

WATCHING THE NUMBERS

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

November 2017

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	TREND
REPORTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT:	63,521	59,675	61,798	60,841	62,639	67,387	

There was a significant jump in state hotline reports in FY17.

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTS SUBSTANTIATED:	39.6	39.8	39.5	38.7	36.1	40.4	
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Substantiated reports spiked in FY17 to a level higher than in any of the previous six years.

PENDING RATE:	3.9	4.4	5.2	5.2	5.5	6.2	
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The monthly average of new cases per child protective worker has continued to rise.

AVERAGE CHILD PROTECTIVE CASELOAD:	8.7	8.2	9.8	10.5	10.6	12.4	
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The influx of children into the system in FY17 has led to significantly higher caseloads for caseworkers.

ACS SUPERVISION ORDERED BY FAMILY COURT (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	5,180	5,009	5,712	6,158	6,427	7,490	
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The total number of court-ordered supervisions as an outcome of Article 10 filings continues to rise.

CHILD FATALITIES IN CASES KNOWN TO ACS (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	43	50	44	58	43	56	
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The number of child fatalities jumped by 13 over the previous year; this includes deaths from natural causes.

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

FAMILIES RECEIVING ACS-CONTRACTED PREVENTIVE SERVICES (ANNUAL, CUMULATIVE):	19,172	20,853	21,039	22,280	22,147	20,322	
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The number of families in preventive programs dropped sharply in FY17 after rising slowly and steadily over several years.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN PREVENTIVE CASES (ACTIVE, JUNE):	22,952	25,762	25,172	26,123	24,459	24,680	
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The number of children in preventive cases in June 2017 was similar to the previous year.

PREVENTIVE CASES IN EVIDENCE-BASED SERVICES (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	665	754	3,231	5,695	5,780	5,422	
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Evidence-based preventive services have greatly expanded since their introduction, representing about 28% of all preventive cases in FY17.

PERCENTAGE OF PREVENTIVE CASES REFERRED BY ACS:	72.0	72.0	68.1	72.0	74.6	77.8	
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The majority of cases in preventive services continue to be referred by ACS Child Protective Services.

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT DURING PREVENTIVE SERVICES (%) (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	7.0	6.1	5.5	5.0	4.4	4.1	
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The percentage of preventive cases in which a child is placed in foster care is trending downward.

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO FOSTER CARE:	5,698	4,779	4,501	4,233	3,695	4,177	
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After a long trend of decreases, there was an increase in FY17.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED FROM FOSTER CARE:	6,453	5,416	4,969	4,250	4,421	3,655	
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The number of children discharged from care in FY17 dropped by 17% from the previous year's number.

TOTAL AVERAGE FOSTER CARE POPULATION:	13,820	12,958	11,750	11,098	9,926	8,960	
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Despite the increase in admitted children and decrease in children discharged, the number of children in foster care was at a record low.

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY FOR CHILDREN BEFORE RETURN TO PARENTS (MONTHS):	5.5	6.8	7.5	6.6	7.7	NA	
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Children entering foster care for the first time returned home in slightly under 8 months in FY16.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH REUNIFICATION GOAL (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	52.1	49.1	48.5	50.0	49.8	52.6	
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About half of the children in foster care at any point in time are expected to return home.

PERCENTAGE OF SEPARATED SIBLINGS (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	47.1	44.7	44.7	45.6	42.4	41.3	
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About 59% of siblings in foster care lived together in the most recent year.

RECIDIVISM RATE (%) (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	13.6	13.1	13.0	11.6	10.7	11.6	
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The percentage of children returning to foster care within two years of discharge increased slightly after a long decline.

PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER CHILDREN IN KINSHIP CARE:	35.0	34.4	33.5	32.8	32.5	30.8	
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The recent decline in kinship care likely reflects the introduction of KinGap, which allows permanent placement with relatives without adoption.

PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER PLACEMENTS IN BOROUGH OF ORIGIN:	57.9	60.7	61.6	62.4	63.2	62.1	
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This number includes residential care as well as foster boarding homes.

PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER PLACEMENTS IN CONTIGUOUS COMMUNITY DISTRICTS:	33.5	33.4	33.3	36.9	36.3	36.5	
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The number of children placed in foster homes close to home was over one-third of the system in FY17.

ADOPTION SERVICES

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH ADOPTION AS A GOAL (PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR):	30.7	32.4	31.5	29.8	29.8	28.0	
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The percentage of children in care with a goal of adoption was the lowest it has been in eight years.

NUMBER OF FINALIZED ADOPTIONS:	1,295	1,310	1,101	1,004	1,052	899	
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The number of adoptions in FY17 is lower, but is consistent with the previous two years in representing a quarter of children discharged from foster care.

AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE ADOPTIONS (YEARS):	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.7	NA	NA	
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This is the time it takes to finalize once a child is considered appropriate for adoption.