



AFCARS 2020 & Title IV-E Prevention Services Data Open Office Hours

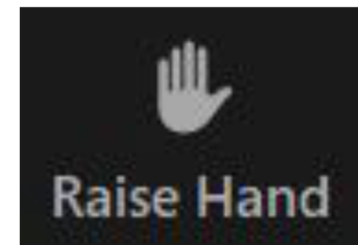
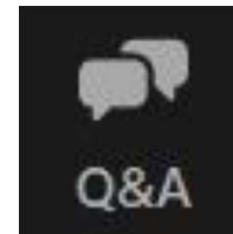
Children's Bureau Data Analytics and Reporting Team

October 30, 2023

Participating in Today's Webinar

To ask questions during the presentation:

- Type them into the *Q&A* feature at the bottom or top of your screen.
- Ask verbally using the *Raise Hand* feature, and the presenter will unmute your phone line.
- If you aren't on the webinar and have called in using your phone, you can dial *9, and the presenter will unmute your line.
- This webinar is not recorded.



Presenters



Amber Nagorski, Project Coordinator, CB, ICF Contractor

Rebecca Odor, AFCARS Program Administrator, CB

Cara Kelly, Child Welfare Program Specialist, CB

Malcolm Hale, Data Analyst, CB

Revised Technical Bulletins



Technical Bulletin #20: Data Elements

- Ver 2.1 published on September 28, 2023
- Minor changes are listed in Appendix E

Technical Bulletin #21: XML File Structure & Encryption

- Ver 2.1 published on October 10, 2023
- Minor changes to the schemas noted in Appendix G

Technical Bulletin #22: Reporting Population and Data Extraction

- Ver 2.1 published on October 2, 2023
- Clarifies rule A of the extraction coding and corrects an example.

Technical Bulletin #23: Compliance and Penalties

- Ver 2.1 published on October 6, 2023
- Clarified some items
- Added, removed, and revised some of the compliance checks
- Changes are listed in Appendix D

Access most up-to-date versions of the Technical Bulletins



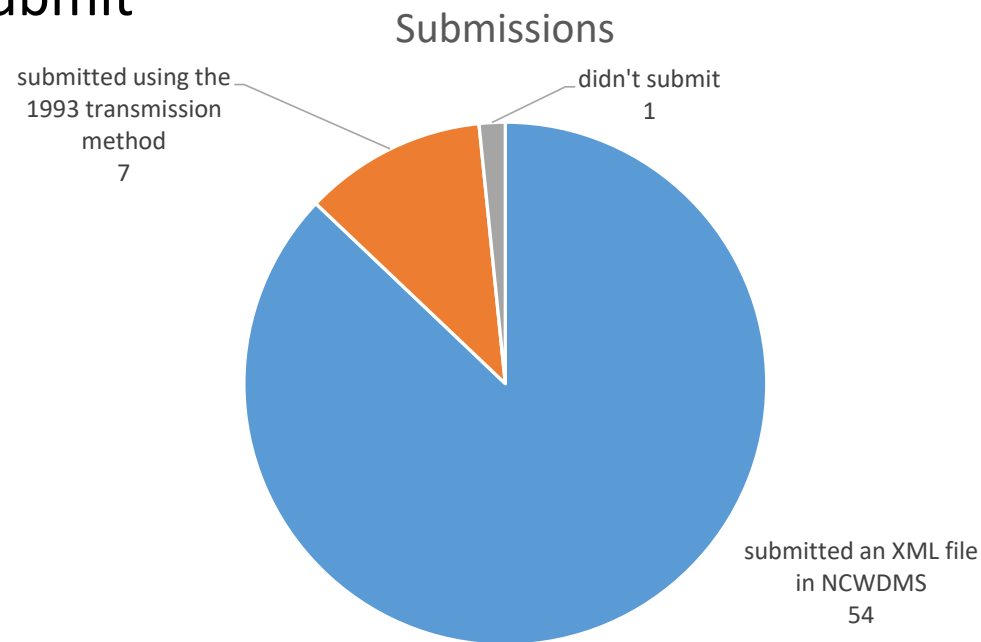
- Always look at the version number or the date on the cover to make sure you are accessing the most current version
- If you had downloaded an earlier version to your own computer, make sure to download the 2.1 version and replace your older version
- If you always just click on the online link to access it, be sure to clear your cache so your computer doesn't just pull up the version that you had looked at the last time
 - Browsers use caches to store previously opened web pages and documents in order to shorten the time needed to load the documents for the next time
 - This cache results in opening the stored [older] pdf, yet the cache has no way to know that the stored file is no longer up-to-date.

23A AFCARS Submissions

23A – How agencies submitted



- 54 agencies submitted an XML file in NCWDMS
- 7 states submitted using the 1993 transmission method
- 1 agency didn't submit



23A – Agency compliance ✓



As of May 31, 2023

- ✓ 19 states/territories were fully compliant
 - ✗ 34 states/territories were noncompliant
 - ✓ 6 tribes were fully compliant
 - ✗ 3 tribes were noncompliant
-
- ✗ 6 agencies had a late submission

As of October 30, 2023

- ✓ 25 states/territories were fully compliant
- ✓ 8 tribes were fully compliant

23A – Significant data issues



Structural issues with the file construction

- Only reporting one removal per child (7)
- Only reporting one placement per child (4)
- Duplicate removals (6) or wrong type of removal (7)

Issues with removals and exits

- Missing exit reasons when there was an exit date (22)
- New removal reported before the exit of a prior removal (7)

Issues comparing 22B to 23A

- Significantly fewer removals reported for children in 23A (18)
- Significantly fewer placements reported for children in 23A (29)
- High number of dropped records (21)



Updates to NCWDMS

NCWDMS Version Release Notes



- This enhancement allows users to view the updates when a new version of NCWDMS is released

NCWDMS



Home



Users



Transmissions



Submissions



Release Notes



Logout

Compliance Summary Report Available



- This enhancement allows users to view a compliance summary for each of the elements in the file
- You may choose to view three different ways:
 - Show All Noncompliant Elements
 - Show All Elements with Errors
 - Show All Elements
- This report may also be printed

FILE CHECK COMPLIANCE DETAILS COMPLIANCE SUMMARY QUALITY COMMENT								
Compliance Summary Report								
Filter by Element Status								
Show All Elements With Errors								
PDF Export								
The table below details all elements with errors for the AFCARS - Out of Home Care file. Noncompliant elements are shown in bold.								
Element name	Missing	Out-of-range	Internal consistency	Tardy transactions	Total # of children w/ errors	Subject records	Percent failed	Threshold
E6_sex	1	0	0	0	1	100	1.0%	100.0%
E20_child_race_declined	0	0	1	0	1	100	1.0%	90.0%
E23_health_conditions	0	1	0	0	1	100	1.0%	90.0%
All Elements With Errors								

Upcoming NCWDMS Releases



October 31

- Addition of date of removal and date of living arrangement for compliance report to help identify where the individual error is located
- Addition of column on transmission and submission screens to indicate if all the elements in the file were compliant

November

- Addition of a Frequency Report

Child's sex
(E6_sex)

Value	Frequency	Percent
Male	48	48.0%
Female	51	51.0%
Missing/Empty	1	1.0%
Total	100	100.0%

Agency Made Inquiries
(E7_agency_made_inquiries)

Value	Frequency	Percent
No	42	42.0%
Yes	58	58.0%
Total	100	100.0%

Child's Tribal Membership
(E8_tribal_membership)

Value	Frequency	Percent
No	33	33.0%
Yes	30	30.0%
Unknown	37	37.0%

How to submit a corrected file from before 23A



1. Make a request to the AFCARS team at AFCARS@acf.hhs.gov and we will enable a user's ability to do so
2. Use the same extraction method that you used to create 1993 txt files to create a file
3. Upload your 1993 txt file and select the proper reporting period
4. Be sure to submit it

❖ Note that the 1993 compliance and data quality reports will be delayed until the data team can process the submitted file

File Upload in NCWDMS

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Choose a file to upload *

File uploaded should not exceed the NCWDMS maximum upload size of 8 GB.

CHOOSE A FILE

District of Columbia_2000A_AFCARS
1993_547

Select a Program Type *

AFCARS - 1993

Select Reporting Period *

AFCARS - Out of Home Care
AFCARS - Adoption Assistance
AFCARS - 1993

Cancel Upload



Questions & Answers

Question:

How do we know what changes were made to the compliance checks since our 23A submission?

Answer:

Any changes in the NCWDMS implementation of AFCARS compliance checks are specified in the NCWDMS release notes.

Release Notes

October 20, 2023

NCWDMS Updates October 20

- Compliance Summary Report is now available for transmission files in addition to submission files.
- Added filter on Compliance Summary report to be able to filter by Noncompliant Elements, Elements with Errors, and All Elements
- Added ability to download submissions list as a CSV file on the Submission screen.
- Further refined validation to detect invalid XML in transmission files during upload process.
- AFCARS 2020 Out-of-Home Care File: The current compliance check, E80_E81_E97_inconsistency is renamed as E80_E80_E81_E97_only_1_inconsistency.
- Added the following compliance checks as a fix to match TB#23 so that errors were no longer assigned to just a single element in the grouping:
 - o E72_E73_inconsistency: If E73_whereabouts_unknown = 1 (Applies), E72_runaway must be 0 (Does not apply)
 - o E81_E80_E81_E97_only_1_inconsistency - Only one of the data elements, E80_abandonment, E81_failure_to_return, or E97_voluntary_adoption can have a value of 1 (Applies)
 - o E97_E80_E81_E97_only_1_inconsistency - Only one of the data elements, E80_abandonment, E81_failure_to_return, or E97_voluntary_adoption can have a value of 1 (Applies).

Question:

Why do we see fewer errors in NCWDMS for an element than the number of errors that we believe to be in our file?

Answer:

This could be because NCWDMS excludes children that are over 18 from being included in the compliance error count.

Although youth who are over 18 should still be in the reporting population, they are excluded for compliance determination purposes.

[CB] will exempt records related to a child in either data file whose 18th birthday occurred in a prior report period and will exempt records relating to a child in the adoption and guardianship assistance data file who is in a title IV-E guardianship from a compliance determination (§1355.46(a)).

Question:

How do I view a list of all the compliance checks and data quality advisories implemented in NCWDMS?

Answer:

To see a list of the current compliance checks or data quality advisories (also called data quality rules):

- view an uploaded file in NCWDMS,
- In the header, click on “Compliance Details” or “Quality,” and
- then click on “View all rules for this program type.”

Question:

If we are noncompliant for 23A, how will we know the penalty amount and when do we pay it?

Answer:

- Firstly, your final determination of compliance isn't made until after the 6-month correction period ends, which is Nov 14 for 23A
- CB will issue an official notification of the final determination of noncompliance to the agency by March 31 which will list the amount and instructions for submitting a decreasing adjustment on a CB-496
- If more claims are made on the 3rd quarter of FY 23, then you may receive an updated penalty amount in Sept of FY25.

Question:

If we submit more than one file before the end of the submission period, do we have to indicate which one will be considered the final submission?

Answer:

If more than one file is uploaded AND submitted in NCWDMS before the end of the submission period, the most recent one will be considered your official submission.

Question:

If an agency submitted its 23A file late and it was noncompliant, and they just submitted a 23A corrected file that was compliant, will the agency always be noncompliant because the initial one was late?

Answer:

Yes. The regulation states:

To be in compliance..., the title IV–E agency must submit a data file in accordance with the data file standards... Timely submission. ACF must receive the data files on or before the reporting deadline... (§1355.46(c)(1)).

Title IV-E Prevention Services Data (IV-E PSD)

Developed by The Children's Bureau, Division of Performance
Measurement and Improvement, and Office on Child Abuse and Neglect

IV-E PSD Current and Upcoming Cohorts

Jurisdictions should be preparing 23B data

Jurisdictions should be planning to submit 24 A data

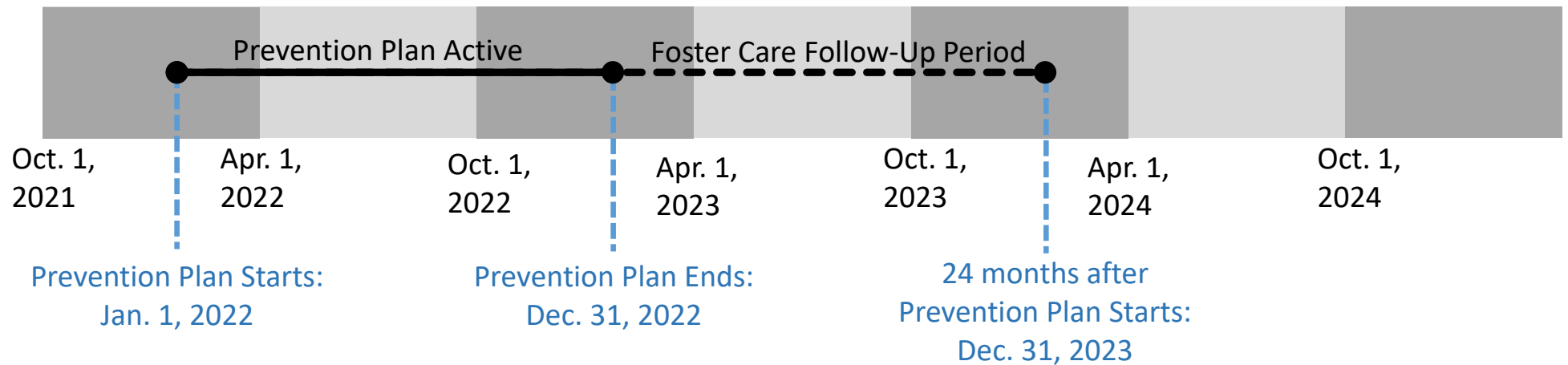


FFY2020 Approval	FFY2021 Approval	FFY2022 Approval	FFY2023 Approval	FFY2024 Approval
1 st collection begins Oct. 1, 2021	1 st collection begins Oct. 1, 2022	1 st collection begins Oct. 1, 2023	1 st collection begins Oct. 1, 2024	1 st collection begins Oct. 1, 2025
1 st Submission Due to CB May 15, 2022	1 st Submission Due to CB May 15, 2023	1 st Submission Due to CB May 15, 2024	1 st Submission Due to CB May 15, 2025	1 st Submission Due to CB May 15, 2026
Arkansas	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (NC)	Connecticut	California	Arizona
Kansas	Hawaii	Indiana	Cherokee Nation (OK)	Louisiana
Kentucky	Illinois	Michigan	Colorado	Nevada
Maryland	Iowa	Montana	Florida	
North Dakota	Maine	New York	Georgia	
Utah	Nebraska	North Carolina	Idaho	
Washington	Oregon	Ohio	Massachusetts	
Washington DC	Virginia	Oklahoma	Minnesota	
West Virginia		Salt River Pima Indian Community	Missouri	
		South Carolina	New Hampshire	
		Tennessee	Pennsylvania	
		Vermont	Port Gamble S'Klallam	
			Rhode Island	
			Wisconsin	
			Wyoming	

Dropped Records

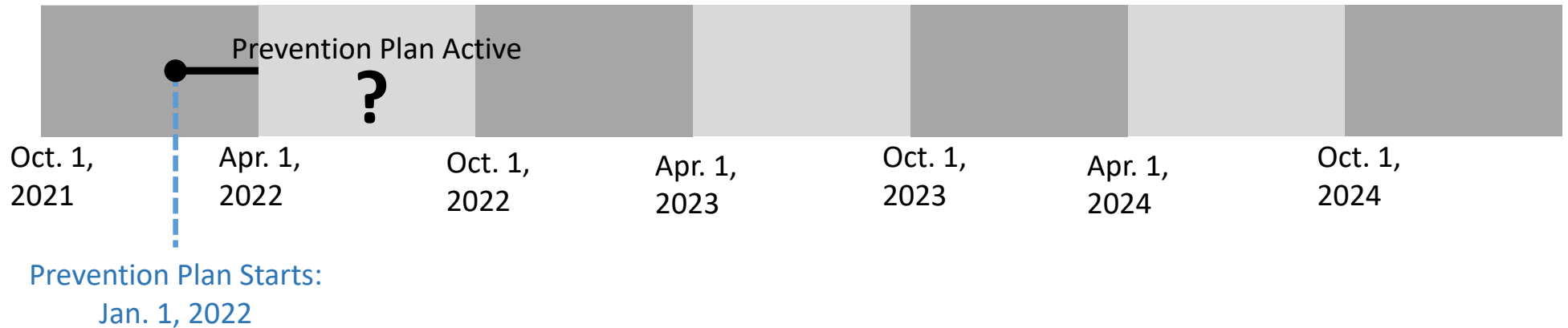
(in the Title IV-E Prevention Service Data File)

What To Report And For How Long Candidate For Foster Care Example



Submission Date	Services/Costs to Report	Foster Care Entries Elements
April 1, 2022	Jan. 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022	Not Applicable
October 1, 2022	Jan. 1, 2022 to Sept. 22, 2022	Not Applicable
April 1, 2023	Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2022	Foster Care Placement Status at 12 months
October 1, 2023	Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2022	Foster Care Placement Status at 12 months
April 1, 2024	Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2022	Foster Care Placement Status at 12 months, Foster Care Entry
October 1, 2024	Out of the reporting population	Out of the reporting population

Dropped Record Candidate For Foster Care Example



Submission Date	Services/Costs to Report	Foster Care Entries Elements
April 1, 2022	Jan. 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022	Not Applicable
October 1, 2022	?	?
April 1, 2023	?	?
October 1, 2023	?	?
April 1, 2024	?	?
October 1, 2024	?	?

Dropped Records

- We are continuing to review submissions and run quality checks. When anomalies or uncertainties come up, we do our best to reach out to the agency to discuss.
- You may hear from us after you've submitted a file, but if you do not and you have questions, you may always reach out to us by emailing CBDataTeam@acf.hhs.gov.

For Help

For technical issues with NCWDMS

- NCWDMS Help Desk e-mail box: NCWDMS-HelpDesk@icf.com
- NCWDMS Help Desk number: (888) 851-3111

For any programmatic issues

- AFCARS Resource Mailbox: AFCARS@acf.hhs.gov
- IV-E PSD Mailbox: CBDataTeam@acf.hhs.gov