

**Children's Bureau  
Child and Family Services Reviews  
Summary of Key Findings  
Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004**

The Children's Bureau and the Administration for Children and Families administer the State child and family services reviews. The reviews assess State performance during a specified period of time with respect to seven child welfare outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being, and with respect to seven systemic factors.

Each of the seven outcomes is comprised of individual practices (referred to in the reviews as items), which are determined by the reviewers to be either strengths, areas needing improvement, or not applicable. In the attached chart, each of the practices reviewed is noted and marked with a "✓" if it was found to be a strength for the State.

Based on the findings relating to these practices, the State is determined to be in substantial conformity, partial conformity, or not in conformity with each of the seven outcomes and seven systemic factors. In the attached chart, if the State was found to be in substantial conformity with the outcome or systemic factor under review, an "S" is marked in the first column beneath that outcome or factor.

With respect to the Federal fiscal year 2003 and 2004 reviews, please note the following:

- Under Permanency Outcome 1, the practice referred to as "Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement With Relatives" (item 8), was modified following the completion of the fiscal year 2001 reviews. In those reviews, the focus of this item was on the provision of independent living services by the State. The findings related to item 8 in this report, therefore, should not be compared to the findings for item 8 in 2001.

Further explanation of each individual practice, outcome, and systemic factor is available in the Child and Family Services Reviews Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions, which is posted on the Children's Bureau Web site at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/tools/cf-instruments.htm>.

**Children's Bureau**  
**Fiscal Year 2003 and 2004 Child and Family Services Reviews**  
**Summary of Key Findings**

The Children's Bureau and the Administration for Children and Families administer the State child and family services reviews. The reviews comprise two phases: (1) the Statewide Assessment, during which the State analyzes its child welfare data and practice, and (2) the onsite review, during which Federal and State teams examine outcomes for children and families by assessing child welfare practices, and assess State systemic issues through stakeholder interviews. The following chart provides a summary of the findings from the final reports of the reviews conducted in fiscal years (FY) 2003 and 2004. An "S" indicates that the State obtained substantial conformity with the outcome or systemic factor under review. A "✓" indicates that the practice under review was found to be a strength for the State.

**I. States' Conformance With the Safety Outcomes**

States	Outcome 1: Children are first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.			Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.		
	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Timely Investigation of Reports of Child Maltreatment	Prevention of Repeat Maltreatment of Children	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Maintaining Child(ren) Safely in Their Homes	Reducing Risk of Harm to Children
Hawaii					✓	
Idaho						
Illinois		✓				
Iowa				S	✓	✓
Kentucky						✓
Louisiana						✓
Maine			✓			
Maryland		✓				
Mississippi			✓			
Missouri						
Nevada						
New Hampshire		✓			✓	✓
New Jersey						
Puerto Rico		✓				
Rhode Island <sup>1</sup>						
South Carolina	S	✓	✓			
Utah				S	✓	✓
Virginia			✓		✓	
Washington						
Wisconsin						✓

<sup>1</sup> The Final Report of the review has not yet been issued.

<b>II. States' Conformance With the Permanency Outcomes</b>							
<b>States</b>	<b>Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.</b>						
	<b>Substantial Conformity With Outcome</b>	<b>Preventing Foster Care Re-Entries</b>	<b>Providing Stable Placements for Children in Foster Care</b>	<b>Establishing Appropriate Permanency Goals for Children</b>	<b>Achieving Permanency Through Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement With Relatives<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Achieving Adoption</b>	<b>Achieving Permanency Goal of Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement</b>
Hawaii							
Idaho							
Illinois		✓					
Iowa					✓		
Kentucky							✓
Louisiana		✓					
Maine		✓					
Maryland							
Mississippi		✓					
Missouri		✓					
Nevada		✓					
New Hampshire							
New Jersey		✓					
Puerto Rico		✓	✓				
Rhode Island							
South Carolina		✓					✓
Utah						✓	
Virginia		✓					✓
Washington							
Wisconsin							

<sup>2</sup> Please note that this review item was revised for the FY 2002 reviews and additional clarifying language was added for the FY 2003 reviews. In 2001, this item focused on independent living services.

**II. States' Conformance With the Permanency Outcomes (Continued)**

States	Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.						
	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Placing Children in Close Proximity to Their Families	Placing Children With Their Siblings	Facilitating Visitation of Children in Care With Parents and Siblings	Preserving Connections	Placing Children With Relatives	Supporting the Relationship of Children in Care With Parents
Hawaii		✓	✓				
Idaho	S	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Illinois		✓	✓		✓		
Iowa		✓	✓	✓			
Kentucky		✓					
Louisiana	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maine			✓				✓
Maryland		✓					
Mississippi							
Missouri		✓					
Nevada		✓	✓				
New Hampshire		✓	✓		✓		
New Jersey		✓					
Puerto Rico		✓				✓	
Rhode Island							
South Carolina		✓	✓				
Utah		✓	✓	✓			✓
Virginia		✓	✓				
Washington		✓	✓				
Wisconsin		✓					

### III. States' Conformance With the Child and Family Well-Being Outcomes

States	Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.					Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.		Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.		
	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Providing Services to Children, Parents, Foster Parents	Involving Children and Parents in Case Planning	Visiting With Children Frequently	Visiting With Parents Frequently	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Meeting Educational Needs of Children	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Meeting Physical Health Needs of Children	Meeting Mental Health Needs of Children
Hawaii						S	✓			
Idaho						S	✓			
Illinois										
Iowa						S	✓		✓	✓
Kentucky						S	✓		✓	
Louisiana				✓					✓	
Maine						S	✓		✓	
Maryland				✓					✓	
Mississippi										
Missouri										
Nevada										
New Hampshire						S	✓		✓	
New Jersey										
Puerto Rico										
Rhode Island										
South Carolina										
Utah						S	✓		✓	✓
Virginia						S	✓		✓	
Washington										
Wisconsin				✓		S	✓			

IV. States' Conformance With the Systemic Factors								
States	Statewide Information System		Case Review System					
	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Automated Information System <sup>3</sup>	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Written Case Plans <sup>4</sup>	Frequent Court Reviews of Case Status <sup>5</sup>	Frequent Permanency Hearings <sup>6</sup>	Timely Termination of Parental Rights <sup>7</sup>	Caretaker and Parent Notification of Hearings <sup>8</sup>
Hawaii	S	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Idaho	S	✓			✓	✓		
Illinois	S	✓			✓	✓		✓
Iowa	S	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Kentucky	S	✓			✓			
Louisiana	S	✓	S		✓	✓	✓	✓
Maine	S	✓			✓			
Maryland					✓			
Mississippi								
Missouri	S	✓						
Nevada	S	✓			✓	✓		
New Hampshire	S	✓			✓			✓
New Jersey	S	✓						
Puerto Rico								
Rhode Island								
South Carolina	S	✓			✓			
Utah	S	✓			✓	✓		✓
Virginia	S	✓				✓		
Washington	S	✓			✓	✓		
Wisconsin	S	✓			✓	✓		

<sup>3</sup> The statewide automated information system can determine the status, demographics, location, and goals for all children in foster care.

<sup>4</sup> Children in foster care have written case plans and children and parents are consistently involved in case planning.

<sup>5</sup> The status of each child is reviewed in court at least every 6 months.

<sup>6</sup> Permanency hearings are held for children in foster care within 12 months of entry into care.

<sup>7</sup> Termination of parental rights proceedings occur within the timeframes specified in the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

<sup>8</sup> Foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caretakers of children in foster care are routinely notified of and given an opportunity to participate in hearings for children.

#### IV. States' Conformance With the Systemic Factors (Continued)

States	Quality Assurance System			Training			
	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Quality Standards <sup>9</sup>	Quality Assurance System <sup>10</sup>	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Staff Development and Training Program <sup>11</sup>	Ongoing Staff Training <sup>12</sup>	Training for Foster and Adoptive Parents <sup>13</sup>
Hawaii							
Idaho		✓				✓	
Illinois	S	✓	✓	S		✓	✓
Iowa		✓					✓
Kentucky	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Louisiana	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Maine			✓	S		✓	✓
Maryland		✓		S	✓	✓	✓
Mississippi		✓			✓		
Missouri	S	✓	✓	S	✓		✓
Nevada				S	✓		✓
New Hampshire	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
New Jersey							✓
Puerto Rico		✓					
Rhode Island							
South Carolina	S	✓	✓	S	✓		✓
Utah	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Virginia	S	✓	✓				
Washington	S	✓	✓		✓		
Wisconsin		✓					

<sup>9</sup> Standards have been implemented to ensure that children in foster care are provided with quality services to address their needs.

<sup>10</sup> The State operates an identifiable quality assurance system that has the capacity to monitor the quality of services, identify strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provide reports, and evaluate program improvement measures.

<sup>11</sup> The State operates a staff development and training program.

<sup>12</sup> The State provides ongoing training addressing the skills and knowledge needed for staff to perform their duties.

<sup>13</sup> The State provides training for current and prospective foster and adoptive parents and staff of State-licensed facilities that care for children in foster care.

#### IV. States' Conformance With the Systemic Factors (Continued)

States	Service Array				Agency Responsiveness to the Community			
	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Array of Services for Children and Families <sup>14</sup>	Services Are Accessible Throughout the State <sup>15</sup>	Services Are Individualized For Unique Needs <sup>16</sup>	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Consultation With Stakeholders <sup>17</sup>	Joint Development of Progress Reports <sup>18</sup>	Coordination of Services With Federal Programs <sup>19</sup>
Hawaii					S	✓	✓	
Idaho		✓			S	✓	✓	✓
Illinois					S	✓	✓	✓
Iowa					S	✓	✓	✓
Kentucky				✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Louisiana	S	✓		✓	S	✓		✓
Maine				✓	S	✓		✓
Maryland				✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Mississippi					S	✓	✓	✓
Missouri					S	✓	✓	✓
Nevada					S	✓	✓	✓
New Hampshire				✓	S		✓	✓
New Jersey								✓
Puerto Rico					S	✓		✓
Rhode Island								
South Carolina				✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Utah	S	✓		✓	S		✓	✓
Virginia				✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Washington					S	✓		✓
Wisconsin				✓	S		✓	✓

<sup>14</sup> The State offers an array of services to meet the needs of children and families.

<sup>15</sup> Services are accessible to families and children in all locations of the State.

<sup>16</sup> Services offered are individualized to the unique needs of children and families.

<sup>17</sup> The State engages in ongoing consultation with consumers, service providers, courts, and other stakeholders.

<sup>18</sup> The State jointly develops with its stakeholders annual reports of progress.

<sup>19</sup> The State's services are coordinated with services or benefits of other Federal programs servicing the same population.



**IV. States' Conformance With the Systemic Factors (Continued)**

<b>Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention</b>						
<b>States</b>	<b>Substantial Conformity With Factor</b>	<b>Standards for Foster and Adoptive Families<sup>20</sup></b>	<b>Uniform Application of Standards<sup>21</sup></b>	<b>Criminal Clearances for Foster and Adoptive Families<sup>22</sup></b>	<b>Recruitment of Diverse Foster and Adoptive Families<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>Utilization of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources<sup>24</sup></b>
Hawaii		✓		✓		✓
Idaho	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Illinois	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Iowa	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Kentucky	S	✓		✓	✓	✓
Louisiana	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maine	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maryland	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mississippi	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Missouri	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Nevada	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
New Hampshire	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Jersey		✓		✓		✓
Puerto Rico	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhode Island						
South Carolina	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Utah	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Virginia				✓		✓
Washington	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Wisconsin	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	

<sup>20</sup> The State has implemented standards for foster and adoptive family homes and child care institutions.

<sup>21</sup> State standards for foster and adoptive family homes are applied uniformly.

<sup>22</sup> The State conducts criminal clearances for foster care and adoptive families and operates a case planning process that includes provisions for ensuring children's safety.

<sup>23</sup> The State diligently recruits foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children for whom homes are needed.

<sup>24</sup> The State utilizes cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for children.