SafeMeasures® Overview

SafeMeasures® is a unique and innovative Internet-based reporting service from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), a global nonprofit research organization. SafeMeasures uses analytics to help social service agencies achieve better outcomes, improve service, and operate more effectively. Child welfare and juvenile justice agencies use SafeMeasures to obtain detailed reports and other metrics created from nightly analyses of case management data. With SafeMeasures, NCCD leverages its knowledge and expertise in data analysis to help its clients manage children receiving protective, foster care, and juvenile services.

SafeMeasures was first introduced in California in 2000 and has been instrumental in improving agency performance and child outcomes. SafeMeasures is also used by Virginia, New Jersey, Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), Maryland, and Tennessee to better manage their child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
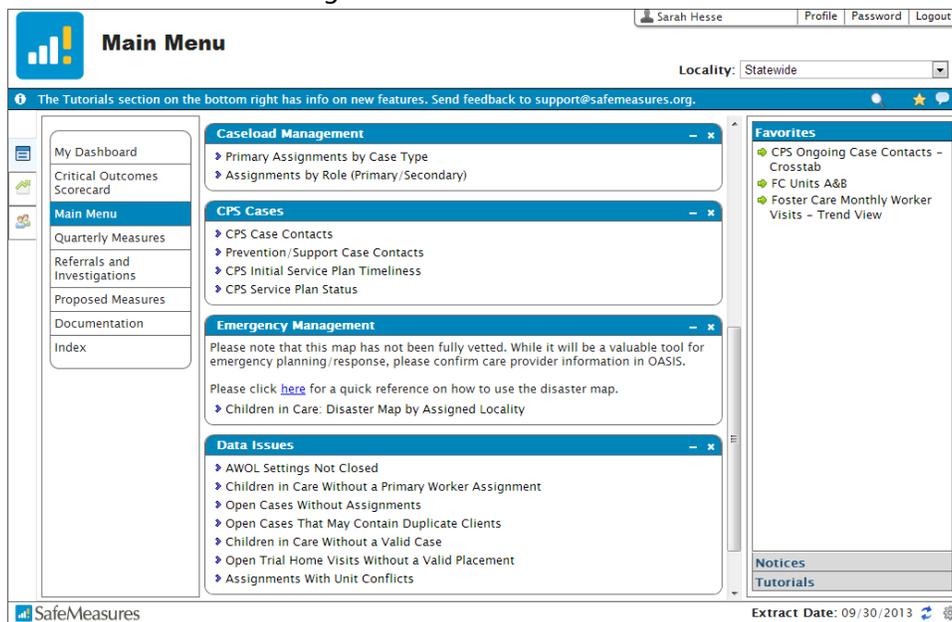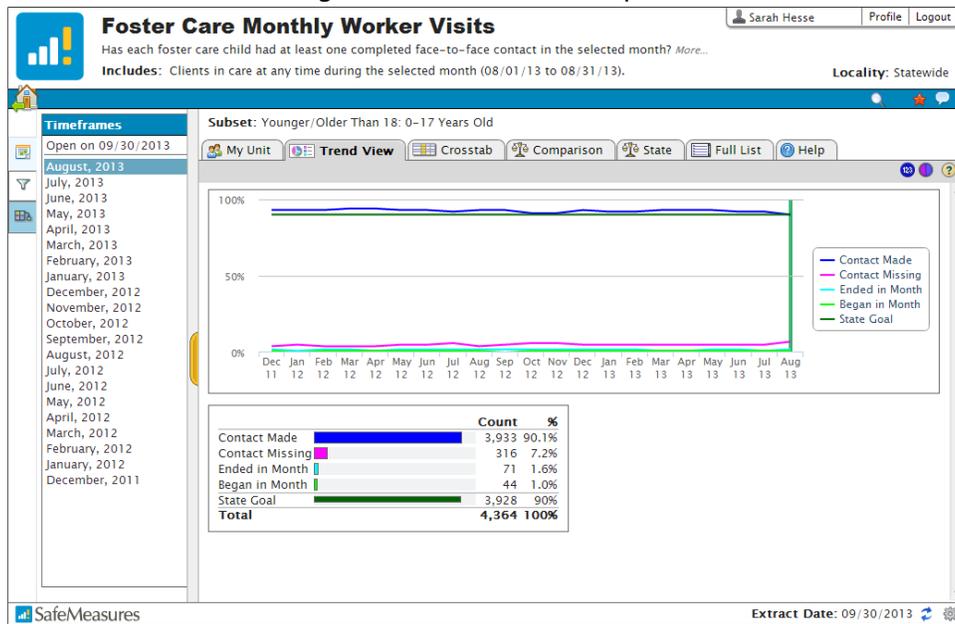
Figure 1: SafeMeasures® Menu

Figure 1 above shows a segment of the SafeMeasures menu for Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). VDSS currently has access to about 100 SafeMeasures reports, with topics ranging from timeliness of referral contacts to the names and addresses of foster children in proximity to active natural events. While the majority of reports are the same for all users in an agency, some agencies may have additional, customized reports for certain counties, or may have reports modified to meet their individual needs.

NCCD promotes just and equitable social systems for individuals, families, and communities through research, public policy, and practice.

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Most reports are structured like the example in Figure 2. This report shows both longitudinal and point-in-time data for a key VDSS metric, monthly worker visits with foster care youth. Users may view the data at the statewide level or filter it down to any level of the agency, from a county to an individual caseload. The report also provides alternate views of the data, such as crosstabs and office, unit, and caseload comparisons. Users may also drill into the charts and tables to view detailed lists of the cases that make up each category. Because data are analyzed nightly, reports provide up-to-date information, enabling the agency to ensure that work assignments are completed on time and in accordance with agency standards.

Figure 2: SafeMeasures® Report

SafeMeasures can also deliver detailed tabular reports. Figure 3 shows a compliance summary report used by agencies as part of their monthly performance reviews. This report compares the performance of an individual caseload with that of its unit, region, and the county as a whole.
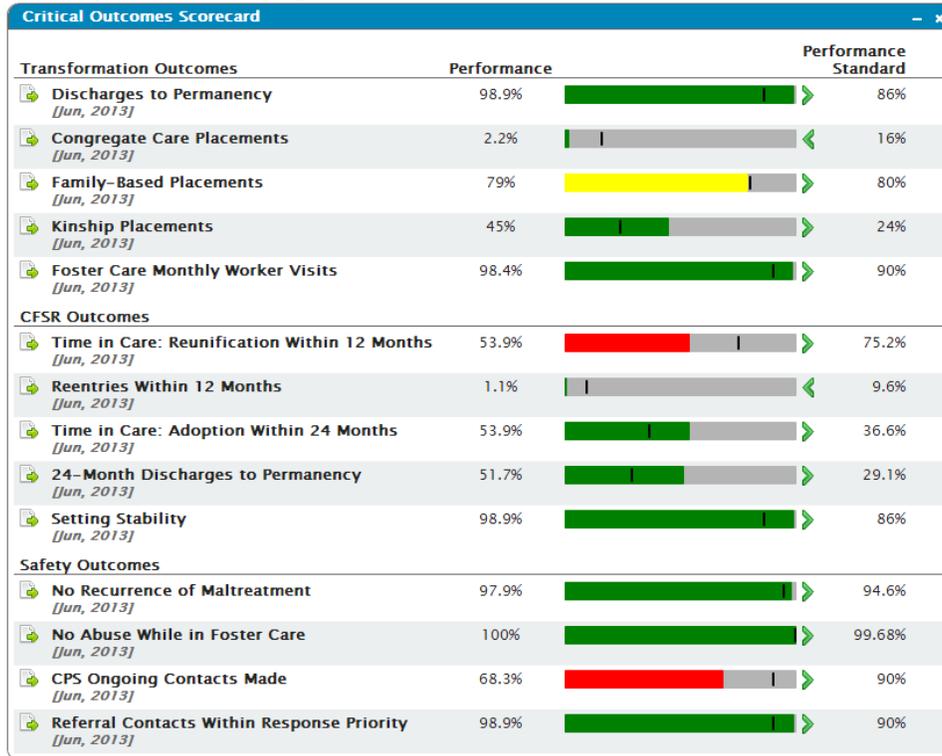
Figure 3: SafeMeasures® Summary

🔁 ▽ Filter								🅇 Export

Region: Permanency Services
Unit: Family Service Unit - Rodriquez, Robert
Caseload: Epperstein, Wilma
Month: January, 2012 (01/01/2012 to 01/31/2012)

Family Maintenance: Case Plan Status

	County		Region		Unit		Caseload	
Plan in Place	458	88.42%	222	82.53%	73	87.95%	14	100%
Total	518		269		83		14	

Family Maintenance: Face-to-face Contacts

	County		Region		Unit		Caseload	
Contact Recorded	387	81.47%	185	77.08%	69	86.25%	14	100%
Total	475		240		80		14	

Family Reunification: Case Plan Status

	County		Region		Unit		Caseload	
Plan in Place	260	87.54%	124	81.58%	22	75.86%	5	100%
Total	297		152		29		5	

Family Reunification: Face-to-face Contacts

	County		Region		Unit		Caseload	
Contact Recorded	253	86.05%	136	91.28%	27	96.43%	5	100%
Total	294		149		28		5	

Permanent Placement: Case Plan Status

	County		Region		Unit		Caseload	
Plan in Place	687	83.58%	476	82.07%	11	91.67%	0	
Total	822		580		12		0	

Permanent Placement: Face-to-face Contacts

	County		Region		Unit		Caseload	
Contact Recorded	565	76.56%	406	77.93%	10	90.91%	0	
Total	738		521		11		0	

Note: This display comes from a training system. No actual client names or IDs are displayed.

For quick access to summary performance data, many agencies put a "scorecard" on their SafeMeasures menu (see Figure 4). This scorecard provides an at-a-glance view of performance on a variety of key performance indicators (KPIs). KPIs are expandable to show trend and other details, and each metric is linked to a standard SafeMeasures report for filtering and generating lists.

Figure 4: SafeMeasures® Scorecard

Critical Outcomes Scorecard		
Transformation Outcomes	**Performance**	**Performance Standard**
Discharges to Permanency [Jun, 2013]	98.9%	86%
Congregate Care Placements [Jun, 2013]	2.2%	16%
Family–Based Placements [Jun, 2013]	79%	80%
Kinship Placements [Jun, 2013]	45%	24%
Foster Care Monthly Worker Visits [Jun, 2013]	98.4%	90%
CFSR Outcomes		
Time in Care: Reunification Within 12 Months [Jun, 2013]	53.9%	75.2%
Reentries Within 12 Months [Jun, 2013]	1.1%	9.6%
Time in Care: Adoption Within 24 Months [Jun, 2013]	53.9%	36.6%
24–Month Discharges to Permanency [Jun, 2013]	51.7%	29.1%
Setting Stability [Jun, 2013]	98.9%	86%
Safety Outcomes		
No Recurrence of Maltreatment [Jun, 2013]	97.9%	94.6%
No Abuse While in Foster Care [Jun, 2013]	100%	99.68%
CPS Ongoing Contacts Made [Jun, 2013]	68.3%	90%
Referral Contacts Within Response Priority [Jun, 2013]	98.9%	90%

The My Upcoming Work (MUW) list appears after login for any worker with a current caseload. It displays the worker's current caseload, along with color-coded indicators for upcoming tasks (see Figure 5).

Users can sort the list by each task to see which cases have an upcoming task due and which tasks are overdue. Detailed information is available by clicking on the case name. A comprehensive history for each individual case, including contact and assignment records, is also available with a single click.

As with all SafeMeasures reports, the compliance tasks, timelines, and indicators are determined in close collaboration with agency staff.

Figure 5: SafeMeasures® My Upcoming Work

Client Name	Case Type	Next Birthday	PS Contact	CPS Contact	Case Plan	FC Contact
Abuamri, Alexa	CPS Ongoing Services			✓	✓	★
Ahuexoteco, Dakota	Dual: CPS and Foster Care			✓	✓	✓
Alpert, Aracely	Prev.: Low or Mod Risk (after CPS)		✓		❗	⚠
Ameszcua, Akire	Foster Care				❗	❗
Ante, Arely	Early Prev./Family Sup: No Court Order		✓		⚠	⚠
Appiah, Christiana	CPS Ongoing Services	■		✓	✓	✓
Aquilera, Ajalon	CPS Ongoing Services			✓	⚠	⚠
Aquilina, Atua	Foster Care	🎂			✓	✓
Armendariz, Corie	Early Prev./Family Sup: Court Order		★		⚠	❗
Armentrout, Corine	CPS Ongoing Services			✓	✓	✓
Asariegos, Danelle	CPS Ongoing Services			✓	✓	✓
Asfall, Abiqail	Early Prev./Family Sup: Court Order		✓		✓	✓
Bacame, Cotton	Early Prev./Family Sup: No Court Order	■	✓		⚠	⚠
Ballard, Antonette	CPS Ongoing Services			✓	❗	⚠
Bayona, Banesia	Early Prev./Family Preservation		✓		❗	⚠

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Further Information

For more information, contact:

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About NCCD

NCCD, the country's oldest nonprofit criminal justice research organization, was founded in 1907. Today NCCD works with agencies and organizations across 79 jurisdictions in the United States and nine jurisdictions in Australia, Canada, Bermuda, and Taiwan to develop and implement evidence-based and data-driven practices in adult and juvenile justice settings, child welfare, adult protective services, and other social welfare arenas. Please visit our website at www.nccdglobal.org. For more information, call us at (800) 306-6223.