



**Mathematica**  
Progress Together

## Using Data to Improve Child Welfare Services and Outcomes

Child abuse and neglect has severe consequences for children and their families, and we are at a pivotal moment for the array of services, including prevention, that state child welfare agencies provide. Nationally, more than six million children are reported to child protective services each year, and many more cases go unreported. State child welfare agencies face challenges in deciding how to target limited resources and ensure services and other supports are in place to help children achieve positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. Although a tremendous amount of data is collected as part of case management, there are often challenges with using these data to inform decision making. Child welfare agencies often have concerns with data quality, limited capacity for analytics, and difficulty with identifying how best to use data for program improvements.

### Getting the most from your data: we can help

Mathematica's approach to working with child welfare agencies starts with collaboration, uses technology to create efficient solutions, and leverages staff with expertise in child welfare, data quality, and innovative methods.



**Assess** and improve data quality through planning, monitoring, and reporting



**Conduct** advanced analytics with innovative methods to provide actionable information for decision making



**Provide** program improvement support with training and technical assistance



**Evaluate** the effectiveness of program reforms and policy changes

## Assess and improve data quality through planning, monitoring, and reporting

High quality data serve as the foundation for effective decision making, including case-level planning, assessing contractor performance, federal reporting, and targeting limited resources. However, agencies do not always have the capacity or resources to focus on data quality assessment or improvement. Mathematica's data quality planning and monitoring solution helps child welfare agencies with:



- Completing a data quality plan that supports Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System data quality standards as well as performance management and data-driven decision making
- Conducting continuous data quality monitoring, which uses Mathematica's data quality monitoring product as an efficient technology solution to assess and measure progress on improving data quality
- Providing data quality reports for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) data quality review, and support with implementation of ACF review findings

## Conduct advanced analytics with innovative methods to provide actionable information for decision making

Child welfare agencies face complex challenges regarding how best to target limited resources, improve the delivery of services, and, to the extent possible, prevent dire outcomes. Mathematica provides advanced analytics, including advanced statistical methods and predictive modeling, to help child welfare agencies get the most out of their data to inform decision making. We support child welfare agencies by:



- Analyzing data to inform implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act
- Linking cross-system data and conducting analysis to answer the most pressing questions
- Establishing meaningful program measures to guide program management decisions
- Visualizing results for reports or dashboards to depict key information for managers and caseworkers

## Provide program improvement support to identify strategies to overcome challenges and achieve better outcomes

Mathematica helps child welfare agencies gain insight into their programs so they can pinpoint where things are going well and zero in on the challenges that persist. We support child welfare agencies with program improvement by:



- Using evidence-based approaches to providing assistance that help child welfare agency staff identify and implement strategies for improvement
- Identifying meaningful performance measures to manage programs and performance-based contracts
- Providing technical assistance to help with strategic planning, identifying challenges, and implementing solutions

## Evaluate the effectiveness of reforms, programs, and policy changes

Mathematica is a national leader in evaluation of human services programs. Our staff have extensive experience helping child welfare agencies with:



- Assessing implementation and outcomes of program interventions
- Conducting rigorous evaluations, including randomized study designs
- Determining effectiveness of programs in achieving key outcomes
- Building evidence for promising interventions

**Let's Progress Together.** Contact Elizabeth Weigensberg, State and Local Child Welfare Lead, at 312-585-3297 or [EWeigensberg@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:EWeigensberg@mathematica-mpr.com)

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