

Wadena County Performance Report

Child Safety and Permanency and MFIP/DWP Self-Support Index July 2023

Reporting Periods

Child Safety and Permanency: Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022
MFIP/DWP Self-Support Index: April 2022 – March 2023



For more information contact:
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Human Services Performance Management System
DHS.HSPM@state.mn.us | (651) 431-5780

About this Report

The purpose of this report is to share county performance data on the Child Safety and Permanency and Minnesota Family Investment Program/Diversionary Work Program (MFIP/DWP) Self-Support Index measures as they relate to the Human Services Performance Management system (referred to hereafter as the Performance Management system).

This report contains data on four measures including:

- Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022 performance for Child Safety and Permanency measures,
- annualized April 2022 to March 2023 performance for the MFIP/DWP Self-Support Index measure,
- performance data trends for recent years, and
- a performance comparison to other counties in the same Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA) region.

This report compares county performance to the thresholds established for the Performance Management system. The Performance Management system defines a threshold as the minimum level of acceptable performance, below which counties will need to complete a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) as defined in statute ([Minnesota Statutes Chapter 402A](#)). For counties below the threshold, an official PIP notification—with instructions for accessing PIP forms, PIP completion directions, and available technical assistance—will be sent in addition to this report.

Counties with Small Denominators

Child Safety and Permanency - When a county has a denominator of 20 or fewer, performance is assessed using the updated small numbers policy outlined on page three of this report.

Self-Support Index - The Minnesota Family Investment Program/Diversionary Work Program Self-Support Index measure does not exclude counties with small denominators.

Additional Information

Supplemental and background information about the Performance Management System can be found on CountyLink:
www.dhs.state.mn.us/HSPM.

Small Numbers Policy Update

The policy for assessing performance in counties with small numbers was updated and a policy update bulletin issued in 2022:
https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&Rendition=Primary&allowInterrupt=1&noSaveAs=1&dDocName=dhs-337635

The policy overview below reflects the updated assessment method.

- If a county has a denominator of 20 or fewer and is meeting the threshold for a measure, the county is performing to expectations and no further assessment will take place.
- If a county has no people in a measure, it will be considered to be meeting the threshold.
- If a county has a denominator of 20 or fewer and is not meeting the threshold for a measure, performance will be reviewed across two years of data. Two years below the performance threshold for any one measure will trigger the PIP process.
- Measures using a regression threshold model, such as the Self-Support Index, will not be subject to the small numbers policy. The reason for this is that the regression models account for a variety of factors outside of county control, including caseload size.

Performance Data by Racial and Ethnic Groups

This report provides performance data for counties by racial and ethnic groups where there were 30 or more people of a group included in the denominator. The race and ethnicity is that of the case applicant; other household members may have a different race and/or ethnicity that is not reported here.

Child Safety and Permanency

Child Safety and Permanency measures report Hispanic or Latino ethnicity separately from race. People are counted once by Hispanic ethnicity and again with their reported race, so groups added together may exceed the total number of cases.

Self-Support Index

This report contains state-level performance data by racial and ethnic group for the Self-Support Index.

Purpose

The racial and ethnic data included in this report is for informational and planning purposes. We encourage you to review this data to identify opportunities for improvement. As the Performance Management reports evolve, we intend to add additional demographic data to help counties better understand their performance and improve outcomes for all Minnesotans. The racial and ethnic group data included in this report does not give a complete picture of county performance, the communities being served, nor systemic inequities. The Performance Management system is not currently using this data to assess a county's need for PIPs.

No Data Available

Counties with low numbers (fewer than 30) for all but one racial or ethnic group do not have a graph of performance by racial and ethnic group available in this report.

Details for Child Safety and Permanency Measures

Ongoing Performance Reports for CSP Measures

The Child Safety and Permanency and Charts and Analysis teams at DHS recommend using the public-facing dashboards (<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/child-welfare-data-dashboard/>) to check your county's ongoing performance for CSP measures. The dashboards are refreshed monthly and feature a tab for 2023 Progress/Performance information.

Where to Find Measures included in the Performance Management Report on the CSP Dashboard:

	Child Repeat Maltreatment	Permanency	Relative Placement
Performance Management System Measures	Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report during a 12-month reporting period, the percent who were not victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report.	Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, the percent who are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care. (Includes discharges from foster care to reunification with the child's parents or primary caregivers, living with a relative, guardianship, or adoption.)	Of all days that children spent in family foster care settings during a 12-month reporting period, the percentage of days spent with a relative.
Location on Child Safety and Protection Dashboards	Federal Performance Measures Dashboard Performance Measure: (1) Maltreatment Reoccurrence <i>Note: Performance Management measures the inverse outcome. To find your percentage for Performance Management, subtract the CSP dashboard performance data from 100.</i>	Federal Performance Measures Dashboard Performance Measure: (4) Permanency: 12 Months	State Performance Measures Dashboard Performance Measure: (3) Relative Care

2023 threshold for Relative Care measure: 35.7%

The 2023 threshold for the measure, *percent of days children in family foster care spent with a relative* will continue to align with the DHS CSP division threshold for this measure of 35.7%.

Timelines for Child Repeat Maltreatment and Permanency Measures

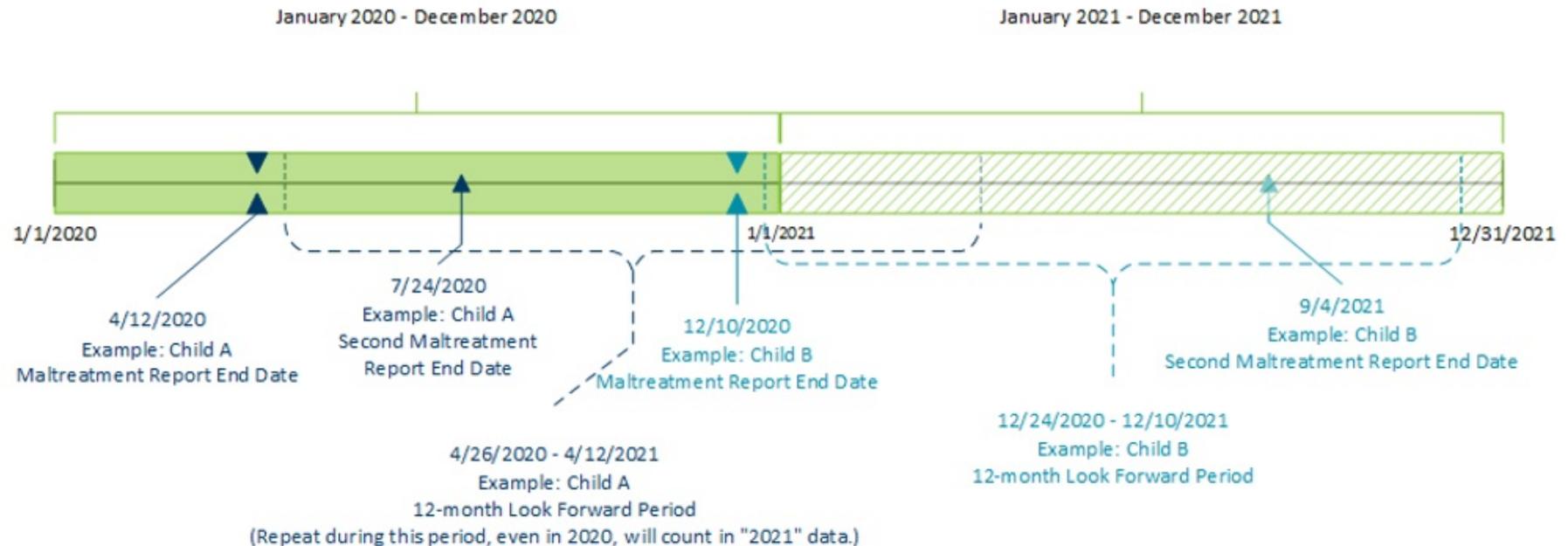
Understanding the 12-month timeline for Child Repeat Maltreatment.

The Child Repeat Maltreatment measure requires two complete years of data to report performance. The measure uses the first finding from a calendar year, plus a twelve month look forward into the reporting year for reoccurrence. The data featured in this report is for data year 2022 (base year of 2021 with a look forward into 2022). Note, both events related to the measure could take place in the base year.

Maltreatment Examples:

Looking at cases with a child maltreatment report end date that occurred in the year prior to the year under review. When reviewing the data for 2021, we will look for maltreatment end dates in 2020.

The 12-month look forward will look for recurrence with a child maltreatment report end date that is both greater than 14 days after the first identified child maltreatment report end date and less than 366 days after the first identified child maltreatment report end date.



Percent of children with a substantiated maltreatment report who do not experience a repeat substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.

What is this measure?

Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report during a 12-month reporting period, the percent who were not victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report.

Why is this measure important?

County social services should increase the likelihood that children are safe from abuse and neglect. When a maltreatment determination is made, there is a heightened responsibility of the county to mitigate the threat of future harm to children. A repeat maltreatment determination indicates that the risk for the child has not been fully mitigated.

What affects performance on this measure?

- Service factors that may influence this measure are the availability of the service array within the community; funding sources for services; support for the agency service plan by public partners, partnerships with schools, law enforcement, courts and county attorneys; the culture of the agency; and clear support and guidance from the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Staff factors that may influence this measure are the maturity, experience, and training of staff; the availability of experienced supervisors with sufficient time/workloads to mentor staff; adequate staffing capacity; turnover; and sufficient cultural responsiveness for diverse populations.
- Participant factors that may impact this measure are poverty; chemical use; economic stability; cultural perception of minimally adequate parenting as compared to ideal parenting; and the availability of safety net support for the parents from family, friends, and the community.
- Environmental or external factors that may impact this measure are community understanding of cultural differences in child rearing, the diversity of new immigrant populations, existing cultural biases, and the availability of transportation and available housing.

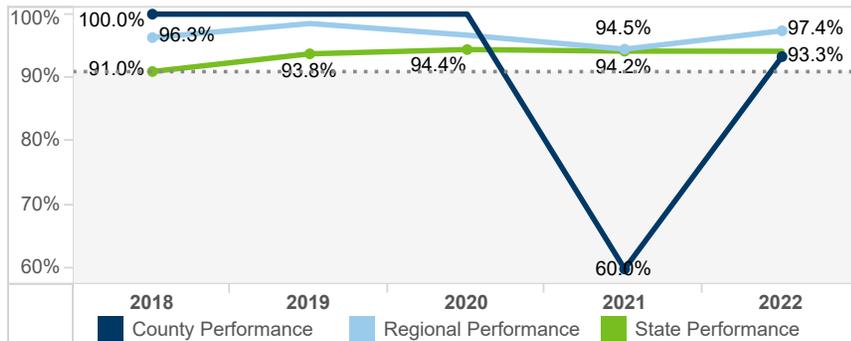
Percent of children with a substantiated maltreatment report who do not experience a repeat substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.

County Performance by Year

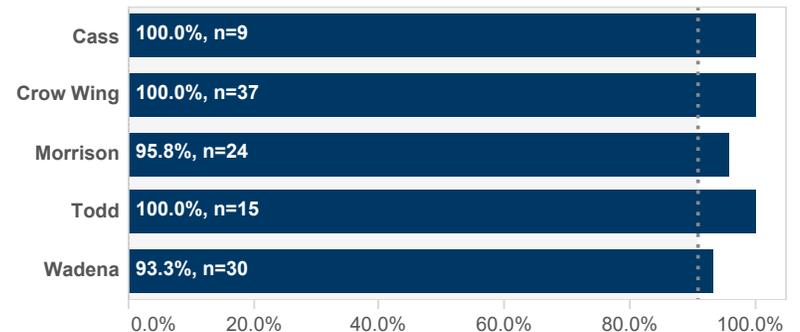
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
County Performance	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	60.0%	93.3%
Denominator	7	14	7	10	30

Wadena County PIP Decision
No PIP Required – Performance is equal to or above the threshold of 90.9%

County/Region/State Performance Trends



Current Regional Performance



County Performance by Race and Ethnicity No Data Available

Counties with low numbers (fewer than 30) for all but one racial or ethnic group do not have a graph of performance by racial and ethnic group available in this report. Additional information may be available upon request, please contact DHS.HSPM@state.mn.us for additional information.

*The dotted line on each graph indicates the measure threshold of 90.9%.

Percent of children discharged from out-of-home placement to permanency in less than 12 months.

What is this measure?

Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, the percent who are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care. (Includes discharges from foster care to reunification with the child's parents or primary caregivers, living with a relative, guardianship, or adoption.)

Why is this measure important?

For children removed from their birth family, the timely establishment of permanency is an important indicator of county efforts to ensure children have permanent families.

What affects performance on this measure?

- Service factors that may influence this measure are the availability of the service array within the community; funding sources for services; support for the agency service plan by public partners, partnerships with schools, law enforcement, courts, and county attorneys; the culture of the agency; clear support and guidance from DHS; and the willingness of courts and county attorneys to engage in planning for families rather than waiting for perfection.
- Staff factors that may influence this measure are the maturity, experience, and training of staff; the availability of experienced supervisors with sufficient time/workloads to mentor staff; adequate staffing capacity; turnover; and sufficient cultural responsiveness for diverse populations.
- Participant factors that may influence this measure are a family history of maltreatment; poverty; chemical use; economic stability; cultural perceptions of minimally adequate parenting as compared to ideal parenting; safety net support for the parents from family, friends, and the community; the availability of affordable housing options; and accessible transportation.
- Environmental or external factors that may influence this measure are economic conditions that support low income families, "blame and punish" societal attitude toward parents who have failed, and the economy.

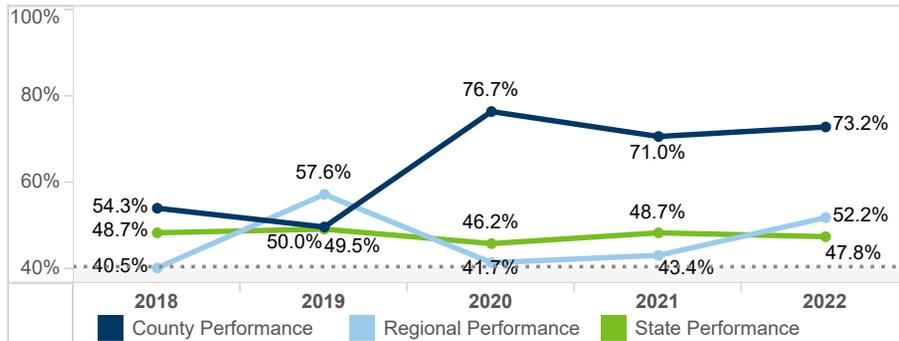
Percent of children discharged from out-of-home placement to permanency in less than 12 months.

County Performance by Year

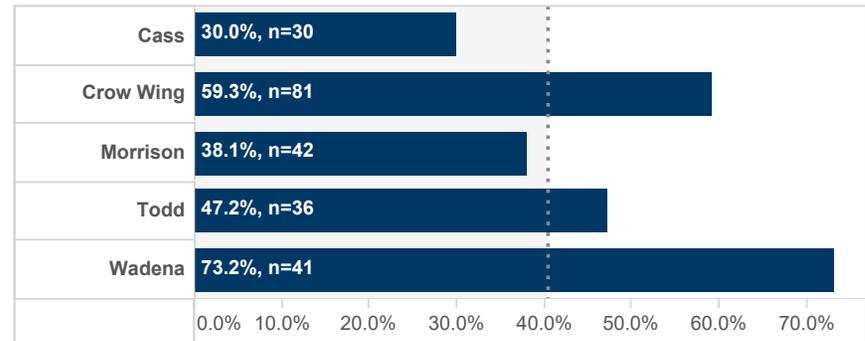
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
County Performance	54.3%	50.0%	76.7%	71.0%	73.2%
Denominator	46	46	43	31	41

Wadena County PIP Decision
No PIP Required – Performance is equal to or above the threshold of 40.5%

County/Region/State Performance Trends



Current Regional Performance



County Performance by Race and Ethnicity No Data Available

Counties with low numbers (fewer than 30) for all but one racial or ethnic group do not have a graph of performance by racial and ethnic group available in this report. Additional information may be available upon request, please contact DHS.HSPM@state.mn.us for additional information.

*The dotted line on each graph indicates the measure threshold of 40.5%.

Percent of days children in family foster care spent with a relative.

What is this measure?

Of all days that children spent in family foster care settings during a 12-month reporting period, the percentage of days spent with a relative.

Why is this measure important?

Relationships with relatives are a source of continuity for children whose lives have been disrupted by abuse or neglect. There is an emphasis on establishing and supporting important relationships in children's lives through placement with relatives.

What affects performance on this measure?

- Service factors that may influence this measure are the cultural appreciation of the importance of relatives as compared to professional parenting; systems to help identify and find family members; economic support for relative caretakers; accommodations in licensing standards for relatives; the culture of the agency; clear support and guidance from DHS; and the conflict between relative placement and the stability of remaining in the same neighborhood and school.
- Staff factors that may influence this measure are the maturity, experience, and training of staff; the availability of experienced supervisors with sufficient time/workloads to mentor staff; adequate staffing capacity; turnover; and the ability of staff to engage relatives in the government process.
- Participant factors that may influence this measure are a family history of maltreatment; disqualifying factors; hostile family relationships; distrust of the system; poverty; chemical use; economic stability; and the availability of safety net support for the parents from family, friends, and the community.
- Environmental or external factors that may influence this measure are timeliness of locating relatives; cultural norms that blame parents; community understanding of cultural differences in child rearing; the diversity of new immigrant populations; existing cultural biases; and the availability of transportation and available housing.

Wadena County Performance

Outcome: Children have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential.

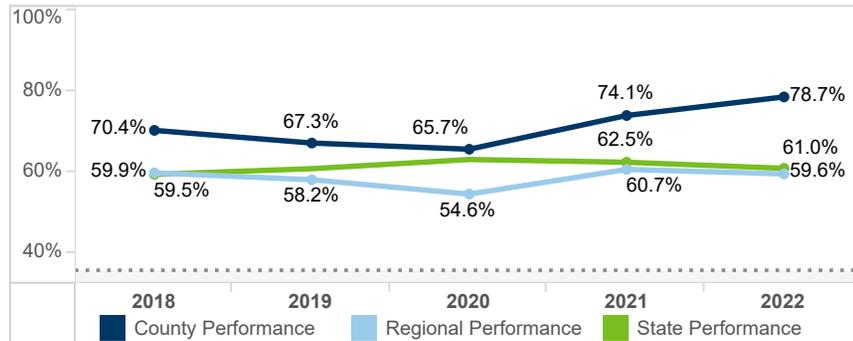
Percent of days children in family foster care spent with a relative.

County Performance by Year

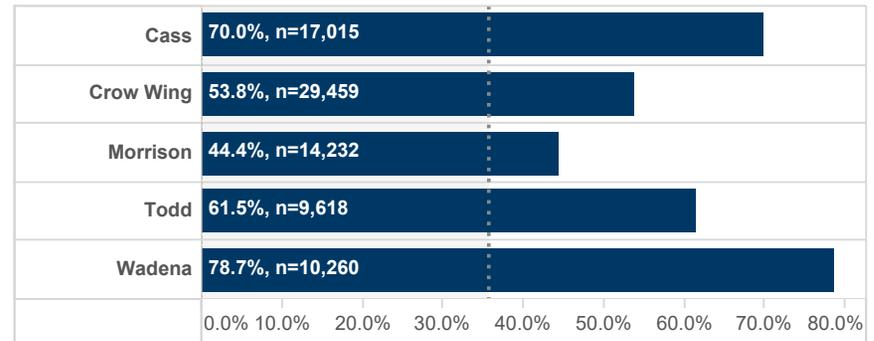
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
County Performance	70.4%	67.3%	65.7%	74.1%	78.7%
Number of Cases	79	87	71	78	71

Wadena County PIP Decision
No PIP Required – Performance is equal to or above the threshold of 35.7%

County/Region/State Performance Trends



Current Regional Performance



County Performance by Race and Ethnicity No Data Available

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*The dotted line on each graph indicates the measure threshold of 35.7%.

Minnesota Family Investment Program/Diversionsary Work Program Self-Support Index.

What is this measure?

The MFIP/DWP Self-Support Index (S-SI) is the percent of adults eligible for MFIP or DWP that are off cash assistance or are on and working at least 30 hours per week three years after a baseline quarter. The Range of Expected Performance (REP) is a target range individual to each county or tribe that controls for variables beyond the control of the county, including caseload characteristics and economic variables.

Why is this measure important?

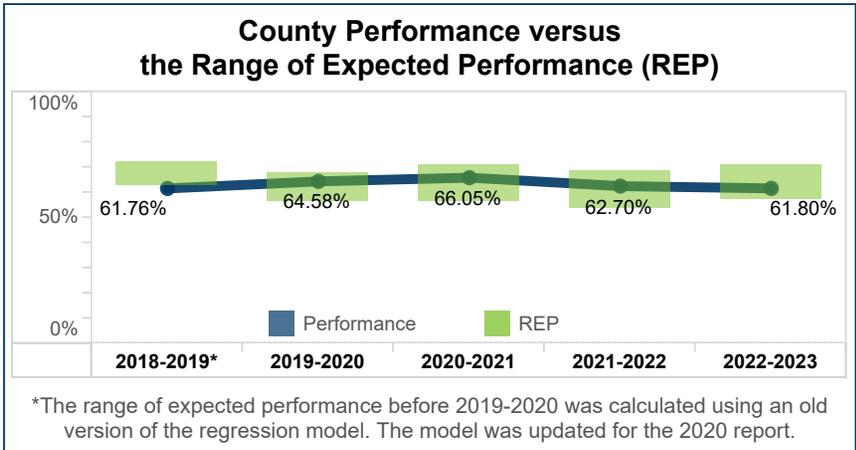
Providing support that allows families the opportunity to attain and maintain employment is an essential role of county government. Counties, service providers and tribes contribute to and support employment through providing employment services and coordinating other resources such as housing, child care, and transportation that support a person's ability to get and keep a job.

What affects performance on this measure?

- Service factors that may affect this measure include the quality of the employment plan, communication between county financial workers and employment service agencies, lack of interface between the DHS and Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) administrative databases, availability and convenience of work supports such as child care assistance and transportation; work activity requirements of the federal Work Participation Rate (WPR) performance measure; recruitment of employers and relationships with employers; and complexity of program rules for both the participant and the staff.
- Staff factors that may affect this measure include staff education, training, and experience; caseload size, understanding of program policies; turnover; and time needed for program documentation.
- Participant and environmental/external factors that may affect this measure are controlled for in the formula used to calculate each county's unique REP for the Self-Support Index.

Minnesota Family Investment Program/Diversionsary Work Program Self-support Index.

Wadena County PIP Decision
No PIP Required - Performance is within the Range of Expected Performance for 2022/2023.



Regional Performance

County	Performance	REP-Lower	REP-Upper
Cass County	63.76%	60.33%	70.56%
Crow Wing County	69.09%	62.08%	70.01%
Morrison County	72.48%	61.44%	72.04%
Todd County	76.31%	64.96%	76.78%
Wadena County	61.80%	57.20%	70.81%

Performance Compared to Range of Expected Performance (REP)
■ Above ■ Within

