



Covid-19's Effects on Child Welfare System Assessed in CNYCA's Annual Report

February 2021

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

REPORTS

Reports of abuse and neglect were already trending downward in FY20 before a precipitous drop after the onset of Covid-19 in March. The rate at which reports were substantiated declined slightly.

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	TREND
Reports of Abuse and Neglect	60,841	62,639	67,752	68,766	66,248	55,984	
Percentage of Reports Substantiated	38.7	36.1	40.0	38.0	37.7	36.4	

CASELOADS

With a decline in the number of hotline reports of alleged abuse and neglect, average caseloads among child protective caseworkers dropped significantly in FY20.

Average Child Protective Caseload	10.5	10.6	12.4	12.5	10.5	7.5	
Caseworkers with Caseloads over 15 (June)	111	173	341	NA	96	0	

PETITIONS AND OUTCOMES

The number of families taken to court by ACS declined dramatically after Covid-19 restrictions were put in place. Court-ordered supervision and emergency removals followed a similar downward trend. Despite the Covid-related declines, court filings, emergency removals, and supervision orders remained at higher levels than pre-FY17.

Abuse and Neglect Cases Filed by ACS in Family Court	10,223	9,375	14,207	14,913	12,723	10,305	
ACS Supervision Ordered by Family Court	6,383	6,115	9,462	10,033	8,299	6,778	
Total Emergency Removals	1,348	1,413	1,811	1,874	1,790	1,389	
Emergency Removals Followed by Remand at Initial Hearing	1,113	1,006	1,287	1,360	1,284	956	

FATALITIES

The number of child fatalities in families known to ACS within the last decade dropped slightly in Calendar Year 2019.

Child Fatalities in Cases Known to ACS (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	58	43	56	63	59	57	
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	--

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

FAMILIES SERVED IN PREVENTIVE SERVICES

In FY20, the number of families receiving preventive services declined. This drop was a result of new contracts beginning in July 2020, and a reduction in referrals after Covid-19 shutdowns.

Families Receiving ACS-Contracted Preventive Services	22,419	21,980	20,207	20,315	21,101	19,209	
New Preventive Cases in Evidence-Based Services	3,727	3,530	2,912	2,901	2,989	2,334	
New Preventive Cases Overall	11,015	10,540	9,240	9,608	9,965	7,699	

PREVENTIVE SERVICES ENTRIES AND EXITS

The percentage of preventive cases that were referred by ACS decreased in FY20. The percentage of those admitted to foster care during or shortly after preventive services declined in CY19.

Percentage of Preventive Cases Referred by ACS	72.3	74.4	77.8	78.4	77.9	74.0	
Percentage of Children Admitted to Foster Care who Received Preventive Services	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.1	1.9	

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The total foster care population declined in FY20, continuing a long downward trend. The number of children newly admitted to foster care dropped slightly.

Total Average Foster Care Population	11,098	9,906	8,921	8,732	8,341	7,827	
Children Admitted to Foster Care (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	4,104	3,910	3,581	4,285	3,743	3,497	

FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	TREND
------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS

There was a slight increase in sibling separations in foster care placements, and also a continued increase in kinship care placements.

Percentage of Separated Siblings (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	45.6	42.4	41.3	40	42	44.4	
Percentage of Foster Children in Kinship Care	32.8	32.6	30.9	33	38.1	39.8	
Percentage of Foster Placements in Contiguous Community Districts	36.9	36.3	36.6	36.2	28.7	29.7	

FOSTER CARE DISCHARGES

Discharges from foster care slowed dramatically in FY20 as Covid sharply reduced Family Court activity. Fewer children were discharged to reunification within a year than in previous years.

Children Discharged from Foster Care	4,748	4,943	4,388	4,487	4,100	3,102	
Number of Children Discharged to KinGAP	283	343	384	305	379	264	
Number of Children Discharged to APPLA	761	773	712	673	630	571	
Percentage of Children with Reunification Goal (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	50	49.8	52.6	54.5	51	50.0	
Percentage of Children Discharged to Permanency within a Year of Placement	30.9	32	31.8	29.9	32.5	29.6	
Children Discharged to Reunification within a Year (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	1,481	1,554	1,440	1,322	1,356	1,111	

DISCHARGE OUTCOMES

In CY19, the percentage of children returning to foster care within 2 years of discharge increased slightly to the highest level seen across the six year trend.

Percentage of Children Returning to Care within Two Years of Discharge (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	11.6	10.7	11.6	9.9	11.4	11.9	
---	------	------	------	-----	------	------	--

ADOPTION SERVICES

ADOPTION SERVICES

In CY20, children with adoption as a goal dropped to the lowest figure in the past 5 years. The percentage of adoptions completed within 2 years increased.

Percentage of Children with Adoption as a Goal (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	29.8	29.8	28	26.8	26.4	23.8	
Adoptions (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	1,045	1,026	959	888	810	706	
Percentage of Adoptions Completed in Less than Two Years (Calendar Year 2014)	30	24.4	30	32.2	29	34.7	

FOSTER CARE POPULATION

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

In CY19 stark racial disparities among children in foster care remained. As the percentage of children classified as "unknown" for race declined, the percentage of Latinx and African American children increased. Children under 2 years old continue to comprise the largest age group admitted to foster care.*

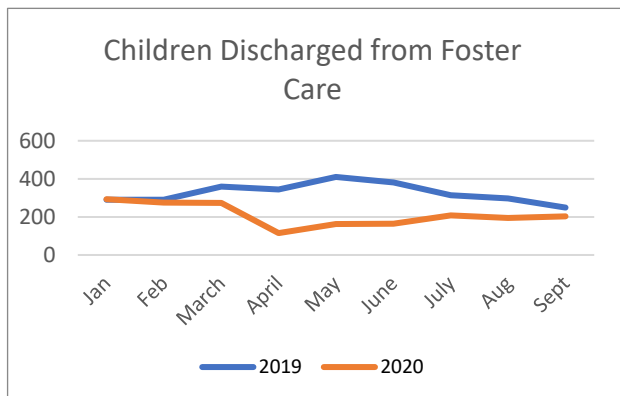
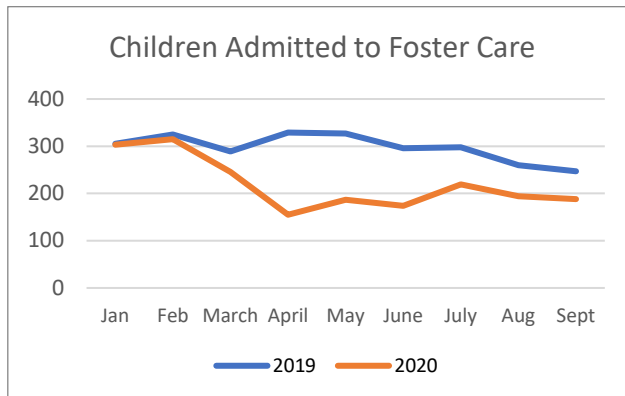
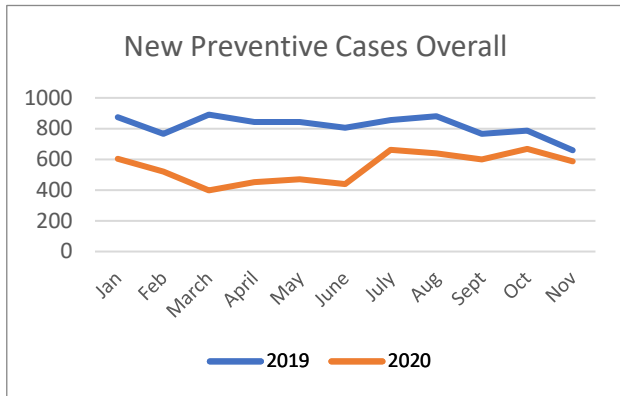
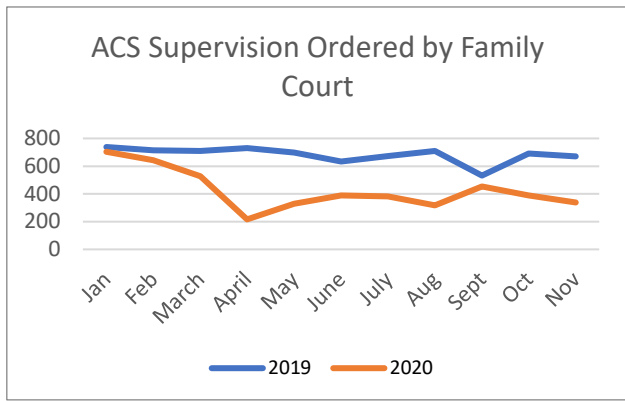
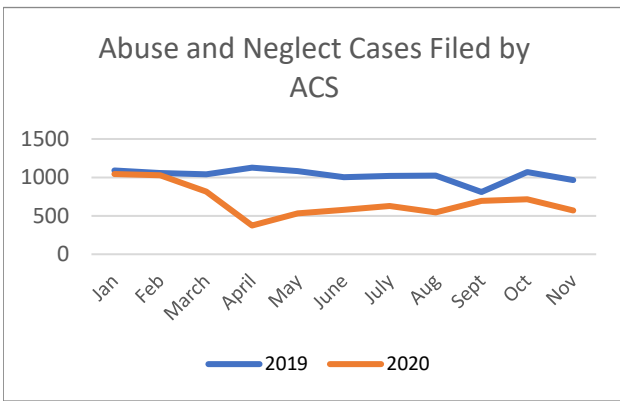
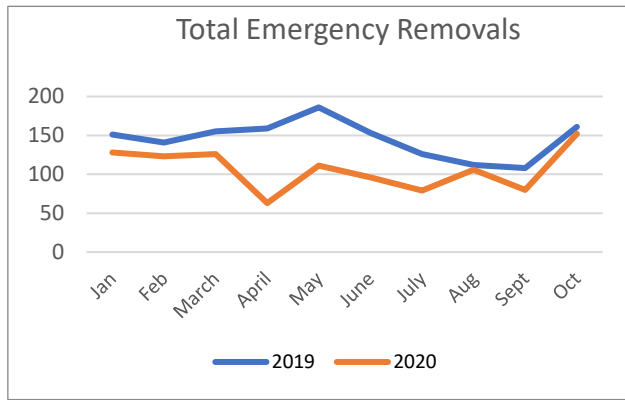
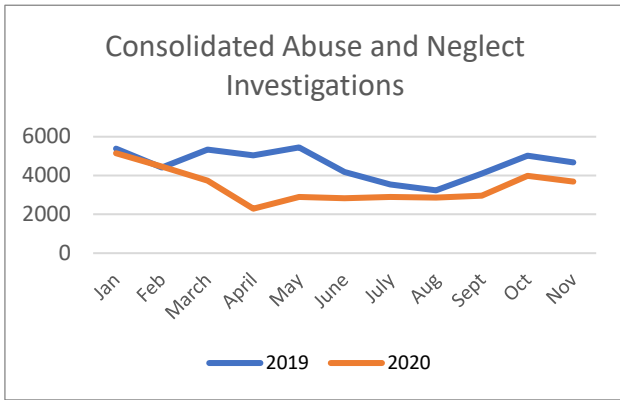
Children Admitted to Foster Care (Calendar Year 2014-2019)	4,495	4,307	3,905	3,750	4,314	3,725	
< 2 years old	24.8%	25.6%	25.2%	25.1%	25.2%	27.7%	
2-5 years old	19.0%	19.2%	18.4%	18.9%	20.6%	20.0%	
6-9 years old	13.9%	13.8%	15.1%	15.5%	16.6%	16.7%	
10-13 years old	13.1%	14.4%	13.4%	13.8%	14.0%	14.7%	
14-17 years old	28.0%	25.9%	26.4%	25.3%	22.5%	20.0%	
18+ years old	1.4%	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	
Children in Foster Care (Measured at point in time: December 31, 2014-2019)	11,398	10,866	9,889	8,931	8,952	8,631	
White	2.1%	4.4%	5.0%	5.4%	5.6%	5.5%	
African American	31.4%	53.5%	52.9%	52.9%	52.9%	52.8%	
Latinx	15.3%	34.3%	32.4%	31.8%	21.8%	27.2%	
Native American/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.1%	6.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	
Asian	0.3%	1.7%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	
Unknown	50.9%	5.9%	3.3%	8.3%	17.9%	12.8%	
Percentage of Children in Foster Care More than Three Years (December 31)	35.5%	35.0%	34.1%	33.6%	29.9%	29.0%	
2-5 years old	28.9%	29.2%	26.5%	28.3%	25.6%	23.4%	
6-9 years old	39.8%	39.7%	39.0%	38.5%	35.0%	34.1%	
10-13 years old	41.0%	39.9%	37.9%	35.9%	32.7%	31.9%	
14-17 years old	33.9%	32.8%	32.8%	30.3%	26.1%	28.1%	
18+ years old	67.5%	66.1%	66.6%	66.6%	64.7%	62.3%	

Note: All numbers above reported in NYC fiscal years unless otherwise indicated.

* Demographic data are from the Keeping Track Online Database, Citizens' Committee for Children. Totals in this section differ slightly from ACS data used in this report.

Sources: NYC Mayor's Management Reports, NY State Office of Children and Family Services Monitoring and Analysis Profiles, NYC Administration for Children's Services Flash Reports, NYC Administration for Children's Services annual reports, ACS data request, and Citizens Committee for Children Keeping Track Online Database.

Covid-19 Altered Child Welfare Trends: Monthly Comparison 2019 & 2020 (Figures & Corresponding Data)



		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Consolidated Abuse and Neglect Investigations	2020	5149	4469	3743	2292	2890	2827	2888	2870	2967	3982	3693	
	2019	5382	4415	5338	5037	5448	4175	3535	3237	4093	5025	4683	4477
	%				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Change	-4.3%	1.2%	-29.9%	54.5%	47.0%	32.3%	18.3%	11.3%	27.5%	20.8%	21.1%	
Total Emergency Removals	2020	128	123	126	63	111	96	79	106	80	152		
	2019	151	141	155	159	186	153	126	112	108	161	100	135
	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Change	15.2%	12.8%	-18.7%	60.4%	40.3%	37.3%	37.3%	-5.4%	25.9%	-5.6%		
Abuse and Neglect Cases Filed by ACS in Family Court	2020	1044	1028	816	374	532	576	628	544	694	717	569	
	2019	1092	1056	1040	1127	1080	1002	1021	1025	810	1070	964	1057
	%				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Change	-4.4%	-2.7%	-21.5%	66.8%	50.7%	42.5%	38.5%	46.9%	14.3%	33.0%	41.0%	
ACS Supervision Ordered by Family Court	2020	704	643	527	216	329	389	383	318	454	390	338	
	2019	738	714	709	731	699	633	672	709	532	690	671	697
	%				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Change	-4.7%	10.0%	-25.7%	70.4%	53.0%	38.6%	43.0%	55.1%	14.7%	43.5%	49.6%	
New Preventive Cases Overall	2020	603	521	398	451	470	439	662	640	599	668	586	
	2019	875	767	891	844	843	806	855	880	765	786	659	872
	%				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Change	31.1%	32.1%	-55.3%	46.6%	44.2%	45.5%	22.6%	27.3%	21.7%	15.0%	11.1%	
Children Admitted to Foster Care	2020	303	315	246	155	187	174	219	194	188			
	2019	305	325	289	329	327	296	298	260	247	243	171	202
	%				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Change	-0.7%	-3.1%	-14.9%	52.9%	42.8%	41.2%	26.5%	25.4%	23.9%			
Children Discharged from Foster Care	2020	293	275	274	115	163	165	208	194	203			
	2019	291	290	359	344	410	381	314	297	249	307	332	318
	%				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Change	0.7%	-5.2%	-23.7%	66.6%	60.2%	56.7%	33.8%	34.7%	18.5%			

Sources: NYC Administration for Children's Services Flash Reports.

Investigations and Foster Care Placements by Community District with Demographic Characteristics for 2019 (Ranked by highest % investigations)

CD	Community	# Investigations	% Investigations (Child Population)	# Foster Care Placements	% Foster Care Placements (Child Population)	Poverty Rate (Total Population)	% Black (Total Population)	% Latinx (Total Population)	Child Population	Total Population
Manhattan 11	East Harlem	1,557	7.85%	126	0.64%	32.7%	31.7%	45.1%	17,980	111,452
Bronx 1	Melrose	1,799	7.73%	130	0.56%	37.4%	28.1%	67.6%	23,265	93,458
Manhattan 5	Midtown	350	7.38%	36	0.76%	10.8%	5.1%	15.8%	36,275	55,800
Bronx 2	Hunts Point, Longwood	877	6.60%	44	0.33%	37.4%	28.1%	67.6%	38,884	53,366
Bronx 3	Crotona Park East	1,487	6.37%	126	0.54%	39.3%	32.1%	61.9%	24,352	84,606
Bronx 6	Belmont, East Tremont	1,499	6.16%	134	0.55%	39.3%	32.1%	61.9%	42,664	88,324
Brooklyn 16	Brownsville, Ocean Hill	1,536	4.76%	128	0.40%	34.1%	71.4%	22.5%	21,898	128,369
Manhattan 3	Chinatown, Lower East Side	855	4.76%	57	0.32%	23.0%	8.6%	24.1%	13,828	167,128
Bronx 12	Woodlawn, Williamsbridge, Wakefield	1,607	4.69%	105	0.31%	16.9%	63.4%	24.7%	42,164	149,128
Staten Island 1	Mariner's Harbor, Port Richmond, Stapleton	1,831	4.61%	149	0.37%	12.8%	22.0%	29.0%	29,119	176,195
Bronx 9	Castle Hill, Clason Point, Parkchester	1,878	4.40%	123	0.29%	26.2%	28.4%	57.7%	34,241	178,339
Bronx 4	Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden	1,846	4.38%	114	0.27%	32.1%	28.8%	65.8%	40,251	140,906
Bronx 10	Co-op City, Pelham Bay, Schuylerville	764	4.30%	33	0.19%	12.4%	28.7%	40.4%	13,285	110,883
Manhattan 10	Central Harlem	1,196	4.24%	104	0.37%	20.0%	54.9%	23.9%	13,298	136,351
Bronx 5	Fordham South, Morris Heights, Mount Hope	1,632	4.20%	107	0.28%	31.0%	26.2%	69.8%	21,402	138,209
Brooklyn 5	East New York, Starrett City	1,953	4.06%	130	0.27%	23.1%	51.9%	37.3%	43,610	180,811
Manhattan 9	Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, West Harlem	694	4.00%	49	0.28%	17.9%	20.1%	39.2%	35,713	132,837
Brooklyn 17	East Flatbush, Farragut, Rugby	1,149	3.99%	78	0.27%	9.8%	86.5%	7.5%	19,952	136,009
Manhattan 4	Chelsea, Clinton	364	3.84%	29	0.31%	10.8%	5.1%	15.8%	26,147	111,490
Queens 14	Breezy Point, Broad Channel, Far Rockaway	1,200	3.77%	110	0.35%	17.5%	36.5%	24.0%	19,533	121,740
Queens 12	Hollis, Jamaica, St. Albans	1,991	3.70%	128	0.24%	10.4%	61.1%	16.1%	34,745	241,275
Brooklyn 3	Bedford-Stuyvesant	1,152	3.67%	84	0.27%	22.9%	48.4%	18.3%	57,939	144,306
Brooklyn 4	Bushwick	699	3.38%	28	0.14%	20.6%	18.3%	55.2%	23,020	127,550
Queens 10	Astoria, Long Island City	768	3.19%	69	0.29%	11.6%	6.7%	25.4%	24,107	166,069
Queens 1	Howard Beach, Ozone Park	641	3.13%	30	0.15%	7.5%	14.1%	25.6%	25,026	118,568
Bronx 11	Morris Park, Pelham Parkway	822	3.10%	48	0.18%	14.1%	21.9%	46.2%	23,326	125,155
Brooklyn 13	Brighton Beach, Coney Island	712	3.09%	39	0.17%	25.2%	10.7%	15.3%	48,148	115,277
Bronx 7	Bedford Park, Fordham North, Norwood	1,207	3.00%	67	0.17%	22.2%	14.5%	72.7%	17,747	151,684
Brooklyn 8	Crown Heights North, Prospect Heights	648	2.96%	61	0.28%	15.7%	54.7%	13.0%	28,793	128,327
Queens 3	Jackson Heights, North Corona	1,007	2.79%	54	0.15%	14.8%	5.0%	66.0%	39,283	175,275
Queens 13	Cambria Heights, Queens Village, Rosedale	1,029	2.70%	68	0.18%	5.3%	54.7%	13.1%	36,120	200,660
Brooklyn 18	Canarsie, Flatlands	1,139	2.69%	70	0.17%	10.6%	62.0%	8.9%	24,740	196,895
Queens 9	Richmond Hill, Woodhaven	730	2.60%	45	0.16%	10.0%	5.9%	43.1%	31,815	143,756
Queens 4	South Corona, Elmhurst	874	2.52%	27	0.08%	9.9%	5.4%	53.6%	28,048	156,074
Manhattan 7	Upper West Side & West Side	633	2.42%	36	0.14%	8.5%	5.6%	14.5%	28,233	179,682
Bronx 8	Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Riverdale	508	2.37%	25	0.12%	15.5%	12.0%	48.7%	26,482	104,149
Brooklyn 9	Crown Heights South, Prospect Lefferts Gardens	458	2.30%	27	0.14%	17.6%	62.0%	8.9%	42,388	106,258
Manhattan 12	Inwood, Washington Heights, Marble Hill	818	2.29%	27	0.08%	15.3%	7.5%	68.3%	9,476	204,096
Staten Island 3	Annadale, Great Kills, Tottenville	515	2.07%	22	0.09%	4.1%	0.9%	10.7%	39,736	161,358
Brooklyn 7	Sunset Park, Windsor Terrace	630	2.05%	31	0.10%	17.7%	2.9%	39.3%	32,263	130,783
Staten Island 2	New Springville, South Beach	580	1.99%	20	0.07%	7.1%	3.7%	14.5%	24,831	138,590
Brooklyn 2	Brooklyn Heights, Clinton Hill, Fort Greene	415	1.74%	46	0.19%	13.2%	24.0%	13.9%	40,330	133,346
Brooklyn 1	Greenpoint, Williamsburg	521	1.73%	36	0.12%	20.0%	3.8%	23.2%	30,152	151,308
Queens 7	Flushing, Murray Hill, Whitestone	711	1.64%	27	0.06%	14.6%	1.9%	17.8%	53,821	239,869
Queens 5	Glendale, Middle Village, Ridgewood	591	1.64%	24	0.07%	8.3%	1.4%	37.4%	20,483	165,895
Queens 2	Sunnyside, Woodside	406	1.62%	20	0.08%	9.1%	1.7%	30.7%	43,445	136,058
Queens 8	Briarwood, Fresh Meadows, Hillcrest	623	1.59%	26	0.07%	11.1%	12.3%	19.6%	38,180	168,471
Brooklyn 14	Flatbush, Midwood	691	1.58%	43	0.10%	11.8%	30.9%	15.2%	25,654	156,866
Brooklyn 15	Gerritsen Beach, Homecrest, Sheepshead Bay	505	1.46%	11	0.03%	11.5%	4.1%	9.7%	30,728	147,401
Brooklyn 11	Bath Beach, Bensonhurst	584	1.45%	17	0.04%	14.5%	1.1%	16.3%	31,370	186,959
Brooklyn 6	Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Red Hook	366	1.43%	16	0.06%	7.5%	8.1%	14.7%	34,590	114,043
Brooklyn 10	Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights	335	1.35%	7	0.03%	14.2%	2.3%	17.0%	23,889	121,925
Queens 11	Bayside, Douglaston, Little Neck	258	1.25%	7	0.03%	6.4%	2.7%	11.7%	36,069	114,562
Manhattan 1	Financial District	110	1.22%	5	0.06%	5.9%	2.4%	7.2%	9,008	66,438
Queens 6	Forest Hills, Rego Park	228	1.17%	14	0.07%	11.1%	3.0%	15.3%	20,652	105,586
Manhattan 6	Gramercy Park, Murray Hill, Stuyvesant Town	158	1.14%	9	0.07%	6.3%	4.3%	7.8%	17,334	148,482
Brooklyn 12	Borough Park, Kensington, Ocean Parkway	484	0.84%	13	0.02%	26.5%	2.2%	10.0%	20,666	153,470
Manhattan 8	Upper East Side	277	0.76%	9	0.02%	5.8%	2.4%	9.9%	19,836	216,874
Manhattan 2	Greenwich Village, SoHo,	64	0.48%	3	0.02%	5.9%	2.4%	7.2%	4,743	98,076

Source: Citizens' Committee for Children, Keeping Track Online Database (2019).