Statewide Report

Children and Family Services Reviews

* Results from 2008 Federal CFSR; Mini CFSR 2010 Q1 & Q2 (Baseline); Mini CFSR 2010 Q3 & Q4

* Nebraska Program Improvement Plan (PIP) - Items needing improvement

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Report Date: November 2010

Background Information

This document is designed to report information on how the State is doing in meeting the outcomes of Child Safety, Permanency and Well-being. Results from the 2008 federal CFSR review indicated that Nebraska did not meet the national standard for the safety data indicators pertaining to the absence of maltreatment recurrence and the absence of maltreatment in foster care. Nebraska also did not meet the national standards for the permanency data indicators pertaining to the timeliness and permanency of reunification (Permanency Composite 1), timeliness of adoptions (Permanency Composite 2), and placement stability (Permanency Composite 4). Therefore, the Program Improvement Plan instructions require Nebraska to develop baselines, establish goals and measure progress for CFSR Items 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Information specific to these Items required in the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) can be found in Charts 6-13 in this report.

The Mini CFSR is modeled after the federal CFSR reviews and assesses each Service Area and the State's performance on 23 items relevant to seven outcomes. The Mini CFSR reviews are conducted in each of the five Service Areas once per quarter and include interviews with parents, children, foster parents, CFS Specialists, and other providers to assess items 17-20 within the review tool. The federal review tool is used during the Mini CFSR reviews. A total of 75 cases, both in-home and foster care, are reviewed every quarter. The breakdown of cases that are reviewed in each Service Area is as follows: Eastern Service Area (19 cases - 11 foster care; 8 in-home) and the remaining Service Areas (Southeast, Western, Northern and Central) each review (14 cases - 8 foster care; 6 in-home). A Service Area that is not in substantial conformity with a particular outcome must work with their local Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team to develop and implement a Service Area Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address the areas of concern associated with that outcome. Results from the Service Area quarterly reviews are combined to produce the Statewide Report.

In order to meet the federal requirements for the number of applicable cases per CFSR item, the results from two consecutive quarterly CFSR reviews are combined to produce a Statewide report once every 6 months. The Statewide results from the quarterly reviews are submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as required by the Nebraska Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Data from the 1st and 2nd round of Mini CFSR reviews in 2010 were combined to produce the State's baseline information. Data from additional Mini CFSR reviews will be used to report the states progress in meeting goals established in the State's program improvement plan.

The State's baseline findings were derived from file reviews of 150 cases (86 foster care and 64 in home) which were randomly selected from all child welfare cases that were open at some time during the review period. The review period was January 2009 – January 2010 for the 1st quarter review and April 2009 – April 2010 for the 2nd quarter review.

The goal of both the federal and Mini CFSRs is continuous quality improvement. The reviews focus on how well the Service Areas and the State perform in achieving positive outcomes in the following three areas for children and families engaged in child welfare services: safety, permanency, and child and family well-being. The percentages for substantial conformity are the same standards used in the federal CFSRs. The federal expectation for substantial conformity for each of the seven CFSR outcomes is 95 percent and the expectation for each of the 23 CFSR items is 90 percent. However, the states are not required to attain the 95 percent standard at the end of their PIP implementation. Each State works with the ACF to establish a specified amount of improvement for their PIP. The goals established for items in the Nebraska PIP are found on charts 6-13 in this report.

This report compares findings of the Nebraska 2008 Federal Children and Family Services Review (CFSR), the findings of the 1st & 2nd quarter Mini CFSR reviews (Baseline Data) and the findings of the 3rd & 4th quarter Mini CFSR reviews conducted throughout the State in 2010 in charts 1-5. This document also compares the Mini CFSR results and the established goals as required in the State's Program Improvement Plan in charts 6-13.

Key Findings Regarding Outcomes (3rd & 4th Quarter Mini CFSR Reviews):

Combined data from the 3rd and 4th Quarter Mini CFSR reviews in 2010 indicate several areas of high performance throughout the State in achieving desired outcomes for children and families. These results can be found in Charts 1-5 in this report. Although the State did not achieve substantial conformity with any of the seven CFSR outcomes, the State did achieve overall ratings of Strength for the individual indicators pertaining to foster care re-entry (item 5), and placing children in close proximity to their parents (item 11).

The reviews also identified key areas of concern in achieving outcomes for children and families. Concerns were identified in Safety Outcome 2 (children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate), which was substantially achieved in 63 percent of the cases reviewed. The lowest rating within this outcome was for Item 4 (risk assessment and safety management), which was rated as a Strength in 64 percent of the cases reviewed.

Concerns were also identified in Permanency Outcome 1 (children have permanency and stability in their living situations), which was substantially achieved in 33 percent of the cases reviewed. Within Permanency Outcome 1, the State's lowest ratings were for Items 7 (permanency goals for the child were established in a timely manner), which was rated as Strength in 40 percent of the cases; and Item 9 (efforts were made to achieve the permanency goal of adoption), which was rated as a Strength in 50 percent of the cases reviewed.

In addition, concerns were also identified in Well-Being Outcome 1 (families have enhanced capacity to provide for children's needs), which was substantially achieved in only 31 percent of the cases reviewed. All of the items (17-20) under this outcome were rated as Strength in less than 65 percent of the cases reviewed. Item 17 (needs and services to child, parents and foster parents) was rated as strength in 43 percent of the cases. Item 18 (child and family involvement in case planning) was rated as strength in 45 percent of the cases. Item 19 (caseworker visits with child) was rated as strength in 62 percent of the cases. Item 20 was rated as strength in 32 percent of the cases.

Additional details regarding performance in each item and outcome including reviewer comments can be found in the individual Service Area Mini CFSR reports that are posted on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website at the following address: http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/Children_Family_Services/CQI/Reports.htm

Additional information about the Nebraska Mini CFSR review process and criteria can also be found on the Department of Health and Human Services website at the following address: http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/Children_Family_Services/CQI/CQI_docs/CFSR_Portfolio.pdf. General Information about the Federal CFSR Reviews, including review process, review tools, reports and the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) can be found on the Children's Bureau Website at the following address: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/index.htm#cfsr.

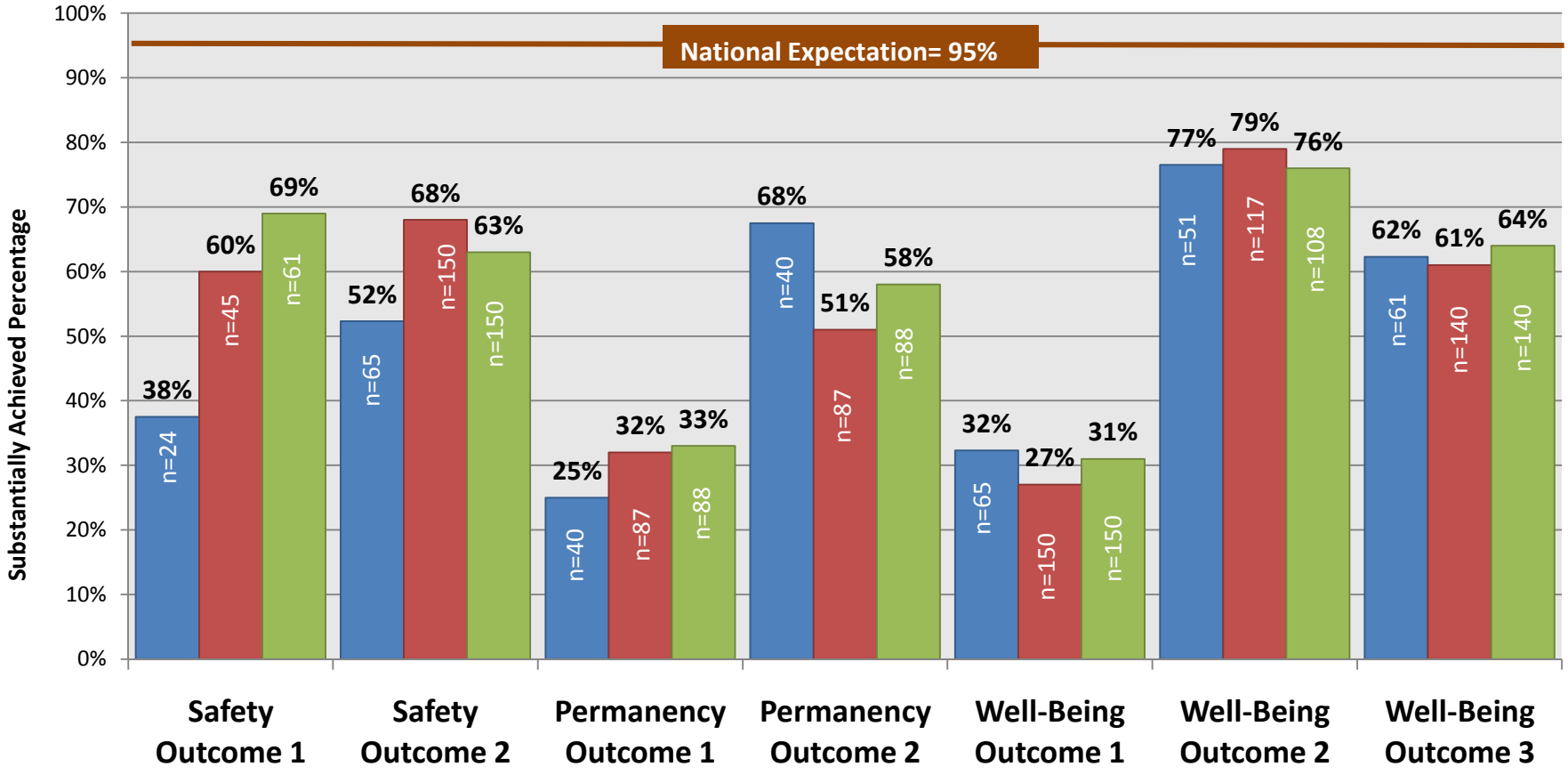
Children and Family Services Reviews

Comparison

2008 Federal Review; 2010 Mini CFSR Q1&Q2; 2010 Mini CFSR Q3&Q4

Statewide CFSR Performance Outcomes

Substantially Achieved Comparisons



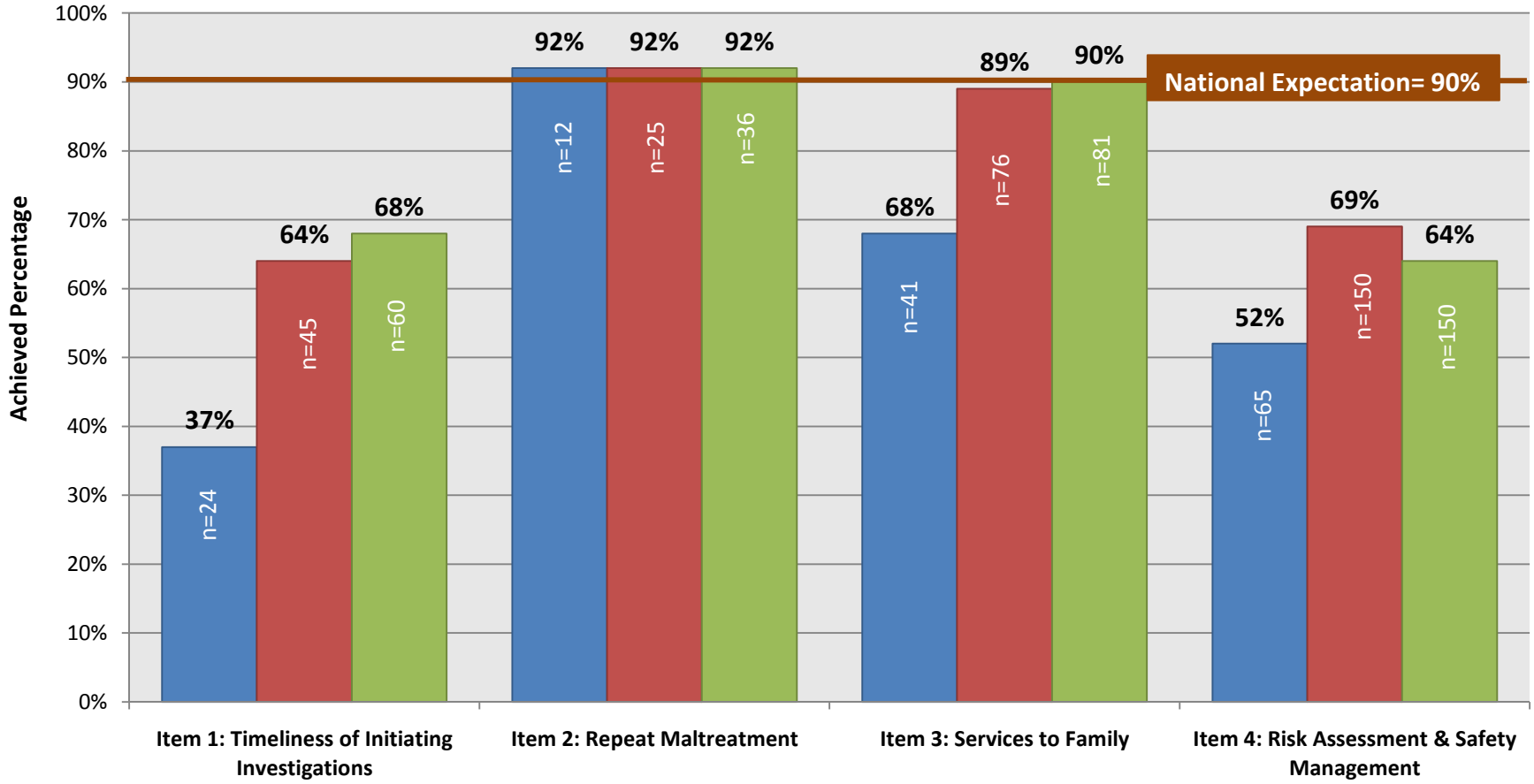
* National Expectation: In order for a State to be in substantial conformity with a particular outcome, 95 percent of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome.

- 2008 Federal CFSR Results
- 2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
- 2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results

CHART 1

Statewide CFSR Safety Outcomes 1 & 2 Performance Items

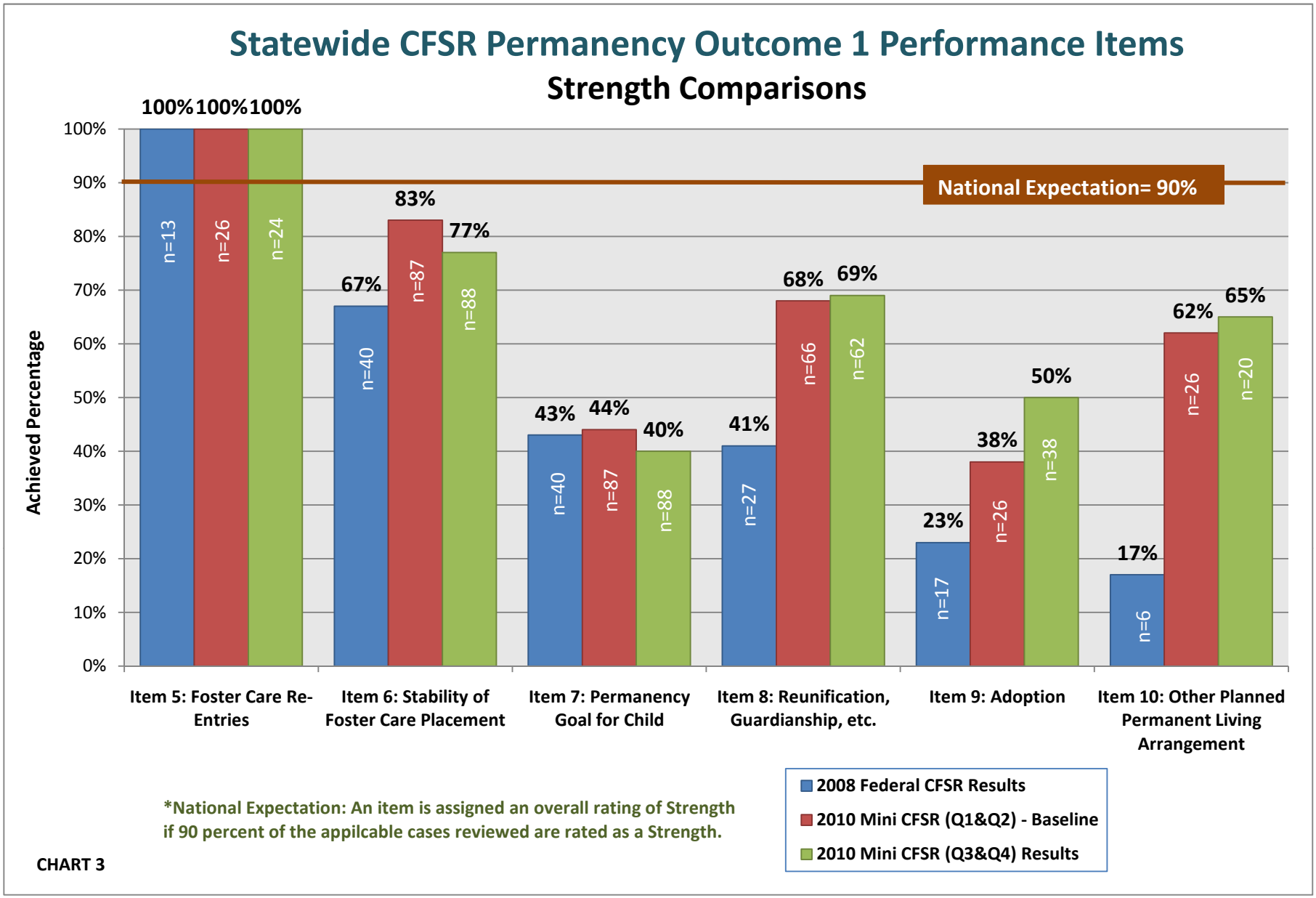
Strength Comparisons



*National Expectation: An item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90 percent of the appilcable cases reviewed are rated as a Strength.

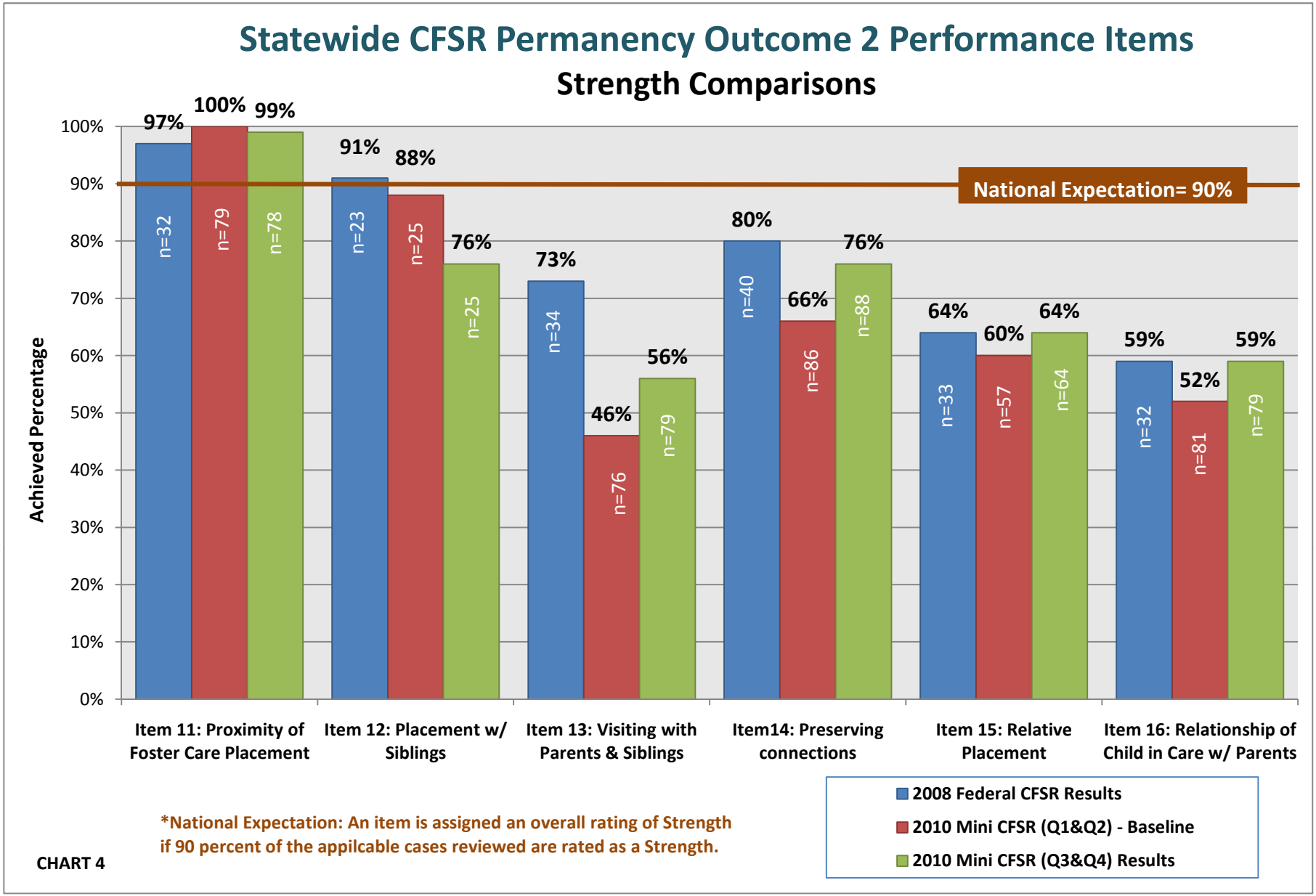
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results

CHART 2



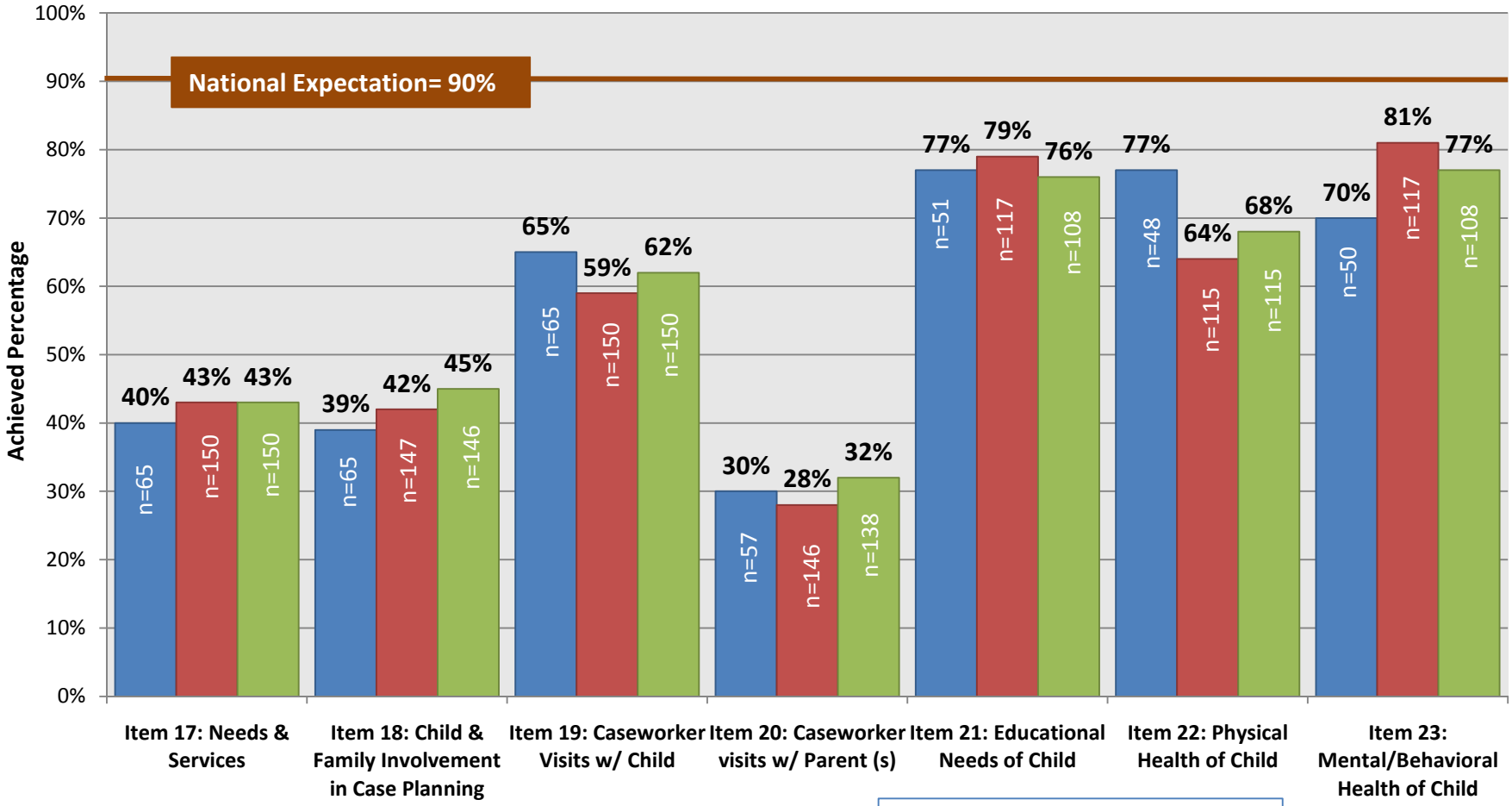
*National Expectation: An item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90 percent of the appilcable cases reviewed are rated as a Strength.

CHART 3



*National Expectation: An item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90 percent of the appilcable cases reviewed are rated as a Strength.

CHART 4



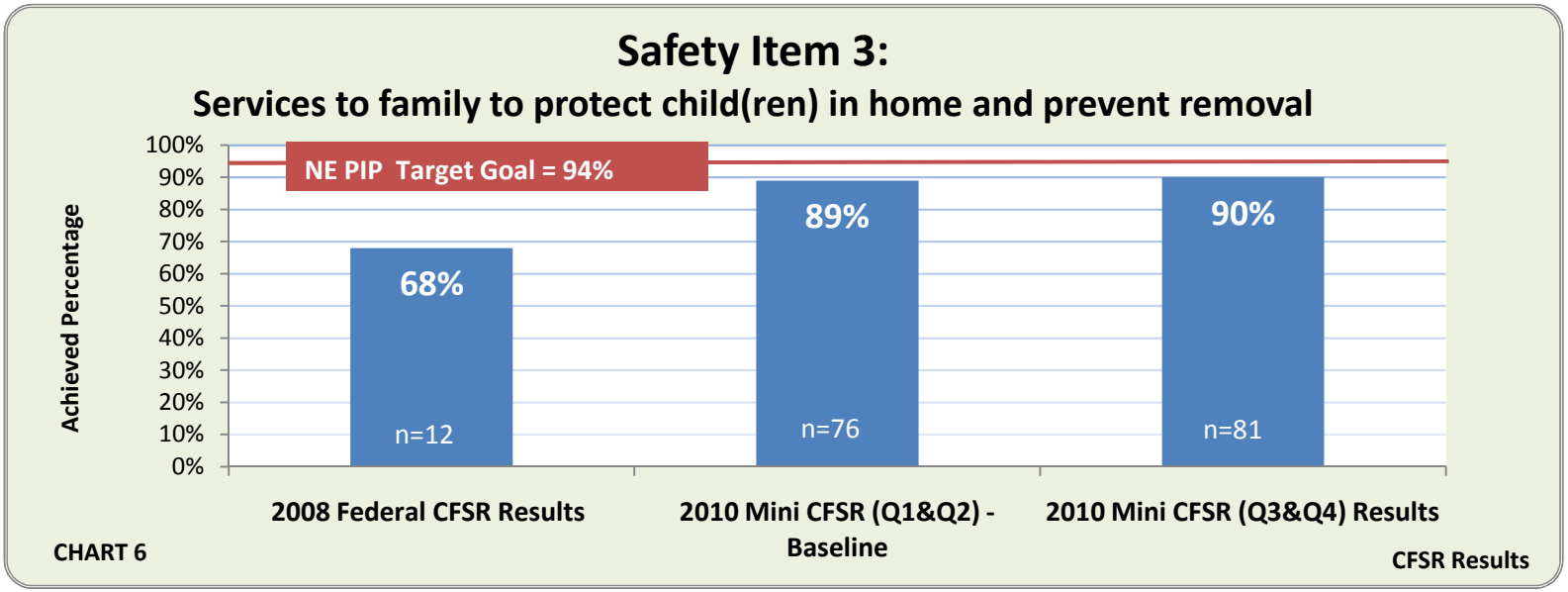
*National Expectation: An item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90 percent of the appilcable cases reviewed are rated as a Strength.

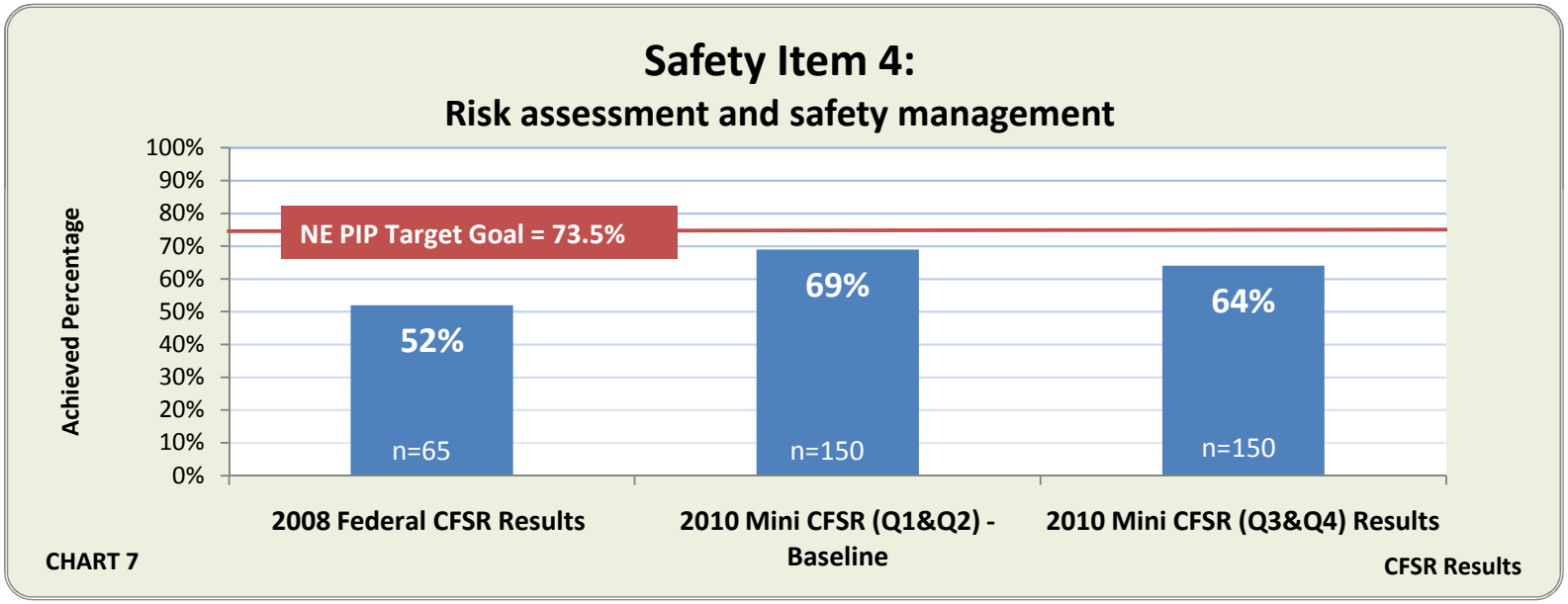
CHART 5

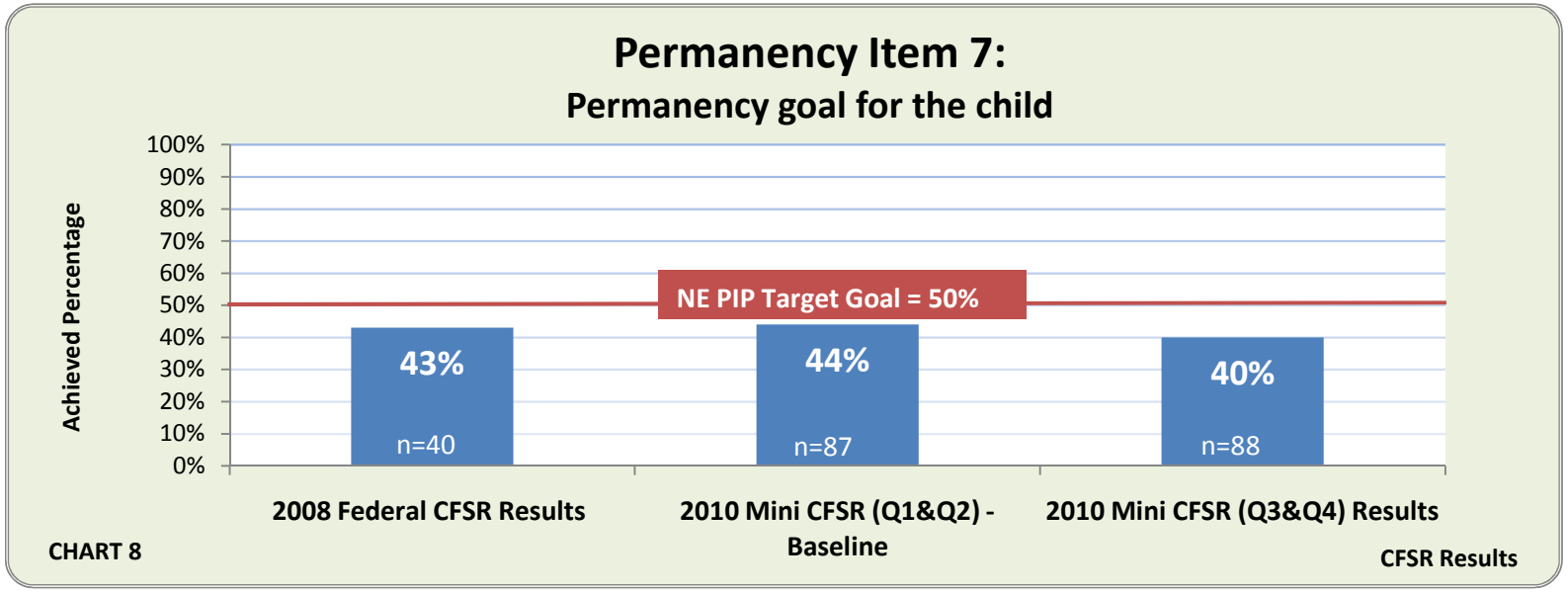
Children and Family Services Review

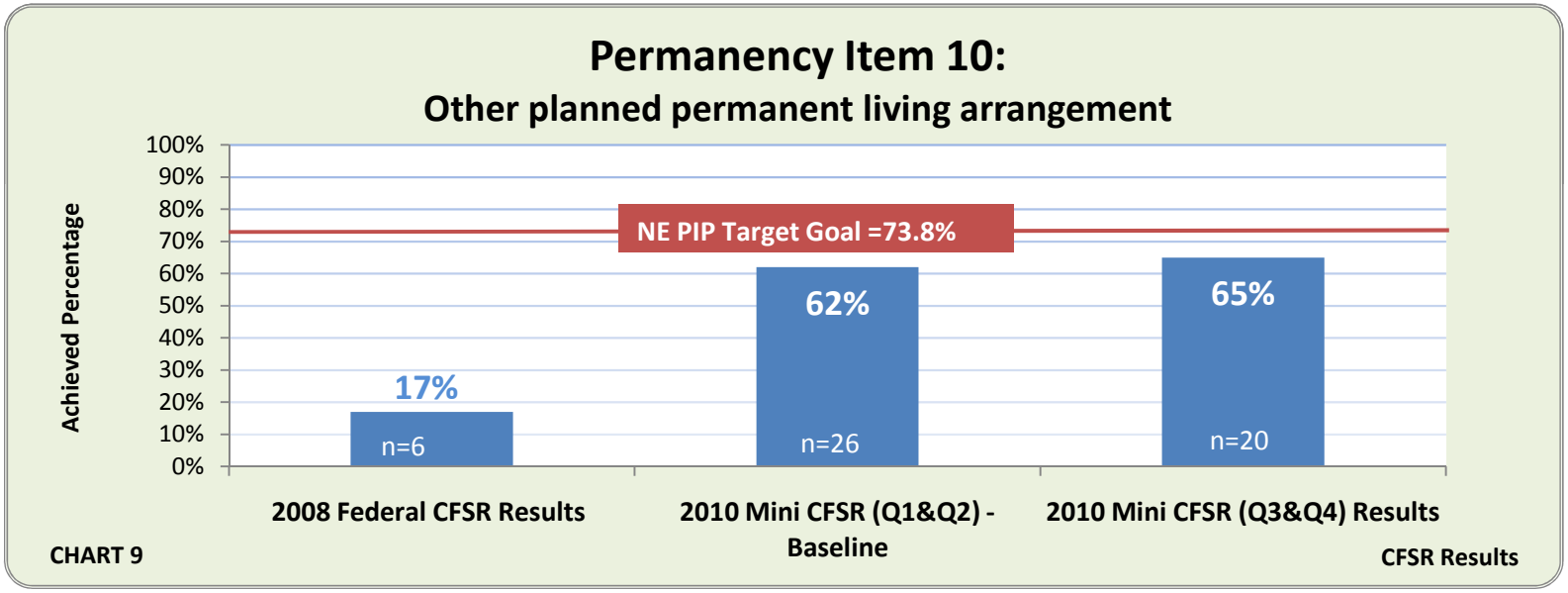
Nebraska
Program Improvement Plan

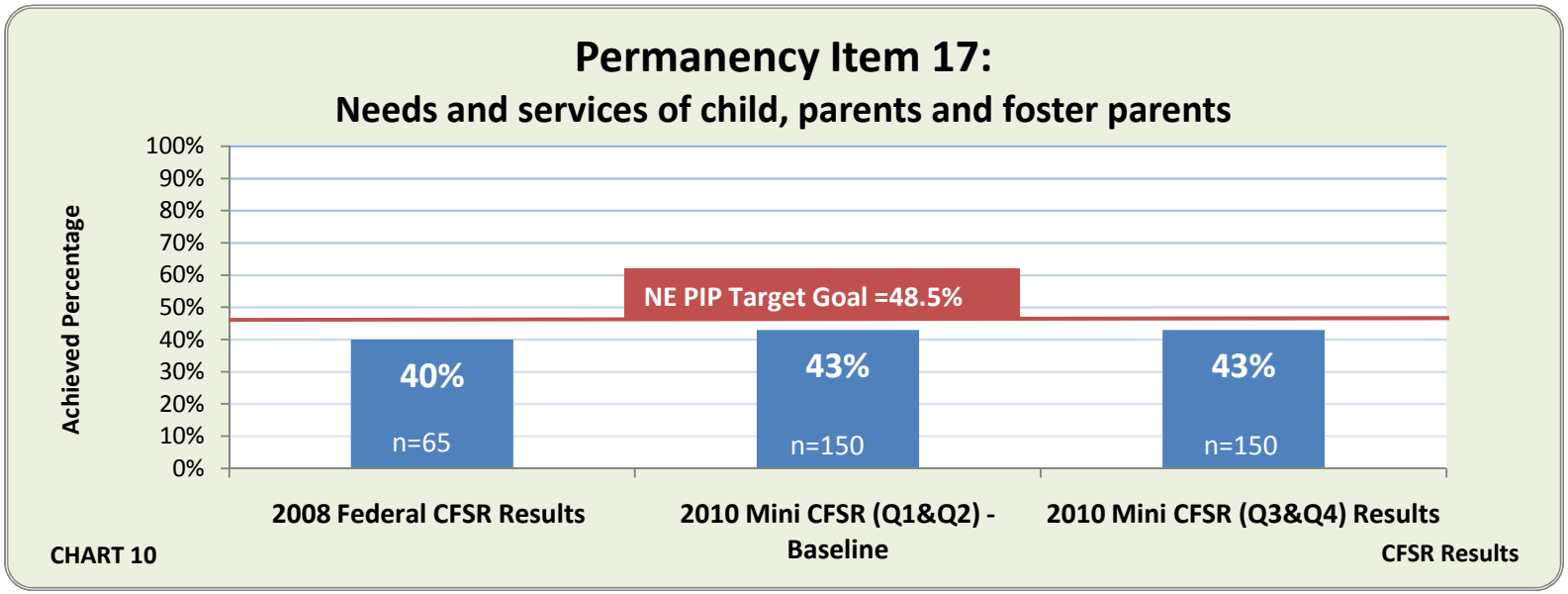
CFSR Items 3,4,7,10,17,18,19,20

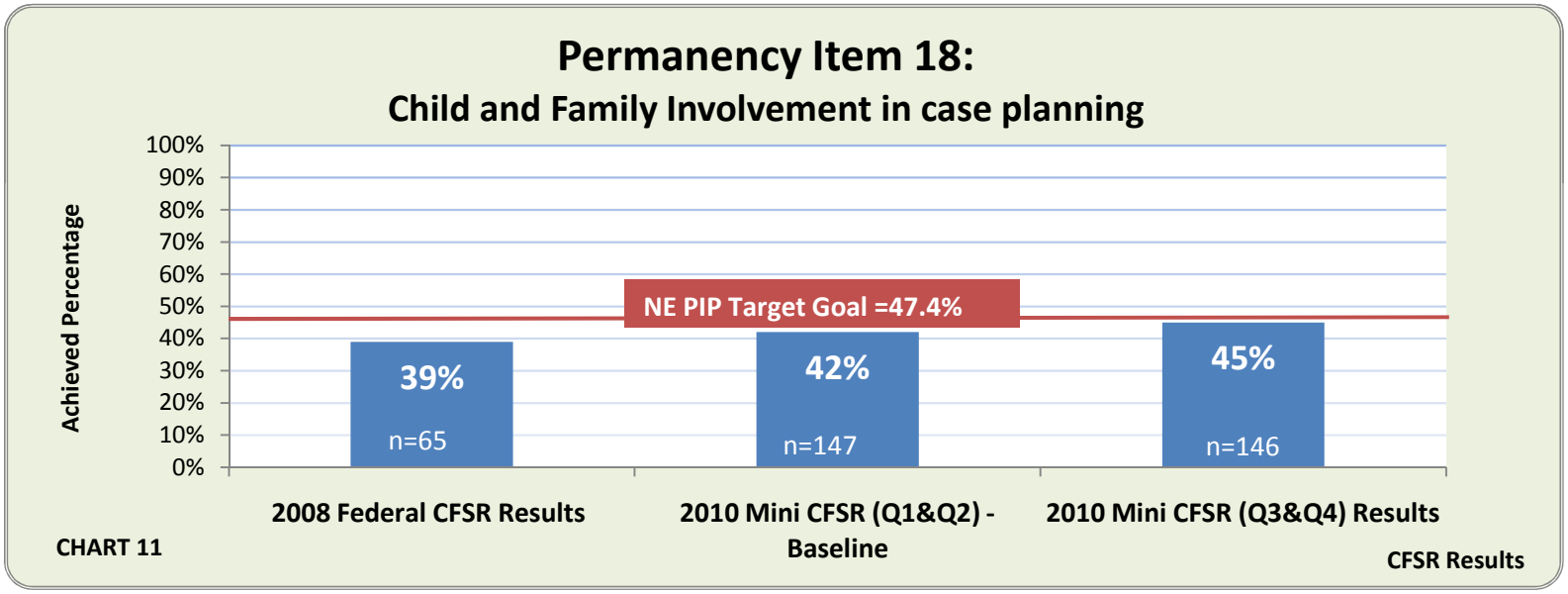

Safety Item 3:
Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal
NE PIP Target Goal = 94%
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
68%
n=12
89%
n=76
90%
n=81
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 6
CFSR Results

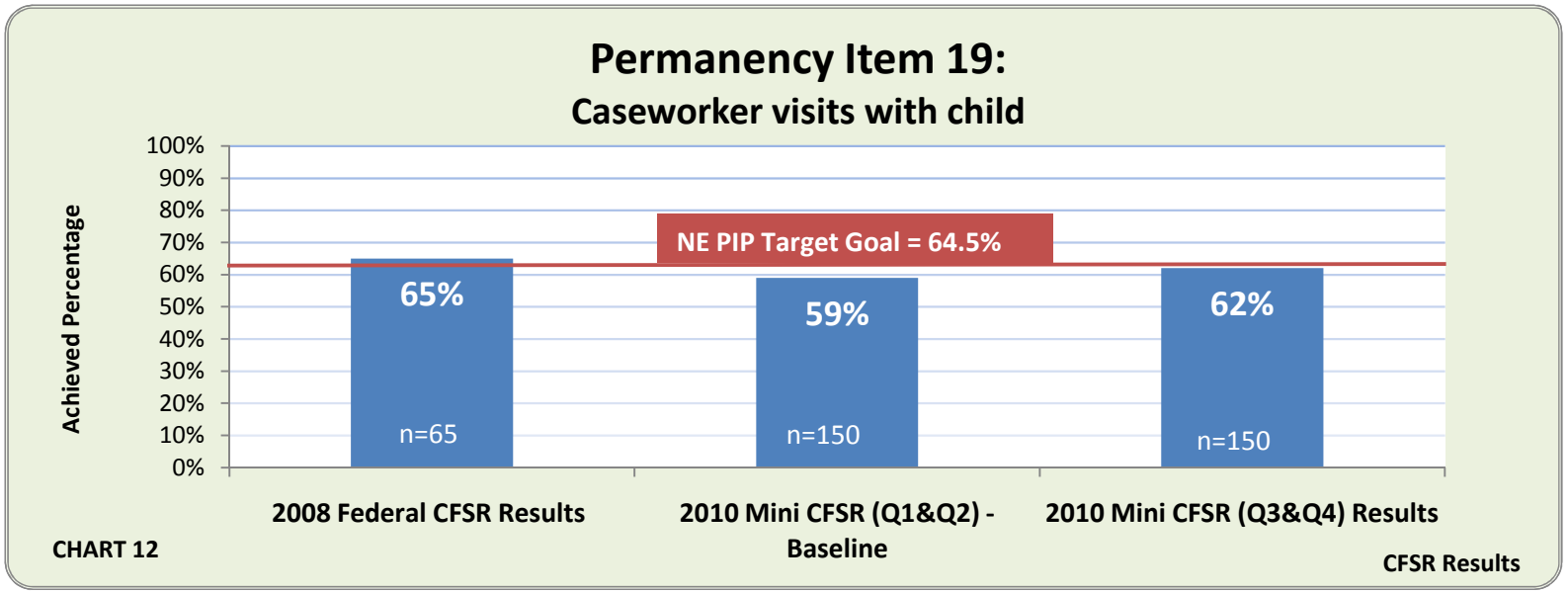

Safety Item 4:
Risk assessment and safety management
NE PIP Target Goal = 73.5%
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
52%
n=65
69%
n=150
64%
n=150
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 7
CFSR Results

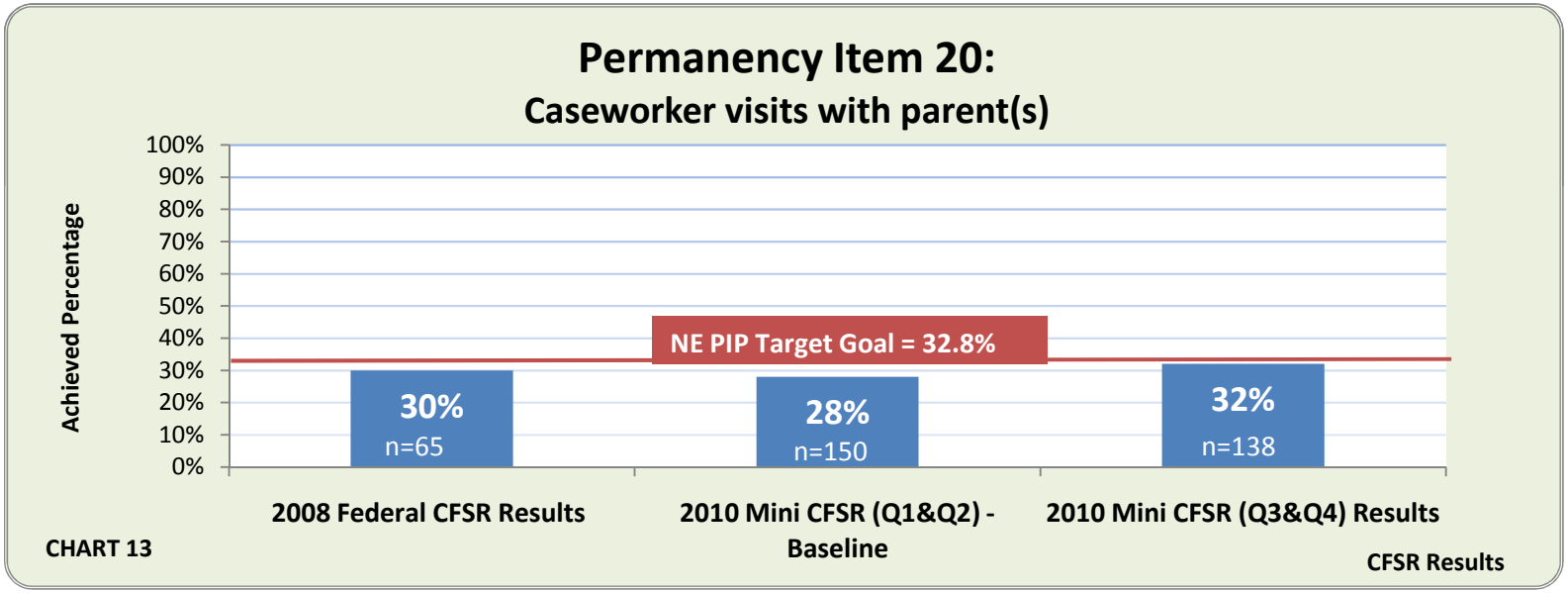

Permanency Item 7:
Permanency goal for the child
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
NE PIP Target Goal = 50%
43%
n=40
44%
n=87
40%
n=88
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 8
CFSR Results


Permanency Item 10:
Other planned permanent living arrangement
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
NE PIP Target Goal =73.8%
17%
n=6
62%
n=26
65%
n=20
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 9
CFSR Results


Permanency Item 17:
Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
NE PIP Target Goal =48.5%
40%
n=65
43%
n=150
43%
n=150
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 10
CFSR Results


Permanency Item 18:
Child and Family Involvement in case planning
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
NE PIP Target Goal =47.4%
39%
n=65
42%
n=147
45%
n=146
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 11
CFSR Results


Permanency Item 19:
Caseworker visits with child
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
NE PIP Target Goal = 64.5%
65%
n=65
59%
n=150
62%
n=150
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 12
CFSR Results


Permanency Item 20:
Caseworker visits with parent(s)
Achieved Percentage
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
NE PIP Target Goal = 32.8%
30%
n=65
28%
n=150
32%
n=138
2008 Federal CFSR Results
2010 Mini CFSR (Q1&Q2) - Baseline
2010 Mini CFSR (Q3&Q4) Results
CHART 13
CFSR Results