



WATCHING THE NUMBERS

MARCH 2019

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND
REPORTS							
Reports of abuse and neglect rose sharply in FY2017 and remained high in FY2018. Though the substantiation rate also increased in 2017, in 2018 it returned to previous levels.							
Reports of Abuse and Neglect	59,675	61,798	60,841	62,639	67,387	67,852	
Percentage of Reports Substantiated	39.8	39.5	38.7	36.1	40.4	38.7	

CASELOADS

Average caseloads for child protective caseworkers have been steadily increasing. The number of caseworkers with caseloads above 15 spiked dramatically in 2017; The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) did not report this number for the first two quarters of 2018. The best practice is caseloads of 12 families or fewer.							
Average Child Protective Caseload	8.2	9.8	10.5	10.6	12.4	12.5	
Caseworkers with Caseloads over 15 (June)*	8	157	111	173	341	NA	

PETITIONS AND OUTCOMES

The number of children in families taken to court by ACS has dramatically increased in the last two years, with a resulting jump in court-ordered supervision. Emergency removals also reached their highest level in the last five years.							
Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases Filed by ACS in Family Court	8,733	9,564	10,223	9,375	14,207	14,913	
ACS Supervision Ordered by Family Court (Previous Calendar Year)	5,009	5,712	6,158	6,427	7,490	10,783	
Total Emergency Removals	1,517	1,428	1,348	1,413	1,811	1,874	
Emergency Removals Approved at Initial Hearing	1,496	1,331	1,113	1,006	1,287	1,360	

FATALITIES

This number includes child fatalities in families known to ACS within the previous 10 years. The large majority of these fatalities were attributed by the medical examiner to natural or accidental causes or were related to unsafe sleep.							
Child Fatalities in Cases Known to ACS (Previous Calendar Year)	50	44	58	43	56	63	

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

FAMILIES SERVED IN PREVENTIVE SERVICES							
The number of families in preventive services dropped slightly in the most recent year, but the number of children served increased. Both numbers remain lower than three years ago. A dip in 2017 in new preventive cases in evidence-based services was sustained in 2018.							
Families Receiving ACS-Contracted Preventive Services	20,853	21,039	22,280	22,147	20,322	19,073	
Children Receiving ACS-Contracted Preventive Services	43,455	44,456	47,001	46,207	43,157	43,874	
New Preventive Cases in Evidence-Based Services	135	3,358	3,741	3,570	2,858	2,898	

PREVENTIVE SERVICES ENTRIES AND EXITS

Though preventive services are open to any family, an increasing percentage of families are referred to services by ACS. The percentage of children admitted to foster care during or shortly after preventive services declined slightly in FY2018.							
Percentage of Preventive Cases Referred by ACS	72.0	68.1	72.0	74.6	77.8	78.4	
Percentage of Children Admitted to Foster Care who Received Preventive Services within the Previous 12 Months (Previous Calendar Year)	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE							
The total foster care population continued to decline. However, the number of children admitted to foster care increased for the first time in many years.							
Total Average Foster Care Population	12,958	11,750	11,098	9,906	8,921	8,732	
Children Admitted to Foster Care (Previous Calendar Year)	5,076	4,495	4,307	3,905	3,750	4,314	

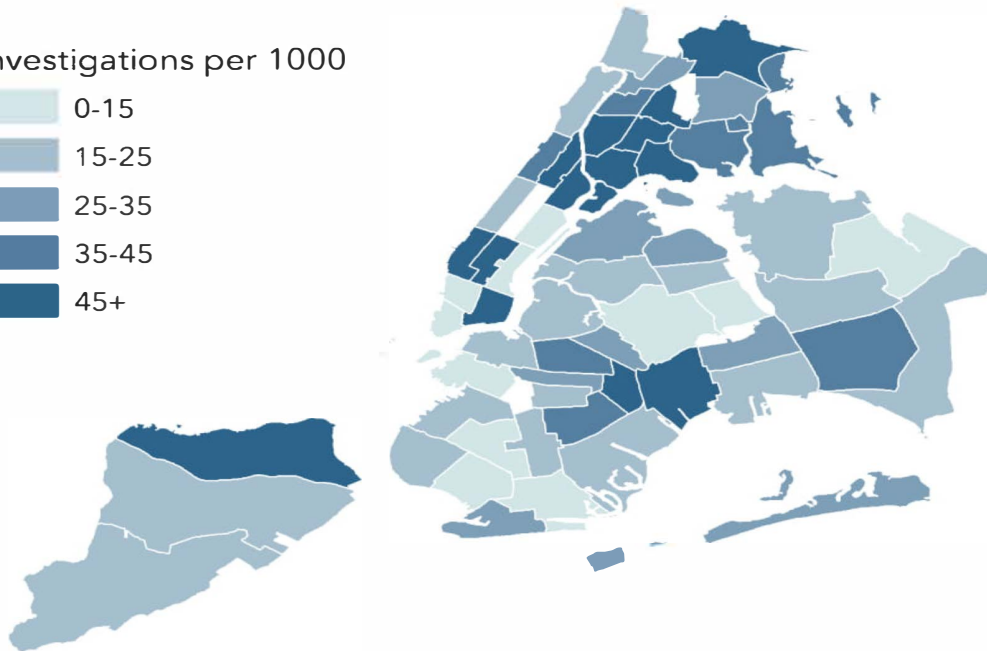
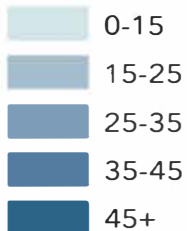
	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	TREND
FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS							
More children in foster care were able to maintain family ties, being placed with their siblings and in kinship care more often than in the previous several years.							
Percentage of Separated Siblings (Previous Calendar Year)	44.7	44.7	45.6	42.4	41.3	40.0	
Percentage of Foster Children in Kinship Care	34.4	33.5	32.8	32.6	30.9	33.0	
Percentage of Foster Placements in Borough of Origin	60.7	61.6	62.4	63.2	62.1	60.3	
Percentage of Foster Placements in Contiguous Community Districts	33.4	33.3	36.9	36.3	36.6	36.1	
FOSTER CARE DISCHARGES							
A slowdown in foster care discharges in FY2017 was reversed in FY2018, and fewer children aged out of the system (APPLA). More children had reunification goals than in recent years, though fewer were discharged to permanency within a year.							
Children Discharged from Foster Care	5,416	4,969	4,250	4,421	3,655	4,403	
Number of Children Discharged to KinGAP	114	248	271	325	361	305	
Number of Children Discharged to APPLA	911	860	761	764	706	675	
Percentage of Children with Reunification Goal (Previous Calendar Year)	49.1	48.5	50.0	49.8	52.6	54.5	
Percentage of Children Discharged to Permanency within a Year of Placement	33.2	32.6	30.9	32.0	31.8	29.9	
Children Discharged to Reunification within a Year (Previous Calendar Year)	2,122	1,843	1,481	1,554	1,440	1,322	
DISCHARGE OUTCOMES							
The percentage of children returning to foster care within two years dropped, reaching its lowest level in the past six years.							
Percentage of Children Returning to Care within Two Years of Discharge (Previous Calendar Year)	13.1	13.0	11.6	10.7	11.6	9.9	
ADOPTION SERVICES							
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Adoption is the end 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. A higher percentage of adoptions were completed in less than two years in CY2017.							
Percentage of Children with Adoption as a Goal (Previous Calendar Year)	32.4	31.5	29.8	29.8	28.0	26.8	
Adoptions (Previous Calendar Year)	1,362	1,208	1,048	1,025	958	888	
Percentage of Adoptions Completed in Less than Two Years (Previous Calendar Year)	26.4	30.2	30.0	24.4	30.0	32.2	
FOSTER CARE POPULATION							
DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE							
The children in foster care continue to be disproportionately African American and Latino. The increase in 2018 of the number of children admitted to foster care was particularly pronounced for ages 2-5 (an increase of 25 percent) and 6-9 (an increase of 23 percent).							
Children Admitted to Foster Care (Previous Calendar Year)	5,076	4,495	4,307	3,905	3,750	4,314	
< 2 years old	1,212	1,113	1,104	983	941	1,086	
2-5 years old	906	852	828	719	708	889	
6-9 years old	730	623	593	589	582	716	
10-13 years old	697	589	618	523	519	604	
14-17 years old	1,483	1,257	1,116	1,031	948	972	
18+ years old	48	61	48	60	52	47	
Children in Foster Care (December 31)	12,577	11,398	10,866	9,889	8,931	8,952	
White	339	240	480	490	485	505	
African American	4,887	3,583	5,808	5,230	4,732	4,736	
Latino	2,265	1,738	3,514	3,208	2,836	1,952	
Native American/Alaska Native	12	8	9	6	4	6	
Asian	44	29	159	137	132	148	
Unknown	5,030	5,800	563	818	742	1,605	
Percentage of Children in Foster Care More than Three Years (December 31)	34.6	35.5	35.0	34.1	33.6	29.9	
2-5 years old	28.5	28.9	29.2	26.5	28.3	25.6	
6-9 years old	39.5	39.8	39.7	39.0	38.5	35.0	
10-13 years old	39.2	41.0	39.9	37.9	35.9	32.7	
14-17 years old	33.4	33.9	32.8	32.8	30.3	26.1	
18+ years old	66.2	67.5	66.1	66.6	66.6	64.7	

GEOGRAPHY OF CHILDREN IN CHILD WELFARE

Child welfare investigations and foster care placements are geographically concentrated in the lowest-income and most predominately Black and Latino neighborhoods. The five community districts with the highest rates of investigation—Bronx districts 1, 2, 3, and 6 and Brooklyn district 16—are among the seven poorest community districts in the city and are all at least 94 percent Black and Latino. [See detailed data](#) on demographics, child welfare investigations, and foster care placements, by community district.

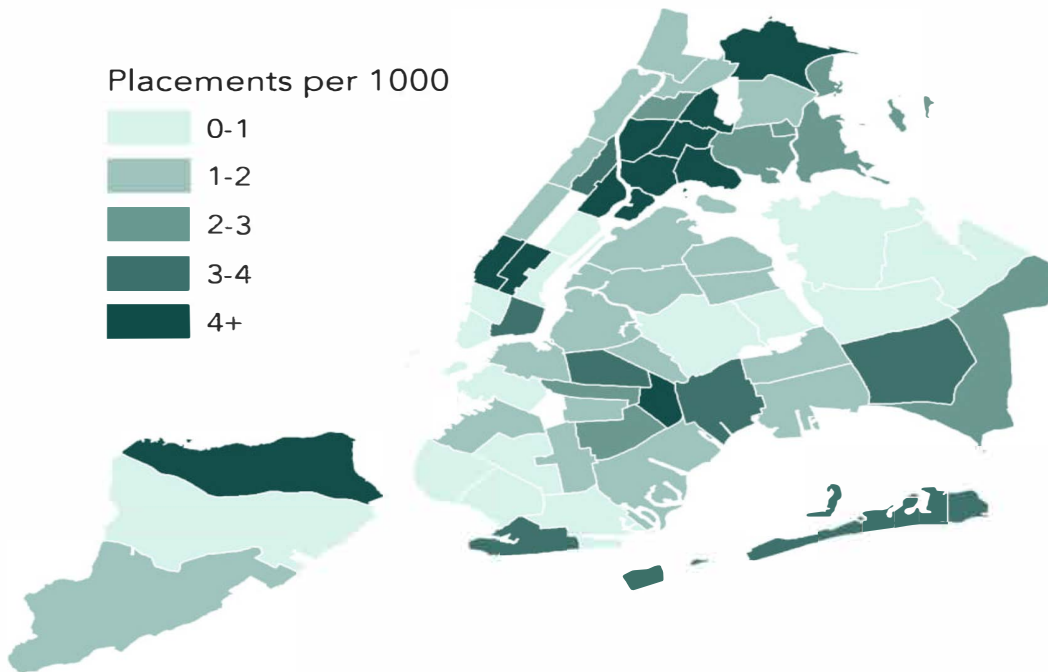
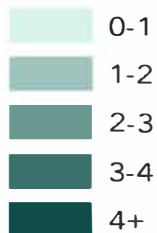
Child Welfare Investigations per 1000 Children

Investigations per 1000



Foster Care Placements per 1000 Children

Placements per 1000



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.

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

Revised 3/18/19

* ACS transitioned to a new Case Assignment System in early 2018, so the number of child protective caseworkers with caseloads over 15 is not available for the first two quarters of that year.