



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

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Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director  
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April 22, 2006

**Dear County Director of Social Services**

**Subject: Federal Outcome Measures Report**

The Federal Outcome Measures report detailing data from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 is now available. The report for your county is attached. The statewide Federal Outcome Measures are 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.

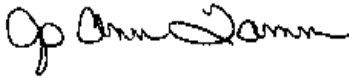
Length of Time to Achieve Adoptions	Of all children exiting foster care to adoption during the year under review, what percent are adopted in less than 24 months from the time of their latest removal from home?	A state passes if 32% or more of the children adopted from foster care are adopted within 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. Please note that we found an error in the formula that we used to calculate the percentage of children twelve and under in group care for the last reporting period, so you will see some changes in this percentage. Further, we would like to clarify that children in maternity homes are not counted as part of this statistic.

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. In the mean time, counties can access each other’s data through XPTR report “PQA 182 Outcomes Measures”.

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



Hank Bowers, Chief  
Performance Management,  
Reporting and Evaluation Management Section

[Attachments](#)

CC: Sherry Bradsher  
Sarah Barham  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders  
Children’s Program Representatives  
Work First Representatives

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**PM-REM-03-2006**