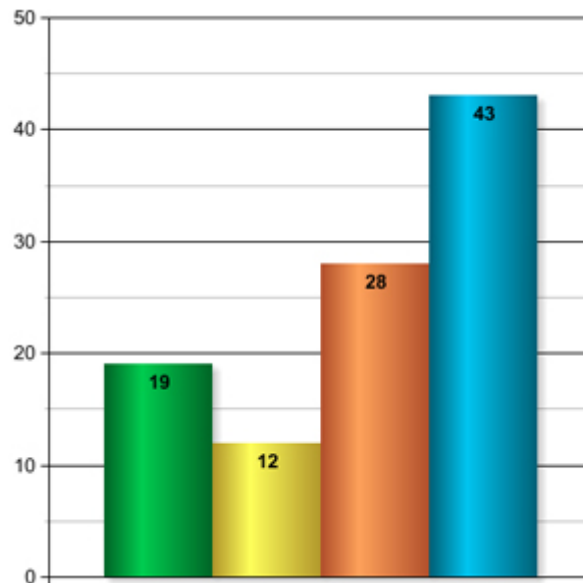


Why You Should be Using SafeMeasures



SafeMeasures will make your job easier.

If you work in adoption or foster care, a new Web service can make your job easier, help you work faster, and aid in improving outcomes for children and families.

SafeMeasures is a user-friendly application that quickly accesses data while tracking and measuring benchmarks related to the [Children's Services Transformation](#) easier. It is now available to all Local Departments of Social Services.

For most workers, knowing OASIS didn't exactly equal loving it—but, this new application is different. "SafeMeasures can make up for everything OASIS lacks from a reporting perspective and provides case-specific data," said Matt Wade, supervisor of the Outcome Based Reporting and Analysis Unit with the Division of Family Services.

For users, this translates into increased productivity and enhanced service.

"We like it a lot and are using it in a variety of ways," said Tanya Verlik, assistant director with the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services. "Workers can use it for their own personal growth and see where they are on cases. Supervisors can use it to monitor contacts, activity and caseloads."

"With SafeMeasures, we're able pull up our entire workload and easily go back and forth. It helps to keep up with contacts — who you've seen and who you haven't. OASIS is time consuming and difficult to navigate. It's hard to go back and forth and scroll through

it. SafeMeasures is especially helpful in cases where there are multiple people in the family. You can see exactly who you've had contact with very quickly and easily. Perhaps you have a family with three children, and you've seen one of the children, but not the other two. SafeMeasures can tell you that with the touch of a button. And all of that helps provide better services for children and families."

Beth Girone, foster care supervisor for Fredericksburg DSS, says SafeMeasures helps with accountability. "For us, it's a great tool to keep track of data to make sure we are on target for meeting our goals. It's also good to use to clean up data. You can catch things that are incorrect or have been messed up in OASIS."

According to Sharon Harris, SafeMeasures allows you to explore new solutions for permanency. "It forces you to look at what you can do better. When you can see the numbers and can see how long kids have been in care, it pushes you to think harder to come up with solutions. You can keep things moving and active all the time," the Campbell County DSS foster care and adoption supervisor said.

Harris also likes SafeMeasures because of its speed. "It really helps with productivity because it takes so much less time. Things that used to be so tedious with OASIS can be done quickly and easily with SafeMeasures. You can't mess up in SafeMeasures. There is no reason to be intimidated by SafeMeasures. It's user-friendly. It's easy."

Girone agrees. "I am not a tech person. It's so easy. It an easy read also and really helps with preparing reports."

The ability to save time through using SafeMeasures appeals to Verlik. "I've been able to stop using spreadsheets, and I can now see what I need quickly. It saves me at least two days a month. To those who hesitate using it, just go in there and try it. If you can maneuver the internet or Word documents, you can maneuver through this and will be amazed at how much time you save."