

# Did You Know?

## Exciting changes to the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Report!

May 26, 2026

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Reports completed by behavioral health providers for youth in out-of-home care and those receiving in-home services have recently been updated! The CANS Assessment Report includes a summary of the child’s functioning, needs, risks, strengths, and caregiver supports to guide case planning. Behavioral health providers also provide current diagnoses for youth and recommendations for treatment, including treatment modalities and frequencies. Following the ratings for all items on the CANS, a **summary table of actionable needs and strengths** has recently been added! This table highlights areas needing action, areas needing immediate or intensive action, useful strengths, and strengths to build.

Summary Table of Needs and Strengths			
Areas Needing Action		Areas Needing Immediate and/or Intensive Action	
Family Functioning Social Functioning Recreational School Behavior  Impulsivity/Hyperactivity Depression Oppositional Conduct	Adjustment to Trauma Attachment Difficulties Runaway Traumatic Grief and Separation Frustration Management History of Delinquency Peer Influences	Living Situation Legal Decision Making Anger Control	Emotional/Physical Dysregulation Danger to Others Community Safety Safety of Destination
Useful Strengths		Strengths to Build	
Educational Setting Cultural Identity Natural Supports Relationship Permanence	Resiliency Resourcefulness Treatment Involvement	Family Strengths Interpersonal Optimism Talents and Interests	Spiritual/Religious Community Life Well-Being
Trauma Experiences			
Neglect	Disruptions in Caregiving/Attachment Losses	Parental Criminal Behavior	

Below the summary table of needs and strengths, you’ll find the **NEW Narrative Report!** This report helps *define* what it means when an item’s rating changes over time, highlighting needs in the life functioning, behavioral/emotional needs, and risk behaviors domains.

If you need a quick refresher on what all of the numbers mean on the CANS, check out the **action levels graphic!**

