

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Annual Foster Care and Child Protective Services Data Overview

Overview

New York State is a county administered state supervised child welfare system where the role of Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is one of oversight. This data set provides basic information on the child welfare services provided by local Departments of Social Services (DSS). These include basic data on Child Protective Services (CPS) and Foster Care by county. This is based on the data utilized for the OCFS annual Monitoring and Analysis Profiles (MAPS) report, a report developed to support the program monitoring role of OCFS. These profiles that are produced annually have also been disseminated to assist in child welfare planning and decision-making.

Program data on Child Protective Services are taken from the OCFS CONNECTIONS database, while the program data on Foster Care and Adoption are taken from the Child Care Review Service (CCRS) database. Both of these are statewide, computerized child welfare databases. Annual data is extracted based on OCFS Data Warehouse and CONNECTIONS database data as of March 31st of the preceding year. Numbers in this particular extract may differ from those that appear on routine reports that are distributed by OCFS either because they are taken from the databases on different dates or because the definition of a term differs. Additionally, lag reporting by some Social Services districts affects all Foster Care and Adoption data. More details can be obtained from the annual MAPS report available on the OCFS web-site.

Datafile Overview

This data file contains, for each year, a number of annual indicators by county for the period from 1994 to the most recent available year. There are two types of indicators –care days and number of children. Care days is the total number of days children were cared for in foster care and for a given child it could be as high as 365 days. Number of admissions, discharges, in care at a point in time and served is a unique count of children belonging to each of these categories where a child is only counted once during the year. It provides the following details on children in foster care:

- **Care Days:** Days in 24 hour care during the year for each of the following categories:
 - ***Adoptive Home*** means adoptive and/or adoption subsidized home for children. This is a home where a child has been placed for adoption with approved adoptive parent(s) where the adoptive parent(s) are not approved or certified foster parent(s).
 - ***Agency Operated Boarding Home*** means a family-type home for the care and maintenance of not more than six children operated by an authorized agency, in quarters or premises owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of such agency; except that such a home may provide care for more than six brothers and sisters of the same family

- **Approved Relative Home** means a foster care placement with a relative that has been approved by the state as a foster parent. A relative is within the second or third degree to the parent(s) or step-parent(s) of the child and is approved by an authorized agency.
 - **Foster Boarding Home** means a residence owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of a single person or family who has been certified or approved by an authorized agency or is used by a local probation department, the State Department of Mental Hygiene or the Office of Children and Family Services to care for children, and such person or family receives payment from the agency for the care of such children. Such home may care for not more than six children, including all children under the age of 13 residing in the home, whether or not they are received for board. However, up to two additional children may be cared for if such children are siblings, or are siblings of a child living in the home, or are part of a minor parent/child unit, or are children freed for adoption and placed for adoption with the person(s) who have been certified or approved as foster parents. Such home may exceed these limits only to receive for board a child or children returning to that foster family boarding home.
 - **Group Home** means a family-type home for the care and maintenance of not less than seven nor more than 12 children who are at least five years of age, operated by an authorized agency, in quarters or premises owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of such agency; except that such minimum age shall not be applicable to siblings placed in the same facility, nor to children whose mother is placed in the same facility.
 - **Group Residence** means an institution for the care and maintenance of not more than 25 children, operated by an authorized agency.
 - **Institution** means a facility established for the 24-hour care and maintenance of 13 or more children, operated by a child care agency.
 - **Supervised Independent Living Program** means one or more of a type of agency boarding home operated and certified by an authorized agency in accordance with the regulations of the OCFS to provide a transitional experience for older youth who, based upon circumstances, are appropriate for transition to the level of care and supervision provided in the program.
 - **Other** include residential treatment facilities, skilled nursing facilities, specialized schools, etc.
- **Admissions** – Total number of unique children admitted to foster care during calendar year.
 - **Discharges** - Total number of unique children discharged from care during a calendar year.
 - **Children in Care** - Total number of children in foster care on December 31st of the calendar year. This is point in time data.
 - **Number of children served** – Total number of **children served** during the year. This includes children that were admitted in previous years as well as those admitted during the given year. As a result, this is usually higher than both admissions and point in time in care.

It also provides the following number for Child Protective Services (CPS):

- Indicated Child Protective Services (CPS) Reports - This is the total number of CPS reports that were indicated for abuse/maltreatment during a calendar year.