# 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 | |

| | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | 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.

| | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | 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.

| | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | 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.

| | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | 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.

| | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | 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.

| | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | 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% | |

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

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.

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