the 15 that were rated ANI, 13 received that rating due to inadequate frequency of visits. In five cases, the child had no pattern of visits with the mother. In four cases, the child had no pattern of visits with the father. Another four cases were rated ANI because there was no pattern of visits between the child and either parent. Frequency of visits was an area of concern for Children's Division and three of the FCCM agencies who had reports reviewed during this period. Two cases were rated ANI due to concerns for the quality of the visits. Concerns included the location of the visits and the virtual format being insufficient to promote continuity in the child's relationships with the mother given the circumstances of the case. One of these cases was managed by Children's Division and the other by an FCCM agency. It should be noted that each of the FCCM agencies represented only had one case reviewed.

Case reviews indicate that visitation with parents who were seeing their children frequently often progressed appropriately in that the frequency and duration of the visits increased over time. This was true across all agencies who had cases reviewed.

According to CFSR survey data, the majority of youth surveyed indicated they are able to stay connected to family members. The majority of parents surveyed indicated they have regular visitation with their children who are in foster care.

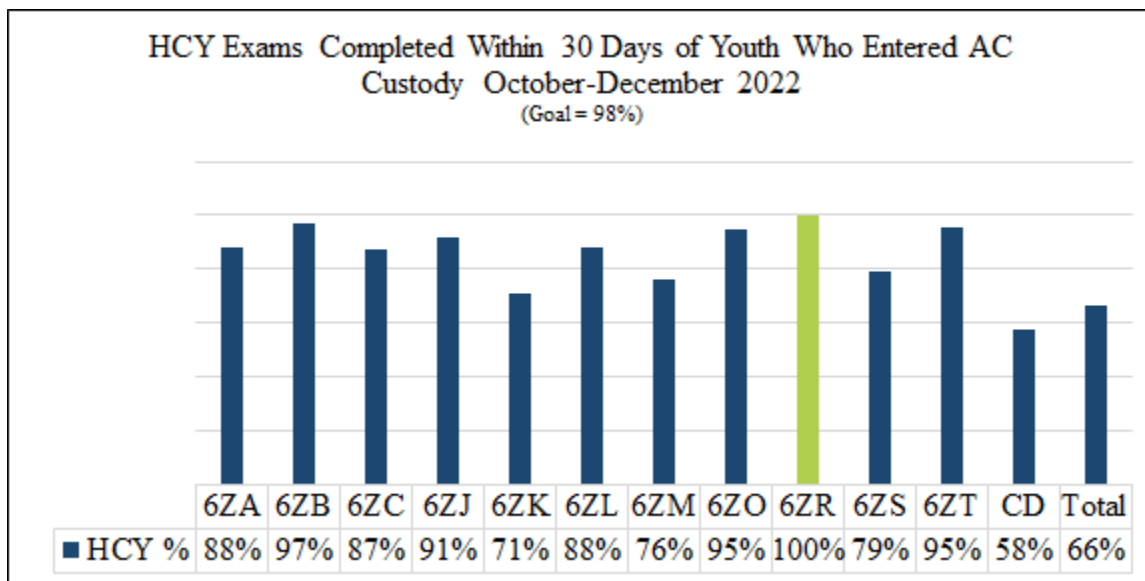
2. Metric: Healthy Child & Youth Exam (HCY/EPST) Completion:

- Every child is required to have a Healthy Child and Youth Exam within 30 days of entering into care which includes basic vision, hearing and dental examinations.
- The expected performance benchmark for Phase I is 98% of children or more will have completed a HCY exam within the time periods specified in policy.

It is important to note that this data could include children who were in care for less than 30 days. For example, if a child was in care for 10 days and was then released from care, they would be included in the number of children for whom an HCY was expected, even though the HCY is required within 30 days of the child's entry into foster care.

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard Data

The chart below shows the percentage of children who entered care during the month evaluated and received a Healthy Child and Youth exam (HCY) within 30 days of the entry. The chart is broken down by agency.



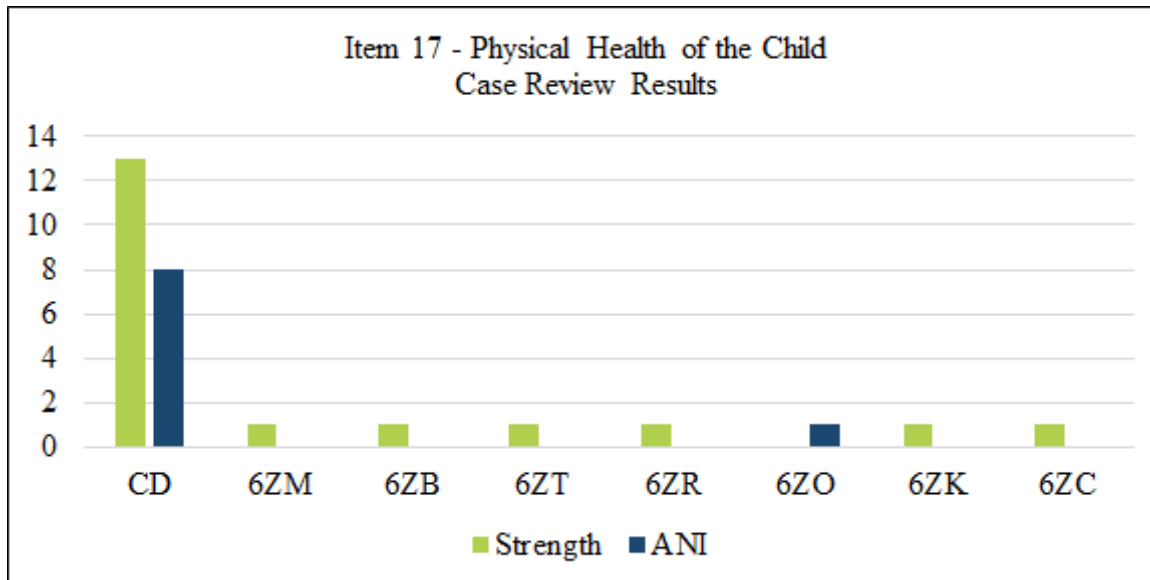
*Source: R&E Report JIRA RDA-4960 22MAR2023

Child and Family Services Review Data

In reference to the 18 CFSR items, the following items are applicable to this metric:

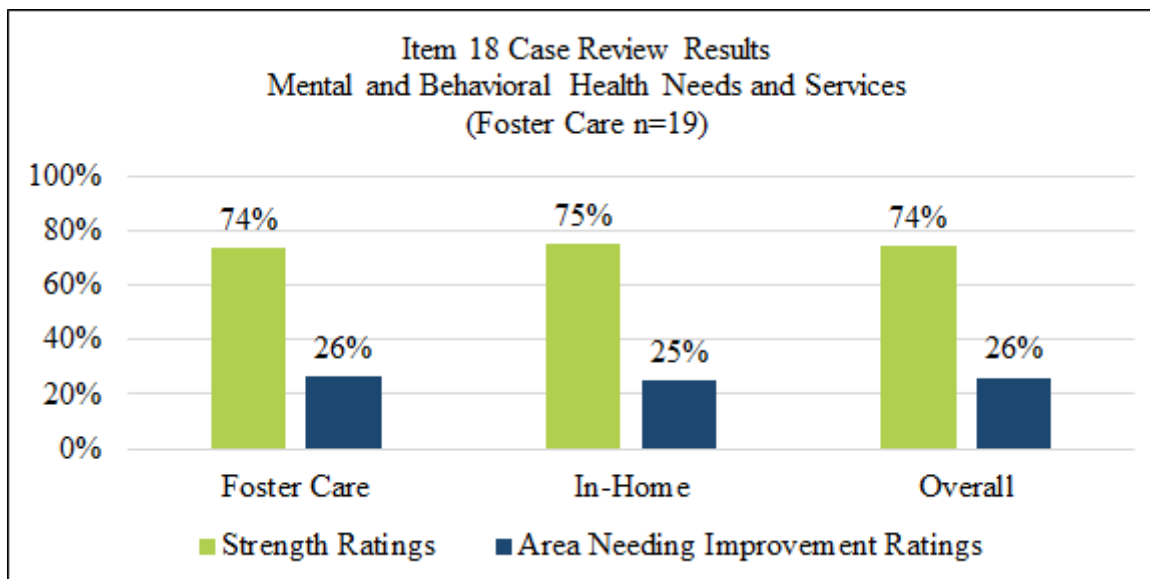
- Item 17: Physical Health of the Child
- Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

In item 17, Child and Family Services Reviews assess whether or not the agency addressed the physical health needs of the child, including dental health needs. Factors considered in assessment of this item include whether or not the agency conducted accurate initial and on-going assessments of the child's physical health needs, including dental health needs. Factors considered include, but are not limited to, whether or not the child received a comprehensive initial health screening upon entry into care and ongoing periodic preventative physical and dental screenings.



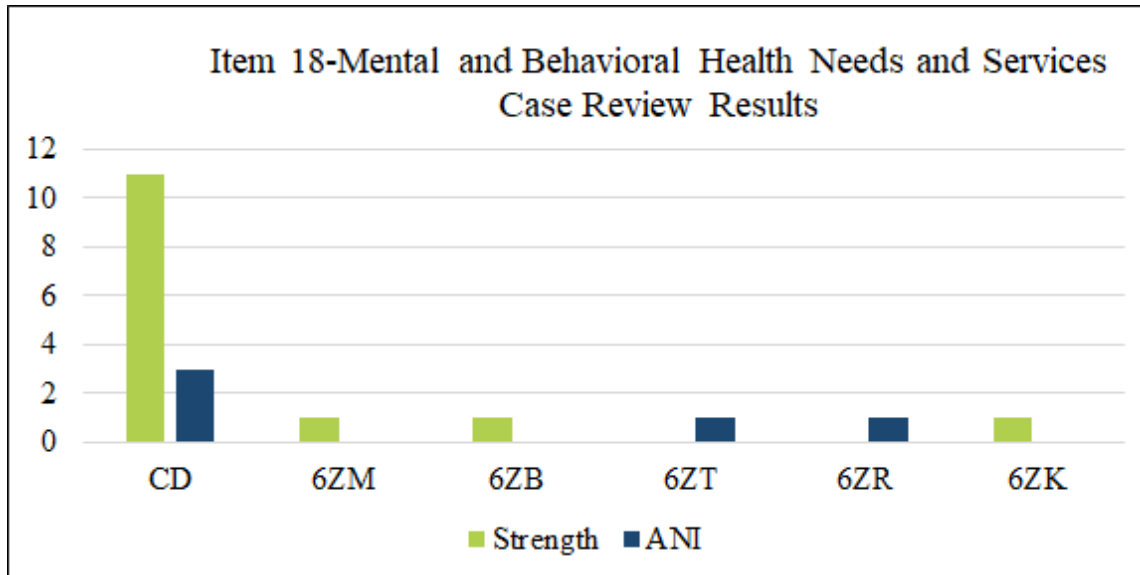
*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

In item 18, Child and Family Services Reviews assess whether or not the agency addressed the mental/behavioral health needs of the child. Foster care cases are applicable for an assessment of this item if the reviewer determines that the child had existing mental/behavioral health needs, including substance abuse issues. Factors considered in assessment of this item include whether or not the agency conducted an accurate assessment of the child's mental/behavioral health needs, facilitated access to all services needed to meet those needs, and provided appropriate oversight for any prescription medications taken to address mental/ behavioral health issues.



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

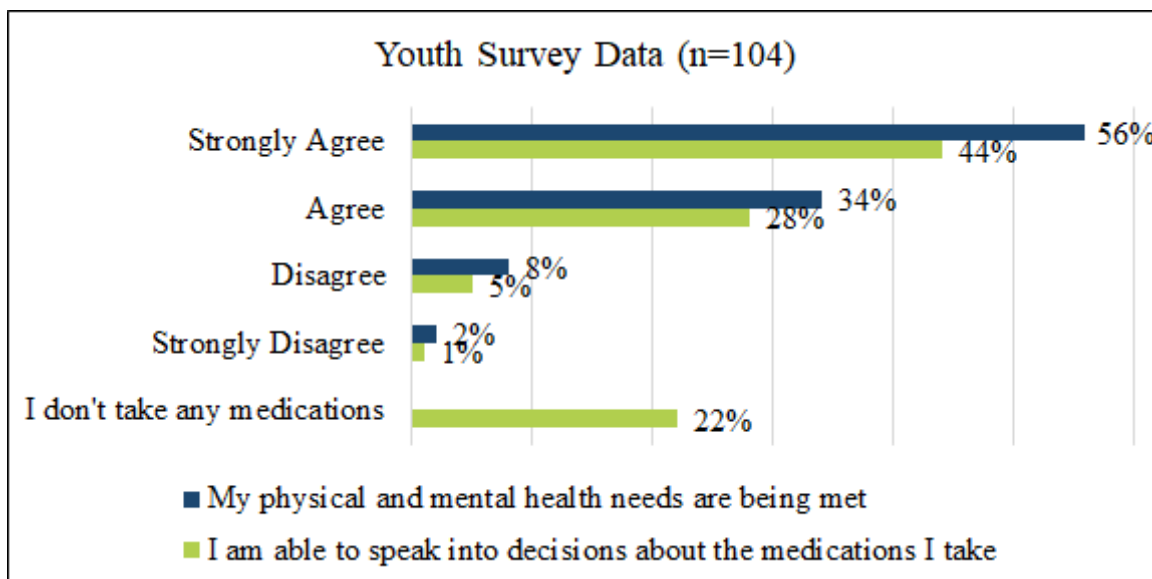
Of cases reviewed, this chart represents how many received an overall rating of “Strength” and how many were rated “Area Needing Improvement” for this item. This chart is broken down by agency. Agencies not listed, had no applicable cases included in the random pull for review during this period. For this item, cases are applicable if the child had existing mental/behavioral health needs, including substance abuse issues.



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

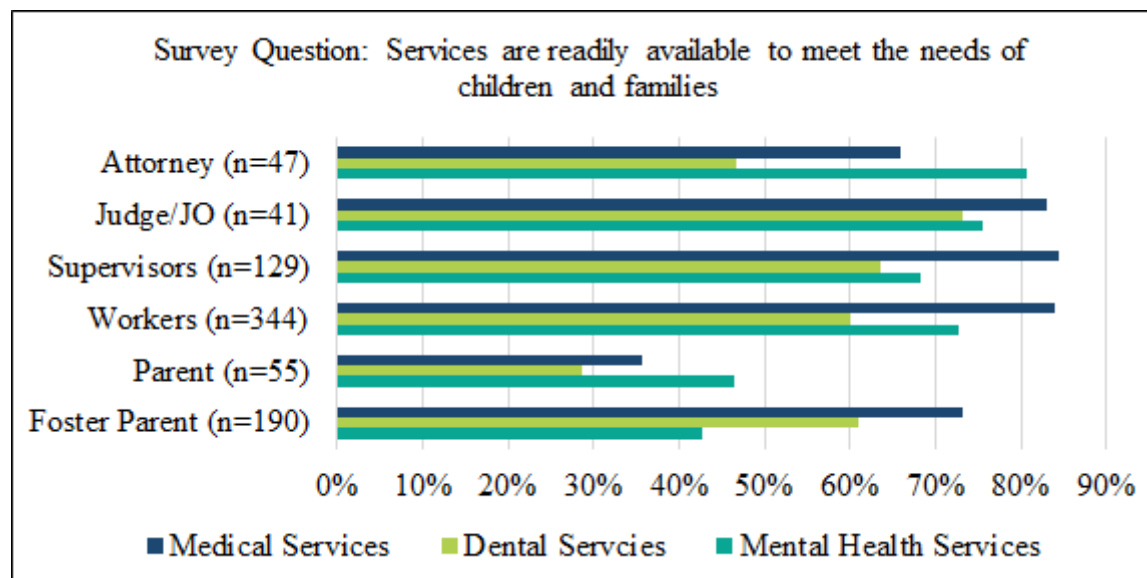
Child and Family Services Review Survey Data

Youth in foster care were surveyed regarding their physical and mental health needs. This survey question looks at speaking to services provided to children in foster care regarding their well-being. This was delivered to youth 12 years of age and older.



*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

This survey was provided to all participants listed. This survey question looks at health care services available to meet the needs of children and families.



*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

As outlined, there has been significant progress to align all agencies regarding creating and utilizing a Standardized Stakeholder Feedback tool. At current, there are separate consumer surveys utilized from the Children’s Division and each Foster Care Case Management Agency to look at feedback from stakeholders. Under House Bill 1414, the regulation outlines specific schedules of specific groups to examine feedback around the child welfare system. Through the phased in implementation, there has been progress to create a standard stakeholder feedback tool to be utilized and as of March 2023, there is work being done to examine electronic platform capabilities to continue to move the work forward. Updates will continue to be shared and published within the quarterly report

The Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool is designed to ask six specific groups (Youth in Foster Care (12+, Foster Parents & Resource Parents, Adoptive Parents, Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) of Children in Care, Juvenile Officers, & Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court) around their experiences with the child welfare system. While there has been significant progress in creating alignment amongst all agencies regarding these experiences, there have been challenges in collecting standardized survey data across the board. There will continue to be progress made to collect all information in a universal manner, and changes will be implemented during Phase II and Phase III of House Bill 1414 due to the size of the implementation and phased in approach that is necessary to implement these changes.

In regards to survey data for the experiences around health, the CFSR survey was conducted and results shared around these experiences.

FACES Electronic Case Management System:

Data from FACES is used to create the House Bill 1414 dashboard report; however, there are no additional reports relevant to this project generated with regard to children's health needs and services.

Data Analysis

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard data suggests that, at 66%, the state as a whole is falling well short of the benchmark of 98% for timely completion of HCY exams when children enter foster care. Only one agency, a FCCM agency, is meeting the benchmark at 100%. Four additional FCCM agencies are nearing the benchmark at 90%-97%. Three FCCM agencies are at 87% or 88% and three are at 71%-79%. Children's Division is the lowest performing agency, at 58%. Because every other agency is performing above the state average of 66%, it would appear that Children's Division is having a disproportionate impact on the state average.

CFSR data from the OMS indicates that 28 cases were reviewed to determine whether or not the physical health needs, including dental health needs, were met. Of those reviewed, 19 received a rating of Strength. Of the nine rated ANI, lack of dental screenings or services was at least a contributing factor in all nine cases. In two of those cases, that was the only reason for the ANI rating. In six cases, lack of initial HCY exams or routine physicals was a factor contributing to the rating. In three cases, there were other unmet medical needs present. Only one of the cases rated ANI was managed by an FCCM agency. The others were managed by Children's Division. It should be noted that each of the FCCM agencies represented only had one case reviewed.

Of the 28 cases reviewed, only six indicated that children were prescribed medications for physical or dental needs. Those medications all appeared to be monitored appropriately.

CFSR data from the OMS also indicates that the agency addressed the mental/behavioral health needs of the child in 74% of the cases reviewed. This area was rated an Area Needing Improvement in 26% of cases reviewed.

Of 19 cases reviewed, five were rated ANI. These were due to waiting lists for play therapy and individual therapy in two of the cases, lack of an assessment for grief/loss in one case, autism testing and services not provided in one case, and lack of a psychological evaluation in another. Two of the five ANI ratings were for cases managed by FCCM agencies. Three were for cases managed by Children's Division. It should be noted that each of the FCCM agencies represented only had one case reviewed.

Case reviews indicate that there are good initial and on-going assessments of mental and behavioral health needs occurring across all agencies. Cases are only applicable for review of

this item if there are existing mental or behavioral health needs assessed, so children in all 19 cases had such needs.

Eight were prescribed medications to manage those needs and there was appropriate oversight and medication management for all eight children.

CFSR surveys show that 90% of youth surveyed agreed that their mental health needs are being met while 10% disagreed. When asked if they felt that they were involved in medication decisions, 72% agreed, 6% disagreed, and 22% indicated that they are not on medications for mental/behavioral health issues.

While most stakeholders indicated that medical, dental and mental health services are readily available to meet the needs of children and families, parents were less likely to agree with this. Availability of mental health services is an area of greatest concern for foster/relative providers.

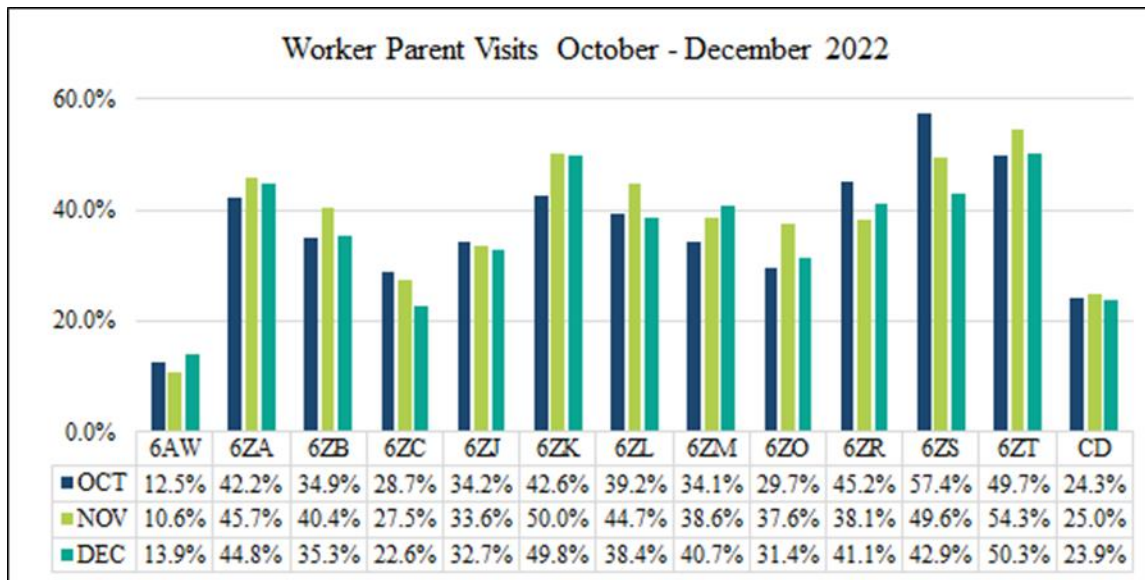
C. Permanency Domain

1. Metric: Worker/Parent Visit Completion:

- This is measured by each parent having a minimum of one visit per month with the worker.
- The expected performance benchmark in Phase I is 50%.

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard Data

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard Data indicates no agency met the benchmark of 50% in all three months, October 2022-December 2022. FCCM agencies, 6ZT met the benchmark two of the three months and, at 49.7%, only narrowly missed it the third month. FCCM agencies 6ZK and 6ZS met the benchmark one of the three months. The Children's Division and FCCM agencies 6AW, 6ZA, 6ZB, 6ZC, 6ZJ, 6ZL, 6ZM, 6ZO, 6ZR missed the benchmark all three months.



*Source: R&E Report RS5HBDM0 30MAR2023

Child and Family Services Review Data

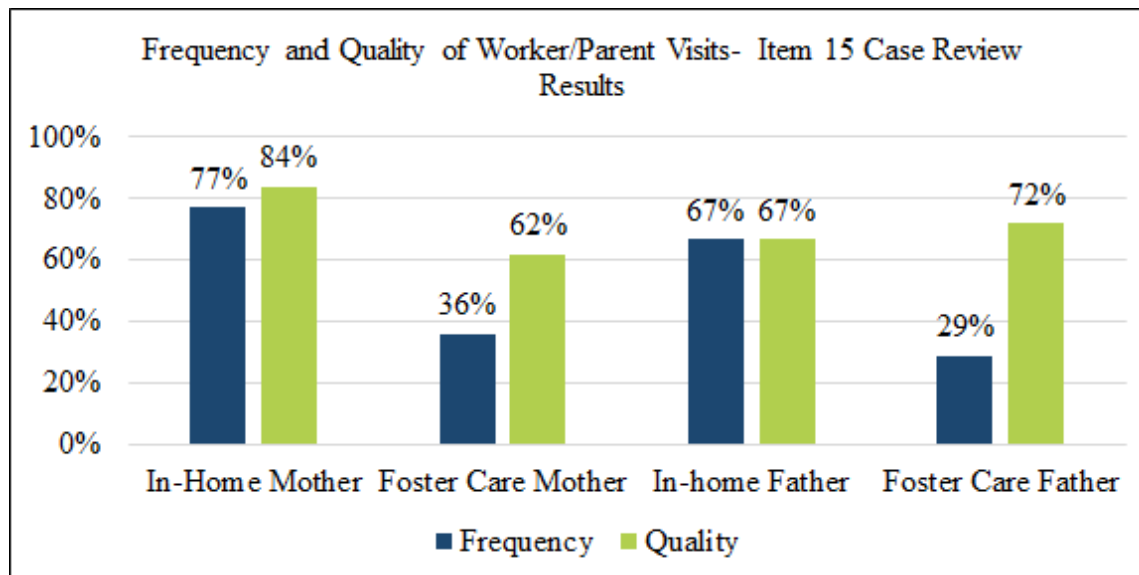
In reference to the 18 CFSR items, the following items are applicable to this metric:

- Item 15: Caseworker Visits with Parents

Child and Family Services Reviews assess whether or not the frequency and quality of the worker's visits with each of the parents was sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals. The assessment of the frequency of the visits, or how often they occur, is not tied to compliance with the state's policy.

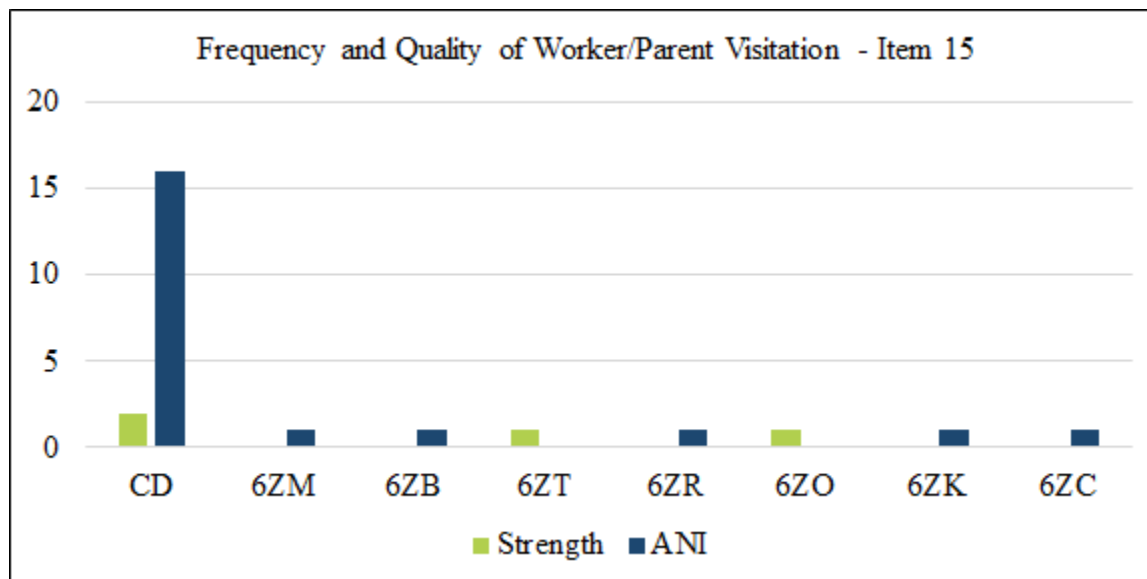
Factors considered in assessing the quality of the worker's visits with the parents include, but are not limited to, the duration of visits, whether or not they took place in a location that would encourage open and honest conversation, and whether or not they focused on issues pertinent to case planning, service delivery, and goal achievement.

For purposes of this item, mother and father are defined as the parents/caregivers from whom the child was removed and whom the agency is working toward reunification. This item does include biological parents who were not the parents from whom the child was removed and adoptive parents, if the adoption has been finalized.



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

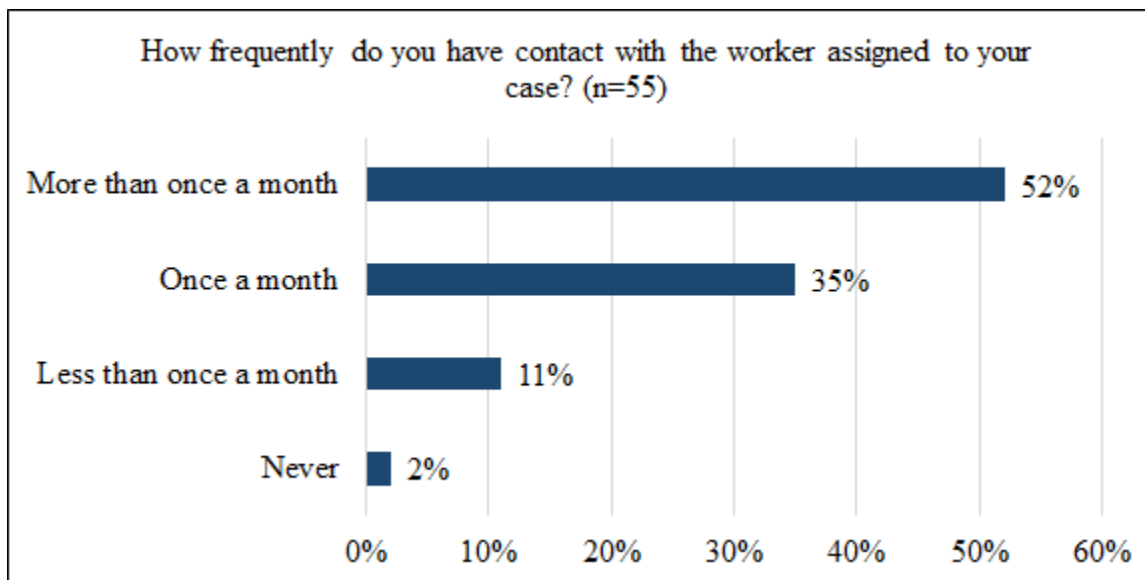
Of cases reviewed, this chart represents how many received an overall rating of “Strength” and how many were rated “Area Needing Improvement” for this item. This chart is broken down by agency. Agencies not listed, had no applicable cases included in the random pull for review during this period. For this item, cases are applicable if the child had existing mental/behavioral health needs, including substance abuse issues.



*Source: OMS September 2022-January 2023

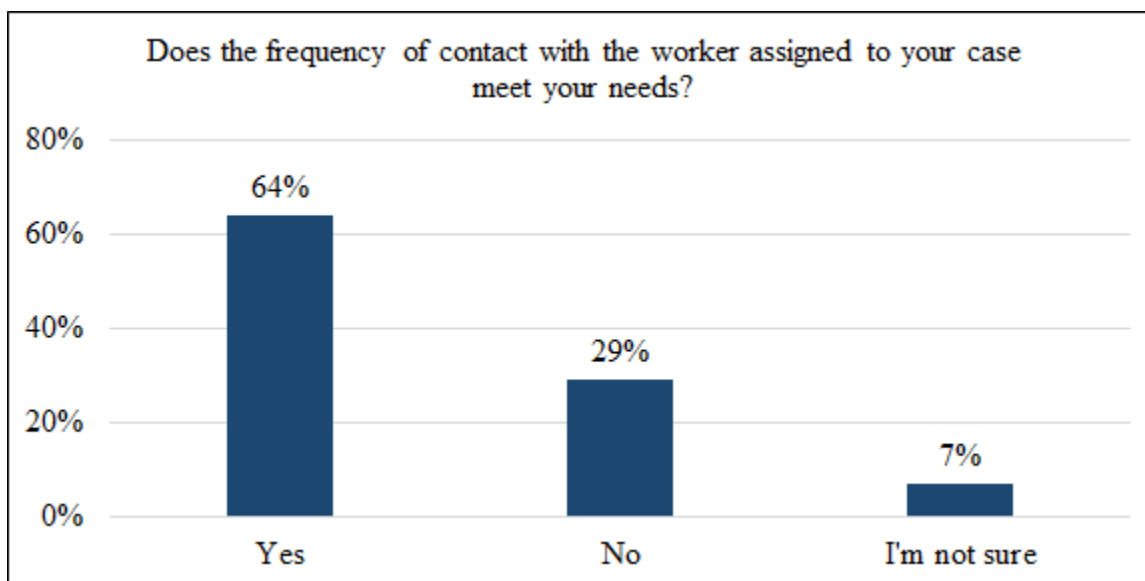
Child and Family Services Review Survey Data

Biological parents who have children in foster care were surveyed regarding the frequency of contact with their case manager. This survey question looks at services provided to parents of children in foster care. This was delivered to parents on home visits through case managers in January 2023.



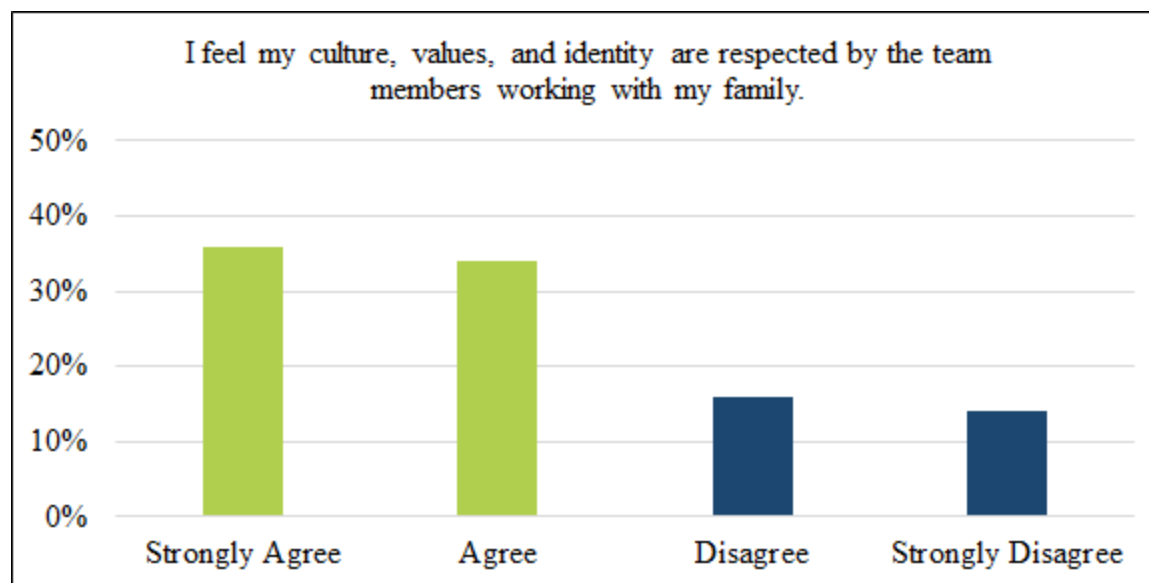
*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

Biological parents who have children in foster care were surveyed regarding the frequency of contact with their case manager meeting the parent's needs. This survey question looks at services provided to parents of children in foster care. This was delivered to parents on home visits through case managers in January 2023.



*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

Biological parents who have children in foster care were surveyed regarding feeling respected by their team members. This survey question looks at services provided to parents of children in foster care. This was delivered to parents on home visits through case managers in January 2023.



*Source: CFSR Survey January 2023

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

As outlined, there has been significant progress to align all agencies regarding creating and utilizing a Standardized Stakeholder Feedback tool. At current, there are separate consumer surveys utilized from the Children's Division and each Foster Care Case Management Agency to look at feedback from stakeholders. Under House Bill 1414, the regulation outlines specific schedules of specific groups to examine feedback around the child welfare system. Through the phased in implementation, there has been progress to create a standard stakeholder feedback tool to be utilized and as of March 2023, there is work being done to examine electronic platform capabilities to continue to move the work forward. Updates will continue to be shared and published within the quarterly report

The Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool is designed to ask six specific groups (Youth in Foster Care (12+, Foster Parents & Resource Parents, Adoptive Parents, Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) of Children in Care, Juvenile Officers, & Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court) around their experiences with the child welfare system. While there has been significant progress in creating alignment amongst all agencies regarding these experiences, there have been challenges in collecting standardized survey data across the board. There will continue to be progress made to collect all information in a universal manner, and changes will be implemented during Phase II and Phase III of House Bill 1414 due to the size of the implementation and phased in approach that is necessary to implement these changes.

In regards to the surveys for Parents or Legal Guardians, the CFSR survey was conducted and results shared around these experiences.

FACES Electronic Case Management System:

Data from FACES is used to create the House Bill 1414 dashboard report; however, there are no additional reports relevant to this project generated with regard to visitation between workers and parents.

Data Analysis

CFSR data from the OMS indicates that the frequency of visits with parents whose children are in foster care is an area of concern. The frequency of the worker's visits with mothers was sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals in only 36% of the cases reviewed where there was a mother identified for whom this item was applicable. The quality was sufficient in only 62% of the cases reviewed. The frequency of the worker's visits with fathers was sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals in only 29% of the cases reviewed where there was a father identified for whom this item was applicable. The quality was sufficient in only 72% of the cases reviewed.

Of 25 cases reviewed, 21 received an overall rating of ANI. Of the four cases that received a rating of Strength, two were managed by Children's Division and two were managed by FCCM agencies. As such, the 21 cases rated ANI were distributed amongst both Children's Division and FCCM agencies. Children's Division managed 16 of those cases and five different FCCM agencies managed the remaining five. It should be noted that each of the FCCM agencies represented only had one case reviewed.

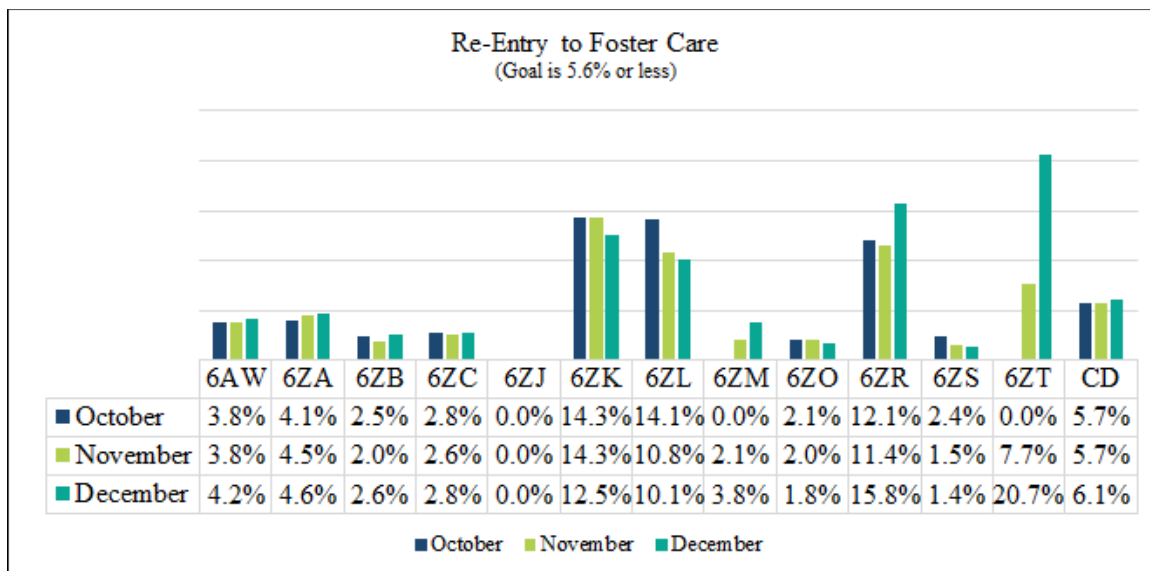
CFSR surveys indicate that parents generally feel that services meet their needs and are culturally sensitive. Fathers felt less involved in case planning than mothers. This data does not distinguish Children's Division from Foster Care Case Management agencies.

2. Metric: Reentry to Foster Care

- This measures children who have exited foster care who reentered care within 12 months of their exit from care.
- The expected performance benchmark for Phase I is 8.1% or lower of children who have exited foster care re-enter into foster care.

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard Data:

The chart below represents the percentage of foster children who exited foster care and then re-entered within 12 months. It is broken down by agency. A lower percentage is desirable for this measure.



*Source: R&E Report RDA-4844/5003 27MAR2023

The chart below includes both Children’s Division and FCCM. It shows, for each month, how many circuits were meeting or exceeding the goal of 5.6%, how many are within 4.3% of the goal, how many missed it by 4.4%-9.4%, and how many missed it by 9.5%-14.4%. This is important because the few circuits missing the goal by 9.5%-14.4% could heavily impact the state’s overall percentage, depending on the number of children in foster care in those circuits. For this measure, a lower percentage is desirable.

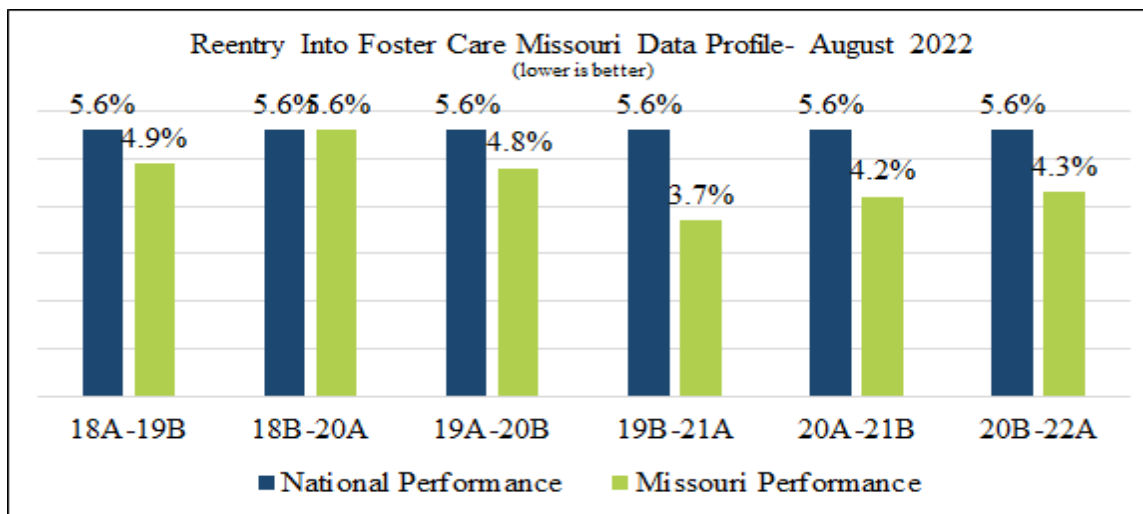
Percentage of Re-Entry Into Foster Care Grouped by Circuit				
	15.1%-20%	10.1%-15%	5.7%-10%	0%-5.6%
Oct-22	2	3	11	30
Nov-22	2	3	11	30
Dec-22	1	5	12	28

*Source: R&E Report RDA-4844/5003 27MAR2023

Child and Family Services Review Data

The chart below compares the rate of reentry into foster care for children in Missouri to the rate of reentry into foster care for children in the nation as a whole. Because this data is provided twice per year, August is the most recent data available from this source. This chart utilizes Risk Standardized Performance (RSP) data which allows for a comparison of the state’s performance relative to states with similar foster children. Taking into account several factors, such as the number of children served by the state and the ages of those children, RSP adjusts to minimize differences in outcomes due to factors that are outside of the agency’s control.

This adjustment is made by Children’s Bureau and allows for a more fair comparison of the state’s performance against that of the nation. This measure requires two full years of AFCARS reporting data. The first year allows identification of the children who achieved permanency. The next year we are able to see which of those children came back into foster care. The reporting periods for this report correspond to the federal fiscal year. For each of the data points in the chart, the timeframes move forward one six-month period. In looking at first column in the bottom row, for example, 18A-19B means that that data point is from October 2017 – September 2019 and the second, 18B-20A, is from April 2018 – March 2020. A lower rate is desirable. This data does not differentiate between Children’s Division and FCCM agencies.



*Source: Missouri Data Profile – August 2022

Child and Family Services Review Survey Data

There are no CFSR surveys that are applicable to this measure.

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

As outlined, there has been significant progress to align all agencies regarding creating and utilizing a Standardized Stakeholder Feedback tool. At current, there are separate consumer surveys utilized from the Children’s Division and each Foster Care Case Management Agency to look at feedback from stakeholders. Under House Bill 1414, the regulation outlines specific schedules of specific groups to examine feedback around the child welfare system. Through the phased in implementation, there has been progress to create a standard stakeholder feedback tool to be utilized and as of March 2023, there is work being done to examine electronic platform capabilities to continue to move the work forward. Updates will continue to be shared and published within the quarterly report

The Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool is designed to ask six specific groups (Youth in Foster Care (12+, Foster Parents & Resource Parents, Adoptive Parents, Parent(s) or Legal

Guardian(s) of Children in Care, Juvenile Officers, & Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court) around their experiences with the child welfare system. While there has been significant progress in creating alignment amongst all agencies regarding these experiences, there have been challenges in collecting standardized survey data across the board. There will continue to be progress made to collect all information in a universal manner, and changes will be implemented during Phase II and Phase III of House Bill 1414 due to the size of the implementation and phased in approach that is necessary to implement these changes.

In regards to this measure for Re-Entries into Foster Care, there is not a specific survey data set to present regarding this measure.

FACES Electronic Case Management System

There are reports published by Children's Division that reflect information on reentries in to foster care but they are not part of this evaluation process.

Data Analysis:

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard data shows that for FCCM agency 6ZJ, of over 190 exits of children from foster care, they had no re-entries into foster care within 12 months during October 2022-December 2022. Overall, the state met the measure of 5.6% for reentry to foster care. Over half of the circuits have met the measure each of the three months. Of those who didn't, most were within 4.3% of the goal each month. Only five or six circuits miss the goal by more than 4.4% each of the months. Of those, one or two missed it each of the three months by more than 9.5%

Child and Family Services Review data from the Data Profile indicates that, as a state, 4.3% of the children who exited care in the previous 12 months, re-entered care. That is better than national performance of 5.6%.

D. Service Domain:

1. Metric: Average Number of Workers Per Child in Care Less Than 12 Months and 12+ Months:

- This measure looks at the average number of workers assigned for Children's Division and FCCM for kids in foster care less than 12 months and over 12 months.
- The expected performance benchmark is currently undetermined. This has not been measured previously and the Research and Evaluation Team decided that it was appropriate to collect and analyze data for 3-6 months so that an informed, data driven a baseline may be established. Challenges were addressed with data extraction at top of this report.

Foster Care Case Management Dashboard Data

The data available for this measure presents the total number of case workers for any child in foster care. There are significant challenges with this data. First, it does not show within the dashboard where the changes happened. If the child experiences a change in agency, the number of workers will be for the child's experience versus representative for that single agency. This is the first time this is being measured and monitored this way and presents a number of challenges for the Response and Evaluation Team to discuss for solutions to better understand the experiences of children in foster care, and the challenges present in the child welfare workforce. The dashboard is in development at this time.

Child and Family Services Review Data

There is no CFSR review information that is applicable to this measure. Research does indicate that with each worker change children can experience serious delays in reaching permanency. The Research and Evaluation Team included this measure to help understand the functioning of the child welfare system in Missouri because continued changes can impact how children and families are served.

Child and Family Services Review Survey Data

There is no CFSR survey information applicable to this measure.

Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool Data

As outlined, there has been significant progress to align all agencies regarding creating and utilizing a Standardized Stakeholder Feedback tool. At current, there are separate consumer surveys utilized from the Children's Division and each Foster Care Case Management Agency to look at feedback from stakeholders. Under House Bill 1414, the regulation outlines specific schedules of specific groups to examine feedback around the child welfare system. Through the phased in implementation, there has been progress to create a standard stakeholder feedback tool to be utilized and as of March 2023, there is work being done to examine electronic platform capabilities to continue to move the work forward. Updates will continue to be shared and published within the quarterly report

The Standardized Stakeholder Feedback Tool is designed to ask six specific groups (Youth in Foster Care (12+, Foster Parents & Resource Parents, Adoptive Parents, Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) of Children in Care, Juvenile Officers, & Judges of the Juvenile and/or Family Court) around their experiences with the child welfare system. While there has been significant progress in creating alignment amongst all agencies regarding these experiences, there have been challenges in collecting standardized survey data across the board. There will continue to be progress made to collect all information in a universal manner, and changes will be implemented

during Phase II and Phase III of House Bill 1414 due to the size of the implementation and phased in approach that is necessary to implement these changes.

In regards to case worker changes, there is not a specific requirement of House Bill 1414 to survey the workforce; however, there has been discussion within the Research and Evaluation Team around surveying all workforce to move toward understanding this component better for the functioning of the child welfare system as a whole.

FACES Electronic Case Management System

The FACES system collects information with regard to assignment of case managers but there is no additional report outside HB1414 generated.

Data Analysis

This data set as outlined to be presented in the Foster Care Case Management Dashboard is new and is proving to be challenging due to current system constraints. As such, data analysis is ongoing and will continue to be worked through for future reporting periods. At present, it would be premature to fully evaluate the data returned as it is known there needs to be further work on the extraction of the information for applicable future use.

Additional Data Applicable to All Domains

Child & Family Services Review (CFSR) Survey Data

In January 2023, in preparation for Round 4 of the CFSR for Missouri, surveys were distributed to youth in foster care, parents with open in-home or foster care cases, foster parents, judges and juvenile officers, attorneys, and agency and Foster Care Case Management staff with regard to availability of services. The table below shows how people completing the survey felt about access to services.

Child & Family Services Review Survey Data by Region (January 2023)						
	KC	Northeast	Northwest	St. Louis	Southeast	Southwest
	n=75	n=122	n=121	n=52	n=187	n=218
Dental Services	60%	59%	57%	48%	63%	59%
Housing Assistance	54%	54%	66%	45%	66%	50%

Medical Services	80%	71%	79%	63%	83%	76%
Mental Health Services	64%	54%	56%	37%	71%	66%
Substance Abuse Treat.	49%	52%	52%	29%	73%	62%
Visitation Supervision	51%	42%	40%	42%	49%	47%
** Thirty-four (34) surveys are not represented in the regional numbers because an area was not identified or the area was identified as statewide.						

*Source: CFSR Stakeholder Survey Data January 2023

Data Analysis

Medical services were believed to be most readily available throughout the majority of the state. Mental health services were believed to be least readily available in St. Louis. Overall, survey respondents felt that mental health services have long wait lists. In addition, the professionals have to complete psychiatric and psychological evaluations.

Conclusion

House Bill 1414 Implementation is ongoing. Phase I began in October 1, 2022 with Phase II to be live in October 2023. There is progress being made in all areas of the work. As the data is collected, analyzed, and discussed, it is in the intent of this legislation and work to make systematic recommendations to improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system.

While House Bill 1414 was passed in August of 2020, the work is ongoing amongst the Children's Division and Foster Case Management Contracted Agencies to regularly discuss the performance of the systems at the sake of outcomes for children. Both the Response and Evaluation team, as well as subgroups have met monthly or bi-monthly since the work began. This legislation has led to the implementation of continuous review processes in all case management agencies, and will require regularly, ongoing discussion to continue to strive for improvement. As the work is implemented, all parts of the Quality Assurance system within child welfare for both Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management Agencies will be meeting quarterly to review data, discuss trends, provide feedback, and work through implementation strategies as the work continues. The implementation of Phase I has just started. Working through Phase II and Phase III measures and implementation, while concurrently monitoring Phase I implementation will require this type of structure. All parties are in agreement with this new process and will be starting in April 2023. It is the hope of the Response and Evaluation Team to utilize all of the data to make improvements in data collection, reporting, policy, and requirements through collaboration and partnership.

Quarterly reporting will occur in April, July, October, and January respective to their reporting periods. It is expected that the data reporting will continue to evolve and improve as collaboration amongst child welfare professionals continues. The next reporting period is January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023 with the report to be published by July 1, 2023.

The federal Child & Family Services Review On-Site Review process is July 2023. The results of the On-Site Review will be utilized in the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) process for all foster care case management agencies.