Title IV: Child Welfare Outcome Measures

The Child Welfare Outcome Measures were created by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in consultation with various child welfare experts and state legislators for the purpose of guiding the measurement and reporting of the welfare of children in the foster care and child welfare systems, as required by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, an amendment to Title IV of the Social Security Act. Each of the 27 measures is linked to one of two national data sources: The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

The measures focus on experiences of abuse and neglect of children before entering child welfare and/or foster care systems, length of time spent in these systems, and other topics associated with foster care and adoption outcomes including reunification, reentry and permanence. The Child Welfare Information Gateway provides additional information on child welfare topics and state resources. The 2010-2013 Report to Congress is the most recent report available.