



December 20, 2011

AFCARS Linker v. 1.0 Record Classification Logic

All fields, all records are output. Date fields are standardized. Three additional fields are appended to the 66 AFCARS fields:

1. ExtraField: catch-all to accept any characters past 197 (only appended when input files are AFCARS fixed-width field format)
2. EpisodeID: a concatenation of "RecNum:LatestRemovalfromHome" fields that uniquely identify removal episodes
3. RecordType: one of the 4 record classification codes below

Record classifications:

- 0=Most Recent Episode, this is the most recent record for this removal episode for this child.
- 1=Reentering Discharge, this is the most recent record of a previous removal episode that resulted in a reentry to foster care.
- 2=Duplicate Record, this is an earlier record from a removal episode that has more recent records (note that certain fields often change, e.g. PlcsThisRemoval, or are corrected in more recent records, so not a copy, but an earlier report from a removal episode).
- 3=Missing Discharge Date, this is the most recent record of a removal episode, but it lacks a discharge date and was reported in a submission that is not the most recent submission, therefore either the record of this removal episode is missing in the most recent submission or the discharge date is missing in this record.

Row classification logic:

1. Read records from all AFCARS submission files into a single table.
2. Sort table rows by: 1. RecNum (child identifier) and 2. RptEndDate (submission date) from newest to oldest.
3. So the for loop below moves through a child's records from newest to oldest, so the current record in the loop is either the first record for this child or from an older submission for this child than the prior record in the loop:



December 20, 2011

foreach row:

epid = removal episode id = concatenation of this row's "RecNum:LatestRemovalfromHome"

if we've previously encountered this *epid*, then:

set row class = Duplicate Record

else:

if this row's *epid* == the newer row's *epid*, then:

if this LatestRemovalfromHome[row] == newer row's LatestRemovalfromHome[row-1], then:

set row class = Duplicate Record

store this row's *epid* as the newer row's *epid*

(why? a newer row may contain a removal date correction, therefore it would not match this row's *epid*)

else, this is either a corrected removal date or a previous reentry record. to decide:

I1 = does this row's TotalRemovals == the newer row's TotalRemovals?

rule: if removal date correction, then I1 == True.

I2 = is this row missing LastFCDischarge OR is this row's LastFCDischarge == the newer row's LastFCDischarge?

rule: if removal date correction, then I2 == True.

I3 = is this row's FirstRemovalFromHome valid AND does this row's FirstRemovalFromHome == the newer row's FirstRemovalFromHome?

rule: if not removal date correction, then I3 == True. (note: this detects the case in which both LatestRemovalfromHome and FirstRemovalFromHome are corrected together)

I4 = is this row's FCDischargeDate valid AND does this row's FCDischargeDate == the newer row's LastFCDischarge?

rule: if not removal date correction, then I4 == True.

if I1 AND I2 AND NOT (I3 OR I4), then:

set row class = Duplicate Record (this row's removal date is corrected in a newer submission)

store this row's *epid* as the newer row's *epid*

else:

set row class = Reentering Discharge

store this row's *epid* as most recent

else if this row is not from the latest submission (based on RptEndDate field) AND this row is missing FCDischargeDate, then:

set row class = Missing Discharge Date

store this row's *epid* as most recent

else:

set row class = Most Recent Episode (first time we've encountered this *epid*)

store this row's *epid* as most recent



December 20, 2011

AFCARS 2000 Foster Care Fields

#	Field Name	Data Element Name	Field Size	Valid Codes
1CORE	State	State	2	State FIPS code for State submitting report
2CORE	RptEndDate	Report Period Ending Date	6	cc yy mm cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=03, 09
3CORE	AgencyFIPS	Local Agency (FIPS Code)	5	5 digit FIPS code
4 CORE	RecNum	Record Number	12	Any ASCII character except @, \$, #, or %. <i>Note: Many states use non-ASCII characters. These are preserved as raw unicode by the linking software.</i>
5	MostRecentReview	Date of Most Recent Periodic Review	8	Blank, cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
6CORE	DOB	Date of Birth	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=15
7CORE	Sex	Sex	1	1-2 1 = Male 2 = Female
8CORE	Race	Race a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	6	0 = does not apply 1= applies
9CORE	Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity	1	1-3 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine
10	Disability	Has Child Been Clinically Diagnosed with Disability(ies)	1	1-3 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Not Yet Determined
11	MentalRetardation	Mental Retardation	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
12	VisualHearingImpaired	Visually or Hearing Impaired	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
13	PhysicallyDisabled	Physically Disabled (Child)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
14	EmotionallyDisturbed	Emotionally Disturbed (DSM- IV)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
15	OtherMedicalConditions	Other Medically Diagnosed Conditions Requiring Special Care	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
16	EverBeenAdopted	Has Child Ever Been Adopted?	1	1-3 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine
17	HowOldWhenAdopted	If Yes, How Old Was Child When Adoption Was Legalized?	1	0-5 0 = Not Applicable 1=less than 2 years old 2=2-5 years old 3=6 to 12 years old 4=13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine
18	FirstRemovalFromHome	Date of First Removal From Home	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
19	TotalRemovals	Total Number of Removals From Home to Date	2	01-99
20	LastFCDischarge	Date Child Was Discharged from Last Foster Care Episode	8	Blank, cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31



December 20, 2011

AFCARS 2000 Foster Care Fields

#	Field Name	Data Element Name	Field Size	Valid Codes
21CORE	LatestRemovalfromHome	Date of Latest Removal from Home	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
22CORE	RemovalTransactionDate	Removal Transaction Date	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
23	PlcCurrentFC	Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
24	PlcsThisRemoval	Number of Previous Placement Settings During This Removal Episode?	2	01-99
25	MannerThisRemoval	Manner of Removal from Home for Current Removal Episode	1	1-3 1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined
26	RRPhysical	Physical Abuse (alleged/reported)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1=Condition Applies
27	RRSexual	Sexual Abuse (alleged/reported)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
28	RRNeglect	Neglect (alleged/reported)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
29	RRAlcoholParent	Alcohol Abuse (parent)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
30	RRDrugsParent	Drug Abuse (parent)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
31	RRAlcoholChild	Alcohol Abuse (child)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
32	RRDrugsChild	Drug Abuse (child)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
33	RRChildDisability	Child's Disability	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
34	RRChildBehavior	Child's Behavior Problem	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
35	RRParentDeath	Death of Parent(s)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
36	RRParentIncarceration	Incarceration of Parent(s)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
37	RRCaretakerCantCope	Caretaker's Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reason	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
38	RRAbandonment	Abandonment	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
39	RRRelinquishment	Relinquishment	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
40	RRInadequateHousing	Inadequate Housing	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
41CORE	CurrentPlacementType	Current Placement Setting	1	1-8 1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home (Relative) 3 = Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit
42CORE	OutofStatePlacement	Out of State Placement	1	1-2 1 = yes 2 = no



December 20, 2011

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#	Field Name	Data Element Name	Field Size	Valid Codes
43CORE	CasePlanGoal	Most Recent Case Plan Goal	1	1-7 1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal caretaker(s) 2 = Live with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established
44	CaretakerFamilyStructure	Caretaker Family Structure	1	1-5 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine
45	YOB_Caretaker1	Year of Birth (1st Principal Caretaker)	4	cc yy cc=century year; yy=00-99
46	YOB_Caretaker2	Year of Birth (2nd Principal Caretaker - if applicable)	4	cc yy cc=century year; yy=00-99
47	MotherTPRDate	Date of Mother's Parental Rights Termination (if applicable)	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
48	FatherTPRDate	Date of Legal or Putative Father's Parental Rights Termination (if applicable)	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
49	FCFamilyStructure	Foster Family Structure	1	0-4 0=Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male
50	YOB_FosterParent1	Year of Birth (1st Foster Caretaker)	4	Blank, cc yy cc=century year; yy=00-99
51	YOB_FosterParent2	Year of Birth (2nd Foster Caretaker)	4	Blank, cc yy cc=century year; yy=00-99
52	RaceFosterParent1	Race of 1st Foster Caretaker a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	6	0 = does not apply 1= applies
53	EthnicityFosterParent1	Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity of 1st Foster Caretaker	1	0-3 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine
54	RaceFosterParent2	Race of 2nd Foster Caretaker (if applicable) a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	6	0 = does not apply 1= applies
55	EthnicityFosterParent2	Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity of 2nd Foster Caretaker (if applicable)	1	0-3 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine
56CORE	FCDischargeDate	Date of Discharge from Foster Care	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31
57CORE	FCDischargeTransactionDate	Foster Care Discharge Transaction Date	8	cc yy mm dd cc=century year; yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31



December 20, 2011

AFCARS 2000 Foster Care Fields

#	Field Name	Data Element Name	Field Size	Valid Codes
58CORE	DischargeReason	Reason for Discharge	1	0-8 0 = Not Applicable 1 = reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child
59	EligIVEFC	Title IV-E (Foster Care)	1	0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
60	EligIVEAd	Title IV-E (Adoption Assistance)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
61	EligIVA	Title IV-A	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
62	EligIVDChildSupport	Title IV-D (Child Support)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
63	EligXIXMedicaid	Title XIX (Medicaid)	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
64	EligSSI	SSI or Other Social Security Benefits	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
65	EligNone	None of the Above	1	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies
66	MonthlyFCPayment	Amount of Monthly Foster Care Payment	5	00000-99999