

Program Director Information Sheet:

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment

How is my program's CANS compliance monitored and determined?

The CANS Assessment is required to be completed for youth age 5-21 within the first 30 days of placement into your agency and every 90 days thereafter. The CANS Assessments are entered into the CSOMS Database in SCYFIS. The CANS compliance score is intended to track the success with which a program meets the quarterly requirement for assessing youth in their care. The quarterly score is calculated using the previous quarter's assessments. Your program's CANS Assessment data is collected Quarterly from the CSOMS data system and analyzed according to the compliance criteria.

What happens to my program's CANS assessment data?

Each Quarter your program will receive your Provider CANS Data through an Excel Spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is a collection of all of the CANS assessments completed on youth served by your program (both discharged and active). The file will be sent to your agency administrator or designated staff person over a secure file sharing system. The file is password protected. The agency administrator or designated staff person is sent instructions on how to access and open the file.

What is the purpose of the CANS Provider Spreadsheet?

The purpose is to allow programs to use the CANS data entered into CSOMS to assist in decision making at the program level. In addition, the report is intended to assist in identifying youth being served in your program who do not have a completed CANS assessment or who are currently active in the CSOMS system but no longer being served by the program. The spreadsheets also include several worksheets and tables including:

- prevalence of needs for active youth served by your program,
- CANS item counts
- CANS section scores, and
- analysis of change over time for youth with multiple assessments from admission to discharge.

How can I make use of the CANS data in my provider spreadsheet?

This information is intended to provide aggregate data on the needs and strengths of youth being served by your program. Providers will be able to assess whether the CANS assessment data accurately reflects what they know about the profiles of the youth and families they serve. The CANS assesses multiple functional areas, including emotional/behavior needs and risk behaviors. This information can be used by programs to determine:

- staff training needs, and
- intervention/treatment availability for youth and families.

Where I can learn more?

The Institute for Innovation and Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work provides statewide training, consultation, and technical support for sites implementing the CANS assessment. More information about the CANS can be found on the links below or by contacting Mark Lardner, (mlardner@ssw.umaryland.edu) or Neil Mallon, (nmallon@ssw.umaryland.edu).

Visit our CANS website: <https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/topics/sat/cans.cfm>

