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**Inter-agency data sharing and protection: Measuring child well-being in the United States**

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Federal and state performance reviews of public child welfare services in the United States address child outcomes for safety, permanence, and well-being. Whereas measures of safety (e.g., lack of abuse or neglect) and permanence (e.g., adoption, reunification with family) are recorded in relatively standard formats across states, child well-being measures (e.g., health, education, mental health) are not standardized. Moreover, child well-being measures are gathered across an array of public agencies that are organized differently in various states and other jurisdictions (e.g., counties, regions). Additionally, much of the data needed to report child well-being are governed by federal privacy protections that restrict sharing of information between public agencies. This paper addresses the challenges of collecting individual child well-being data in the United States and suggests approaches for effective and secure data sharing. Examples of successful data sharing models will be reviewed.