

Human Services Performance Management Measure Overview: Child Maltreatment Recurrence

Percent of children with a substantiated maltreatment report who do not experience a repeat substantiated maltreatment report within twelve months.

This measure evaluates the percent of children who were not victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of the initial substantiated maltreatment report. The measure has a denominator of the number of children with at least one substantiated child maltreatment report. The numerator is whether each victim has another substantiated allegation in a child maltreatment report within 12 months. This measure does not take into account Family Assessment reports, the date maltreatment occurred and does not take into consideration disclosures made while a child is in foster care.

About the Human Services Performance Management System

This measure is used by the Human Services Performance Management (Performance Management) system, a joint effort between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The Performance Management system, established in 2013 in accordance with [Minn. Stat. § 402A](#), is a collaborative, continuous improvement opportunity for state, county, Service Delivery Authorities (SDA), and community partners to work together to improve the lives of the people we serve. The Commissioners of DHS and DCYF are advised by the Human Services Performance Management Council (Council) on the implementation and operation of the performance management system for human services.

Performance Improvement Plans

Historically, counties below the threshold of 90.9% would receive a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) with Human Services Performance Management. However, the threshold for this measure is currently suspended. Annual performance reports will still be distributed, but PIPs for this measure will not be required. The Performance Management team, in collaboration with its partners, is working to develop a proposal to the Council for more meaningful indicators of county performance. The maltreatment recurrence measure, and 90.9% threshold, aligns with federal measures and will continue to be monitored by DCYF Child Safety and Permanency, and the federal government.

Small Numbers

If a county or SDA has a denominator of 20 or fewer and is not meeting the threshold for a measure, the county's previous year performance will be used to determine if the county is required to complete a PIP for that measure. Counties with a denominator of 20 or fewer will be required to complete a PIP if their performance is below the measure's threshold for two consecutive years.

Importance of the measure

Child protection intervention and supports should increase the likelihood that children are safe from abuse and neglect. There is a responsibility of the county to mitigate the risk of future harm to the child(ren). A repeat maltreatment determination indicates that the risk for the child has not been fully mitigated.

Factors Contributing to Performance Outcomes

Staffing and training

- Availability of training for child welfare staff
- Staff experience and training
- Availability of experienced supervisors with sufficient time to mentor staff
- Adequate staffing and staffing concerns

Systemic factors

- High caseload sizes with competing priorities for staff
- Historical trauma caused by child welfare and other government systems
- Systemic oppression and barriers causing generational harm to families
- Systemic racism and inequities
- Clear support and guidance from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Support from management (supervisors, county boards)

Family and community

- Protective factors (e.g., safety net support from family, friends, community)
- Parent and caregiver cognitive, behavioral, and emotional protective capacities
- Availability of community resources and lack of funding for services
- Support from external partners (schools, law enforcement, courts, Tribal Nations, county attorneys)
- Availability of transportation and housing
- Clients' needs (e.g., substance use/misuse or mental health)
- Economic stability and poverty
- History of child protection and system involvement

Additional Resources

[Child Welfare Data Dashboard / Minnesota Department of Human Services \(mn.gov\)](#)

[Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Minnesota's Best Practices for Family Assessment and Family Investigation \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2021 \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Preventing child maltreatment by promoting health and well-being for Minnesota families \(state.mn.us\)](#)



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