WATCHING THE NUMBERS

A six-year statistical survey monitoring New York City's child welfare system

DECEMBER 2019

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND

REPORTS

Reports of abuse and neglect declined slightly in FY 2019 after a sharp increase in FY2017, which was sustained in FY2018. The rate of reports also declined in 2019.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND
Reports of Abuse and Neglect	61,798	60,841	62,639	67,752	68,766	66,248	
Percentage of Reports Substantiated	39.5	38.7	36.1	40.4	38.8	37.7	

CASELOADS

Average caseloads for child protective caseworkers declined in FY2019, returning to FY2015 levels. The number of caseworkers with average caseloads over 15 is significantly smaller than in previous years.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND
Average Child Protective Caseload	9.8	10.5	10.6	12.4	12.5	10.5	
Caseworkers with Caseloads over 15 (June)	157	111	173	341	NA	96	

PETITIONS AND OUTCOMES

After a large spike in 2017, ACS has decreased the number of families it takes to court, but that number remains higher than in previous years. Court-ordered supervision and emergency removals followed similar trends.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND
Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases Filed by ACS in Family Court	9566	10223	9375	14207	14913	12,723	
Children in Cases with ACS Supervision Ordered by Family Court (Calendar Year)	5,848	6,384	6,115	9,462	10,033	8,299	
Total Emergency Removals (Children)	1,425	1,348	1,413	1,811	1,854	1,767	
Emergency Removals Approved at Initial Hearing (Children)	1,166	1,113	1,006	1,287	1,360	1,284	

FATALITIES

The number of child fatalities in families known to ACS within the last decade declined slightly in 2018.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND
Child Fatalities in Cases Known to ACS (Calendar Year)	44	58	43	56	63	59	

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

FAMILIES SERVED IN PREVENTIVE SERVICES

The number of families and the number of children receiving ACS-contracted preventive services increased in 2019.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND
Families Receiving ACS-Contracted Preventive Services	21,039	22,419	21,908	20,207	20,315	21,101	
Children Receiving ACS-Contracted Preventive Services	44,456	47,001	46,207	43,157	43,874	45,468	
New Preventive Cases in Evidence-Based Services	3,373	3,727	3,530	2,851	2,901	2,984	

PREVENTIVE SERVICES ENTRIES AND EXITS

The percentage of children admitted to foster care during or shortly after preventive services dropped in 2019.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND
Percentage of Preventive Cases Referred by ACS	68.1	72.3	74.4	77.8	78.4	77.9	
Percentage of Children Admitted to Foster Care who Received Preventive Services within the Previous 12 Months (Calendar Year)	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.1	

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The total foster care population declined slightly in 2019, continuing a long downward trend. The number of children admitted to foster care declined to its lowest point over the 6 calendar years.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	TREND
Total Average Foster Care Population	11,750	11,098	9,906	8,921	8,732	8,322	
Children Admitted to Foster Care (Calendar Year)	4,495	4,307	3,905	3,750	4,314	3,725	

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS

2019 saw a slight increase in the separation of siblings in foster care placements but an increase in kinship care placements. The percentage of foster children in borough of origin and contiguous community district declined.

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND
Percentage of Separated Siblings (Calendar Year)	44.7	45.6	42.4	41.3	40	42	
Percentage of Foster Children in Kinship Care	33.4	32.8	32.6	30.9	33	38.1	
Percentage of Foster Placements in Borough of Origin	61.6	62.3	63.2	61.2	60.3	53.3	
Percentage of Foster Placements in Contiguous Community Districts	33.3	36.9	36.3	36.6	36.2	28.9	

FOSTER CARE DISCHARGES

Foster care discharges slowed from 2018, though more children were discharged to KinGAP. The discharge number to APPLA continued to decline. Fewer children had reunification goals than in recent years, though more were discharged to permanency within a year.

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND
Children Discharged from Foster Care	5,330	4,748	4,943	4,388	4,487	4,100	
Number of Children Discharged to KinGAP	251	283	343	384	305	379	
Number of Children Discharged to APPLA	860	761	773	712	673	630	
Percentage of Children with Reunification Goal (Calendar Year)	48.5	50	49.8	52.6	54.5	51	
Percentage of Children Discharged to Permanency within a Year of Placement	32.6	30.9	32	31.8	29.9	32.5	
Children Discharged to Reunification within a Year (Calendar Year)	1,843	1,481	1,554	1,440	1,322	1,356	

DISCHARGE OUTCOMES

The percentage of children returning to foster care within 2 years of discharge increased in Calendar Year 2018.

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND
Percentage of Children Returning to Care within Two Years of Discharge (Calendar Year)	13	11.6	10.7	11.6	9.9	11.4	

ADOPTION SERVICES

ADOPTION SERVICES

Adoption continued to be the outcome for a smaller percentage of foster care children, with adoption goals and finalized adoptions both reaching their lowest numbers in the past six years.

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND
Percentage of Children with Adoption as a Goal (Calendar Year)	31.5	29.8	29.8	28	26.8	26.4	
Adoptions (Calendar Year)	1,208	1,048	1,025	958	888	808	
Percentage of Adoptions Completed in Less than Two Years (Calendar Year)	30.2	30	24.4	30	32.2	29	

FOSTER CARE POPULATION

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Children in foster care continue to be disproportionately African American and Latinx, representing over 80% of children admitted in Calendar Year 2018. Children under 2 years old made up the largest age group to be admitted to foster care.

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND
Children Admitted to Foster Care (Calendar Year)	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 (December 31)	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%	
Latino	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%	

Number of Child Welfare Investigations and Foster Care Placements per 1000 by Community District, Ranked by Poverty Rate

Name	Neighborhood	Poverty Rate	Black/Latinx (%)	Investigations (per 1000)	Foster Care Placements (per 1000)
Bronx 1	Melrose	37.7	96.2	62.8	4.40
Bronx 2	Hunts Point, Longwood	37.7	96.2	56.2	4.34
Bronx 3	Crotona Park East	37.7	93.9	70.9	6.75
Bronx 6	Belmont, East Tremont	37.7	93.9	59.4	4.20
Bronx 5	Fordham South, Morris Heights, Mount Hope	36.4	95.9	44.7	3.50
Bronx 4	Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden	32.4	94.8	57.4	3.86
Manhattan 11	East Harlem	31.1	76.2	80.2	7.39
Manhattan 3	Chinatown, Lower East Side	30.0	32.5	49.5	4.46
Brooklyn 13	Brighton Beach, Coney Island	28.9	26.8	33.7	1.32
Bronx 7	Bedford Park, Fordham North, Norwood	27.8	86.1	40.7	2.30
Brooklyn 12	Borough Park, Kensington, Ocean Parkway	27.8	13.1	9.3	0.20
Brooklyn 16	Brownsville, Ocean Hill	27.8	94.6	60.4	6.27
Brooklyn 3	Bedford-Stuyvesant	27.0	70.4	33.0	2.06
Manhattan 10	Central Harlem	25.1	79.6	41.4	2.90
Bronx 9	Castle Hill, Clason Point, Parkchester	25.0	87.2	82.6	6.08
Brooklyn 4	Bushwick	24.0	75.8	33.9	2.56
Brooklyn 1	Greenpoint, Williamsburg	23.7	27.5	16.2	0.85
Brooklyn 5	East New York, Starrett City	21.7	89.2	47.5	3.39
Brooklyn 11	Bath Beach, Bensonhurst	20.0	15.4	16.2	0.43
Manhattan 9	Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, West Harlem	20.0	59.6	29.2	1.97
Bronx 12	Woodlawn, Williamsbridge, Wakefield	19.4	88.0	82.9	5.82
Brooklyn 8	Crown Heights North, Prospect Heights	19.0	70.7	27.9	2.56
Bronx 8	Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Riverdale	18.8	60.2	20.3	1.26
Bronx 11	Morris Park, Pelham Parkway	18.5	68.1	31.2	1.96
Manhattan 12	Inwood, Washington Heights, Marble Hill	18.4	77.1	24.7	1.31
Brooklyn 7	Sunset Park, Windsor Terrace	17.1	43.6	17.9	0.55
Staten Island 1	Mariner's Harbor, Port Richmond, Stapleton	17.0	51.1	51.6	4.02
Queens 14	Breezy Point, Broad Channel, Far Rockaway	16.4	59.5	36.0	2.62
Brooklyn 2	Brooklyn Heights, Clinton Hill, Fort Greene	15.9	41.4	15.0	1.03
Brooklyn 10	Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights	15.9	17.6	14.1	0.29
Brooklyn 9	Crown Heights South, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Wingate	15.3	74.2	24.3	1.54
Brooklyn 15	Gerritsen Beach, Homecrest, Sheepshead Bay	14.5	13.9	18.6	0.76
Brooklyn 14	Flatbush, Midwood	14.4	46.4	22.5	0.95
Queens 7	Flushing, Murray Hill, Whitestone	14.3	19.5	15.8	0.86
Queens 1	Astoria, Long Island City	13.9	33.5	36.8	2.45
Queens 3	Jackson Heights, North Corona	13.4	71.7	27.3	1.19
Queens 12	Hollis, Jamaica, St. Albans	13.1	77.9	38.0	2.48
Queens 8	Briarwood, Fresh Meadows, Hillcrest	13.0	20.7	17.7	0.60
Queens 4	South Corona, Elmhurst	12.9	57.3	23.7	0.87
Bronx 10	Co-op City, Pelham Bay, Schuylerville	12.7	66.3	18.0	0.80
Queens 9	Richmond Hill, Woodhaven	12.5	47.7	28.3	0.75
Brooklyn 6	Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Red Hook	12.3	24.0	15.2	1.07
Manhattan 4	Chelsea, Clinton	11.1	21.1	30.9	2.34
Manhattan 5	Midtown	11.1	21.1	61.1	4.48
Brooklyn 17	East Flatbush, Farragut, Rugby	10.2	94.5	48.2	3.43
Queens 5	Glendale, Middle Village, Ridgewood	9.8	37.8	16.7	0.61
Brooklyn 18	Canarsie, Flatlands	9.6	70.7	24.5	1.14
Staten Island 2	New Springville, South Beach	9.3	17.8	18.4	0.93
Queens 10	Howard Beach, Ozone Park	8.7	40.5	28.4	0.98
Manhattan 7	Upper West Side & West Side	8.5	20.6	18.1	1.26
Queens 6	Forest Hills, Rego Park	8.1	18.6	13.6	0.18
Manhattan 6	Gramercy Park, Murray Hill, Stuyvesant Town	7.9	12.3	12.3	0.68
Queens 2	Sunnyside, Woodside	7.8	33.8	16.4	0.73
Staten Island 3	Annadale, Great Kills, Tottenville	7.4	10.9	15.7	0.27
Queens 13	Cambria Heights, Queens Village, Rosedale	7.1	68.0	26.5	2.16
Manhattan 1	Battery Park City	6.6	8.7	22.2	0.76
Manhattan 2	Greenwich Village, SoHo,	6.6	8.7	5.6	0.28
Queens 11	Bayside, Douglaston, Little Neck	6.1	13.4	10.7	0.29
Manhattan 8	Upper East Side	5.4	11.9	9.6	0.41

*This table was revised on 1/7/2020