

**EXPLANTORY NOTE FOR TABLE A:
DATA INDICATORS FOR THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW**

The data and national standards shown in Table A are different than those shown in the Federal Register Announcement of June 7, 2006. The differences are due to the following:

- **A change in the procedure for calculating the sampling error used to establish the national standard.** Since publication of the notice in the June 7, 2006 Federal Register, ACF changed the procedure used for establishing the national standards. In the first round of the CFSR, the procedure for establishing the national standard for each measure involved fitting the data to a normal curve based on a level of significance of .05, and adjusting for the 75th percentile by calculating the sampling error using the lower limit of a 95 percent confidence interval for estimating the population mean. This procedure was used to establish the initial national standards for the data indicators that were reported in the June 7, 2006 Federal Register. Upon further analysis, two concerns were identified that resulted in a determination that this procedure was not appropriate for the second round of the CFSR. One concern was that using a level of significance of .05 resulted in eliminating States at either end of the range of each of the State permanency composite data indicators and safety-related data indicators in order to fit the distribution to a normal curve. Consequently, not all States were included in the calculation of the national standards reported in the June 7 Federal Register. Although this was appropriate for the first round of the CFSR because of data quality problems at the time that the standards were established, these data quality problems are no longer as significant an issue. Another concern was that using the 95 percent confidence interval resulted in a considerable reduction in the actual percentile represented by each of the permanency and safety standards.

To address the concern relevant to eliminating States from the calculation of the national standard, ACF changed the level of significance for fitting the data to a normal curve from .05 to .01. At this significance level, all States could be included in the fitted normal probability distribution for both the composite data indicators and the safety-related data indicators. Consequently, performance of all States was used to determine the national standards for all data indicators. To address the concern relevant to the considerable reduction in the actual percentile represented by the national standard for each of the indicators, the basis for calculating the sampling error was changed from the lower limit of 95 percent confidence interval to the lower limit of an 80 percent confidence interval. As a result of this change, the adjusted 75th percentile is close to the 69th percentile.

- **Increased precision in some of the measures.** This change applies primarily to measures C2.3 and C2.4, although two other measures had minor adjustments. For C2.3 and C2.4, the syntax was adjusted so that the denominator excludes children who, during the target time periods, were discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of reunification, live with relative, or guardianship. This reduces the size of the denominator and focuses the measures more specifically on the outcome of adoption, including becoming legally free for adoption. The increased precision also resulted in changes in the coefficient (weights) reported in table B.
- **Use of the most recent data submissions.** Because these changes were made recently, ACF decided to use the most recent data re-submissions to both NCANDS and AFCARS for FY 2004 in calculating the measures. This resulted in minor changes in the coefficients (weights) reported in table B as well as some of the data reported in table A.