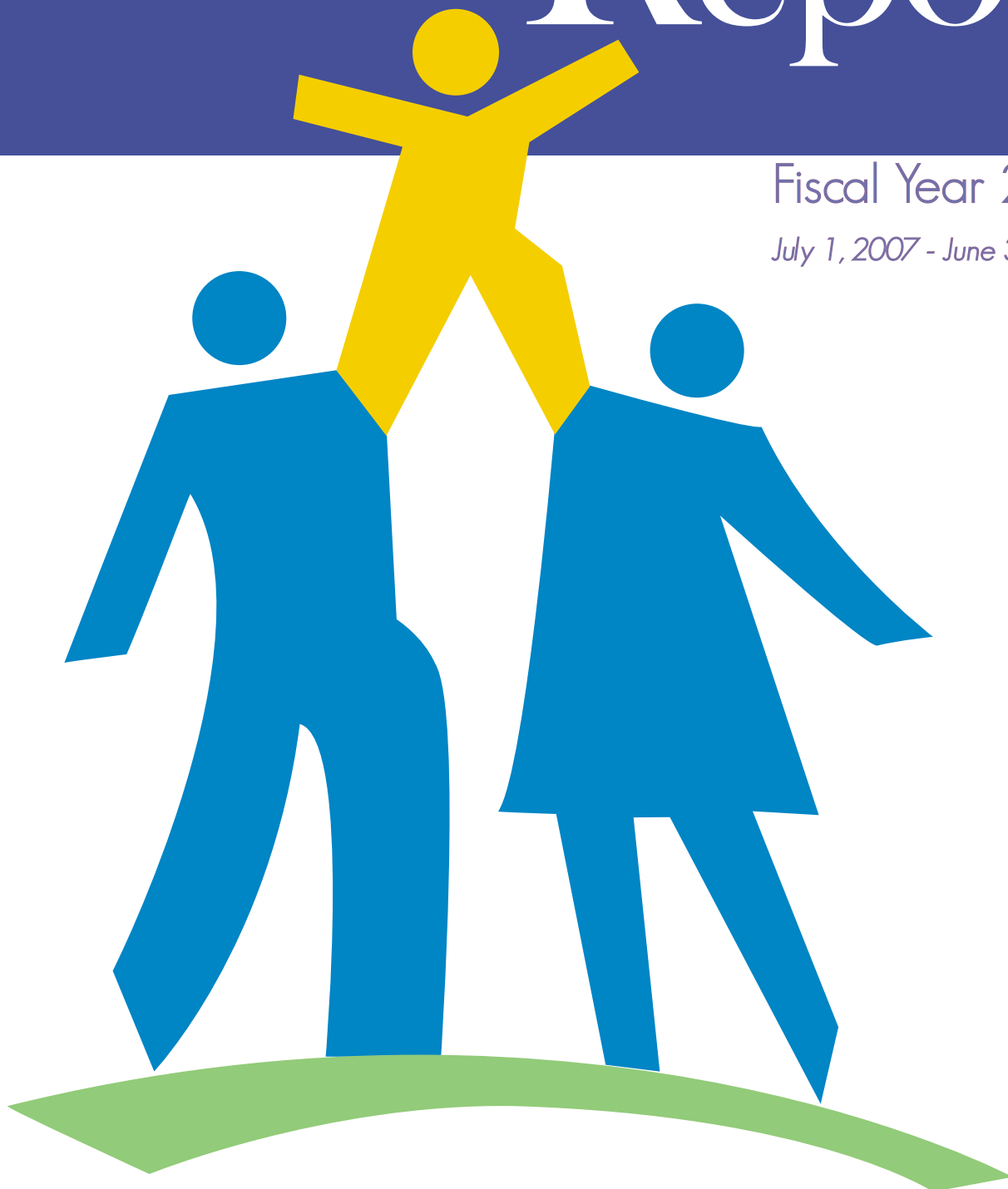


Annual Agency P E R F O R M A N C E Report

Fiscal Year 2008

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008



New Jersey
Department of Children and Families

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About the Department of Children and Families



The Department of Children and Families DCF was created in July 2006 by Governor Jon S. Corzine and the Legislature as New Jersey's first Cabinet agency devoted exclusively to serving and safeguarding the most vulnerable children and families in the state. DCF, staffed by approximately 7,000 employees, encompasses:

Division of Youth and Family Services
(DYFS)

Division of Child Behavioral Health Services
(DCBHS)

Division Prevention and Community Partnerships
(DPCP)

Office of Education
(OOE)

Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit
(IAIU)

State Central Registry / Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
(SCR)

Office of Licensing
(OOL)

DCF is focused on strengthening families and achieving safety, permanency, and well-being for all New Jersey's children. Current priorities focus on reducing caseloads, implementing new case practice that supports parents and children as partners in decisions, managing outcomes by data, moving children to adoption timely, and recruiting more safe and loving foster homes for our most vulnerable children.

DCF has also embarked on several important initiatives, including: improving the system of health care for children in the state's care, building a robust network of family support and prevention services in our local communities, and building capacity in the child behavioral health system.

Overview of Achievements



Since 2006, DCF has achieved progress in many key priority areas. In just two years, DCF:

- ▶ finalized over 4,000 adoptions in the last three Fiscal Years, including nearly 1,400 adoptions in FY 2008;
- ▶ continued to reduce the number of children awaiting adoption, from over 2,300 children in early 2006 to under 1,300 by the end of 2007;
- ▶ licensed over 1,800 new resource (foster, adoptive and kin) homes in FY 2008;
- ▶ achieved a total net gain of 1550 foster and adoptive homes over the last two Fiscal Years, marking two years of increases after three consecutive years of net losses;
- ▶ made remarkable progress in achieving manageable caseloads for caseworkers serving New Jersey's most vulnerable kids and families;
- ▶ reduced the number of children sent out of state for child behavioral health services from 327 in March 2006 to 103 in November 2008 by building New Jersey's capacity to serve our kids here at home; and
- ▶ built a statewide network of child abuse prevention services, supporting at risk mothers and families.

ABOUT THE MODIFIED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

New Jersey's Modified Settlement Agreement (MSA) was finalized in July 2006, replacing the previous settlement agreement in 2003. The MSA, which is divided into two phases, is the Corzine Administration's blueprint for the reform of New Jersey's child welfare system. The first phase, which covers July 2006 through December 2008, focuses on the fundamentals of child welfare, including reductions in caseloads, continued enhancement in the development of data, improving foster care and adoption, and improving institutional investigations. The second phase, which will begin in January 2009, looks for return on the investments in Phase I and focuses on real outcomes for children and families.

Implementing New Case Practice in DCF



The core of child welfare reform in New Jersey is to build a culture in our agency and with our stakeholders and the community that allows us to support and partner with our children and families in achieving their full potential.

“The division has been wonderful, helpful and understanding.”

In the past, burdened by large caseloads and scarcity of resources, child welfare staff ran from task to task, triaging each crisis as it arose. They could not be what they need to be for vulnerable children and families – agents of change. Held accountable for outcomes they could not achieve without the right tools and supports, they in turn were required to hold families accountable without providing those families with their critical tools and supports. Along the way, they lost the ability to engage robustly and constructively with families, who must be our most powerful allies to provide our children with safety, permanency, and well being. Reform requires changing that dynamic and making it possible for our staff, families, and children to partner to achieve success.



“I was extremely impressed by the dedication, support and understanding of the staff.”

To that end, in 2007 DCF published – for the first time in DYFS’ history - a model of case practice that details how we want to do our work for children and families. That model identified family engagement as a core strategy, and it articulates how DCF expects children and families to be treated and how they and their natural supports will be engaged and included in decisions affecting each child’s safety, permanency, and well-being.

-Quotes from families at Family Team Meetings.

Implementing New Case Practice in DCF

“visits to local DYFS offices reveal healthy signs that the practice change envisioned....is taking hold.there is clearly a beginning shift in the way that workers see their roles. Some intake workers speak of approaching families with more respect and empathy with the result of improved ability to work with families to keep children safe.”

“In focus groups, staff report excitement that in their work with families they began to use skills they had left behind in social work school.”

*Monitoring Report for
Charlie and Nadine H.v. Corzine
January 1-June 30, 2008*

The implementation plan of this model has been dynamic and continuous with constant attention to evaluating our progress along the way.

One of the key elements of implementing this practice in New Jersey is the ongoing effort to train staff statewide. Over 5,000 staff have been trained on the first two modules of the case practice model – Building Trust Based Relationships and Making Visits Matter. In addition, DCF is working aggressively to build capacity to sustain training and coaching efforts going forward. Courses to be provided to newly hired staff or as make-up classes will be offered through trainers who have developed their skills through co-training, observation and coaching by the Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group (CWPPG). Foster parents have also been offered an introduction to the model via Web-based training through Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS). Through mid-2008, 40 foster parents have completed the class.

DCF selected four local DYFS offices – Bergen Central, Burlington East, Gloucester West and Mercer North – to serve as the first immersion sites for more extensive case practice training and coaching. From the end of 2008 through early 2009, seven more local offices will begin the immersion training process and DCF is working towards having all 46 local offices complete this extended and intensive training by 2010.



Additionally, DYFS has appointed a new Deputy Director whose responsibility is to lead a team solely dedicated to the successful statewide implementation of case practice.

Creating Manageable Caseloads for DYFS Caseworkers

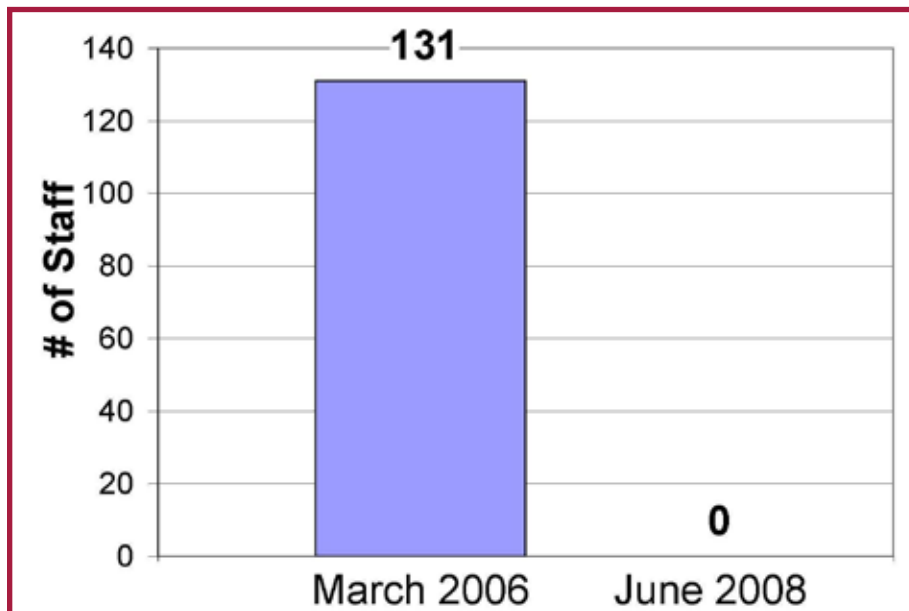


Manageable caseloads in the child welfare system are a necessity of the work.

When child welfare staff is overburdened by too many cases, vulnerable children and families cannot receive the necessary attention and services they need.

In March 2006, over 100 caseworkers had caseloads of more than 30 families. With that many families, workers could not do the real work of child welfare – engaging and teaming with children and families to lead to better outcomes. As of June 2008, a little more than two years later, no caseworkers had more than 30 families, setting the stage for real and meaningful reform to better serve children and families¹. The same was still true through the end of calendar year 2008.

CASELOADS: Staff with more than 30 families



“Lower caseloads across the State have not only produced greater stability in the workforce, but have created an environment conducive to moving forward with the Case Practice Model implementation and other reforms.”

*Monitoring Report for Charlie and Nadine H.v. Corzine
January 1-June 30, 2008*

¹ See Appendix A for charts detailing caseloads for Fiscal Year 2008 for intake workers (initial investigators), permanency workers (workers with children being served in their homes and in foster care), adoption workers (caseworkers focused on finding forever families for kids in need), and worker to supervisor ratios. Each chart notes the MSA target for the office average, along with the standard for each timeframe.

Initial Response: Hotline Calls to Central Screening and Institutional Abuse



State Central Registry – Child Abuse Neglect Hotline

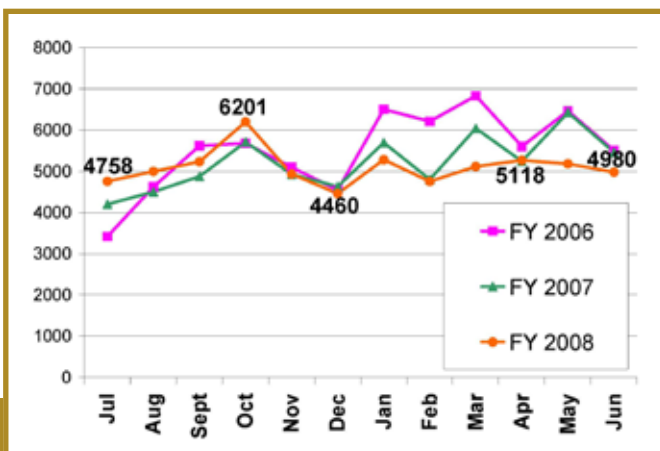
The state child abuse and neglect hotline, also known as the State Central Registry, fields approximately 17,00 phone calls per month. Many of these calls are referred to local offices within the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), and fall into two categories:

- ❶ **Child Protective Services:** an allegation of child abuse or neglect is made
- ❷ **Family Service Request** (also known as a *Child Welfare Assessment*): a family is in need of services but there is no allegation of abuse or neglect

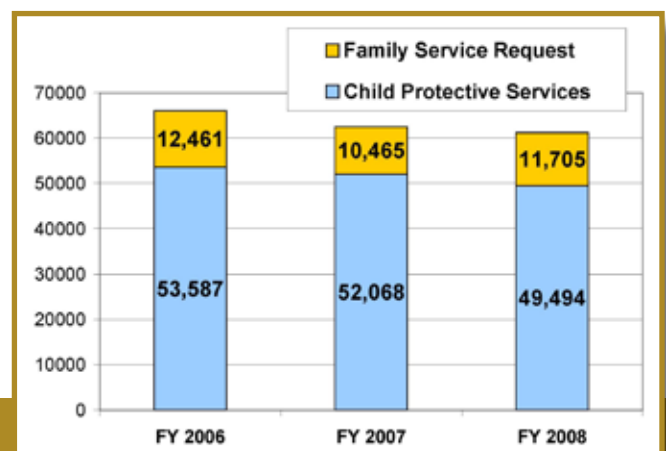
The State Central Registry also handles requests for general information, requests that result in a referral to an agency other than DYFS, follow up calls to obtain additional information in order to process a referral, and any other calls that are made to the hotline. SCR also handles nearly 8,000 administrative calls per month to support the 24/7 operation of the Department.

In Fiscal Year 2008, approximately 60,000 calls to the hotline were referred to a DYFS local office for investigation or follow-up. The vast majority of those referrals were for child protective services.

Hotline Referrals to all DYFS Local Offices



Hotline Referrals to DYFS Offices
Child Protective Services v. Family Service Requests

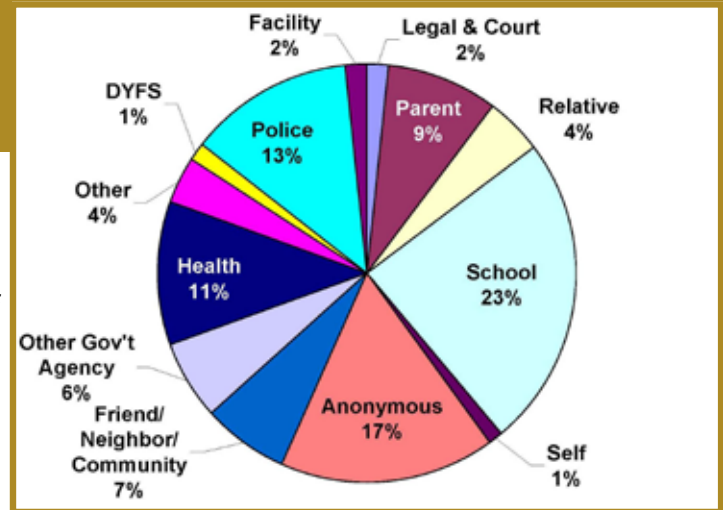


DCF has significantly improved the quality and professionalism of the state's child abuse and neglect hotline, as reflected in a comprehensive analysis and report issued by the Federal Monitor in August 2008.

Initial Response: Hotline Calls to Central Screening and Institutional Abuse

Source of All Referrals (CPS and FSR)
January - June 2008

DCF relies on many different community and outside partners to report when child abuse or neglect is suspected, or when a family is in need of services. Our largest partners in this work include schools and education professionals, police and law enforcement, and the health community².

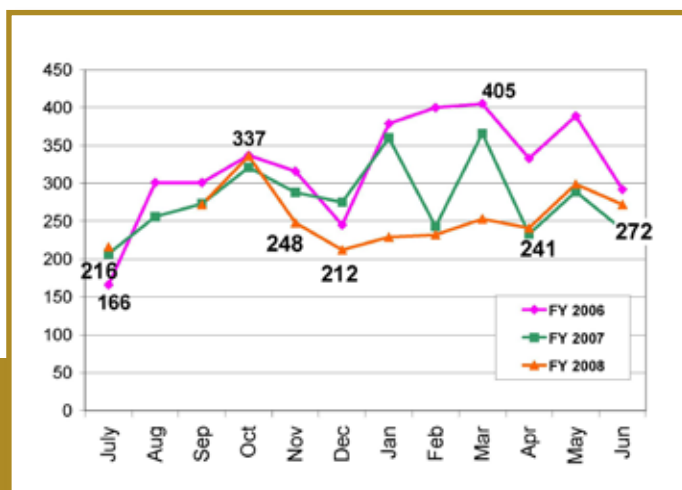


Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit

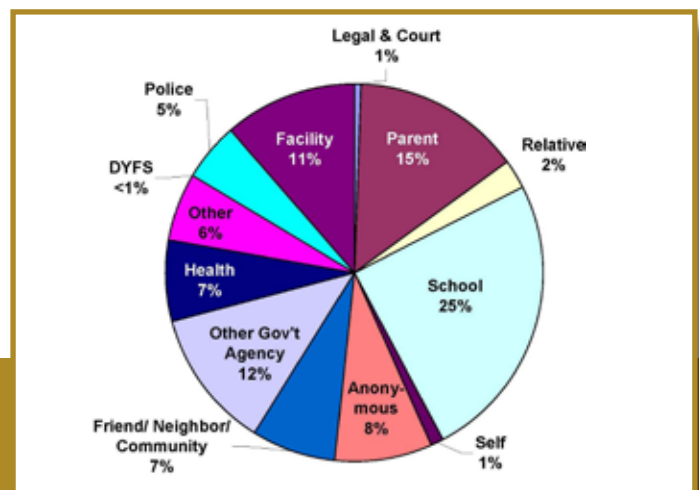
As part of New Jersey's legal mandate to investigate all allegations of abuse and neglect, DCF manages the Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU). This unit addresses abuse and neglect allegations that take place in all public and private institutions and facilities. This mandate covers all public and private schools, child care centers, registered and unregistered family day care homes, children's residential treatment facilities and shelters, foster homes, detention and correctional facilities, camps and hospitals.

DCF's greatest resources for reporting child abuse and neglect in institutional settings are schools, parents, and other government agencies

All Hotline Referrals to IAIU
FY 2006 - FY 2008



Source of All IAIU Referrals
January - June 2008

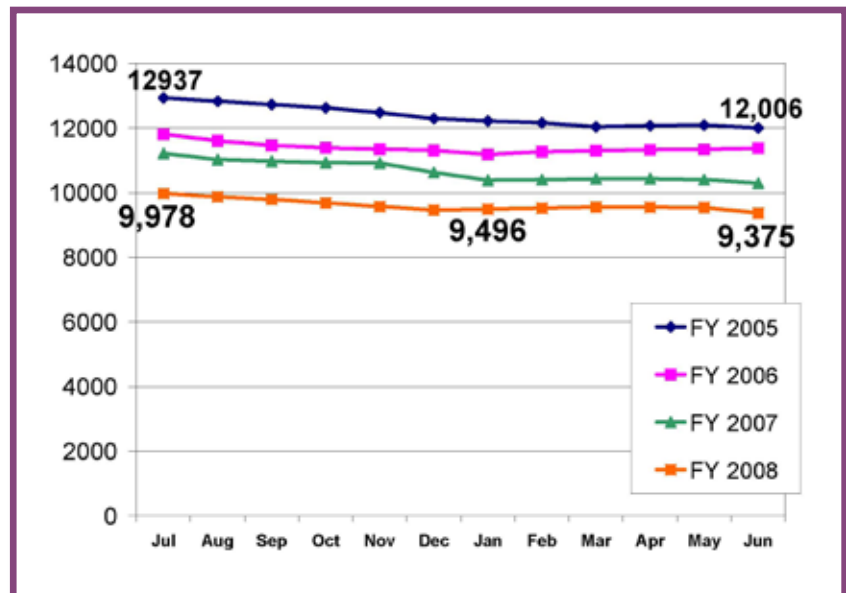


²See Appendix B for additional details on referral numbers and sources specifically for Child Protective Services and Family Service Requests.

Children Served by the Division of Youth and Family Services



Children in DYFS Out-of-Home Placement
FY 2005 - 2008



At the end of FY2008, DYFS served nearly 50,000 children. The vast majority of those children – about 85 percent – are served in their homes with their birth parents³.

Approximately 70 percent of the children served by DYFS (both in and out-of-home) are under the age of 12⁴.

For the approximately 9,000 children in out-of-home placement, most are placed in family settings, either with a foster/adoptive home or with relatives.

Children in DYFS Out-of-Home Placement⁵
Placement Types - FY07 v. FY08

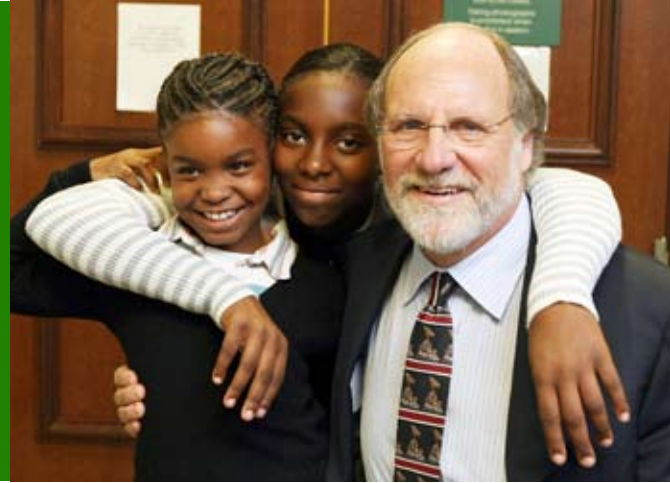
	July 2007	July 2008
Independent Living	152	156
Group Homes & Residential	1474	1247
Kinship & Relative	3562	3548
Resource Family (non-kin)	4790	4424
TOTAL	9978	9375

³See Appendix C for full chart comparisons on the total number of children and families served by DYFS.

⁴See Appendix C for full charts on the gender, age and race of children served by DYFS, including the total population of children, children served in their homes, and children in out-of-home placement.

⁵See Appendix C for breakout of children in out-of-home placement by county.

Adoption & Permanency for Children

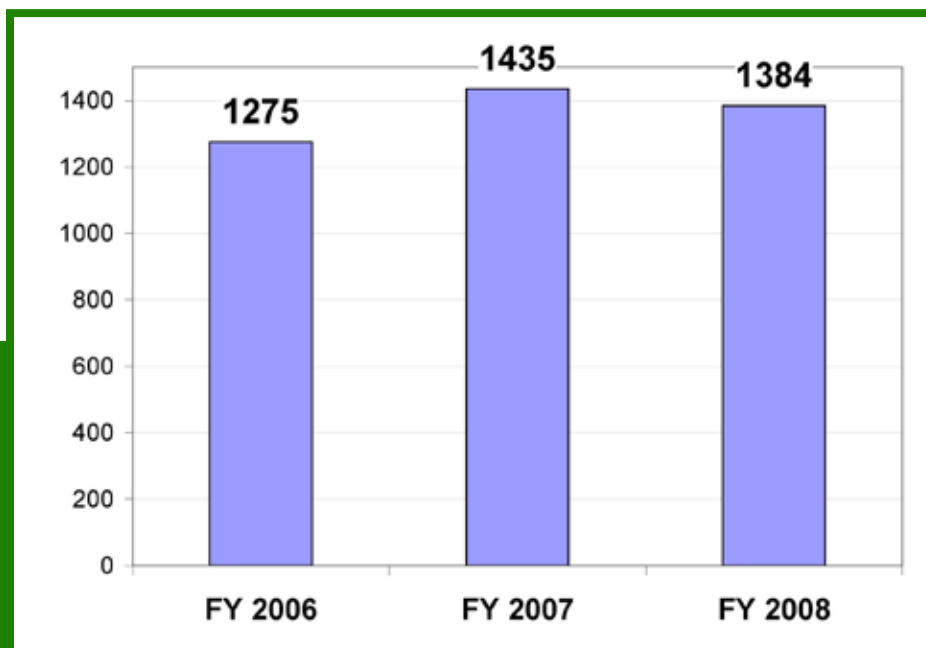


Governor Corzine with a new forever family on National Adoption Day 2008 in Essex County.

Between 2004 and 2005, the number of foster children who were adopted had fallen more than 14 percent, leaving a record backlog of 2,300 children who were legally free and waiting to be adopted at the beginning of 2006. Since 2006, DCF rebuilt the agency's dismantled adoption infrastructure by establishing specialized adoption practice units in DYFS offices and invested in additional resources to achieve adoption targets. As a result of those efforts, since Governor Corzine took office, DCF has achieved significant progress with record numbers of adoptions –nearly 3,000 former foster children adopted in calendar years 2006 and 2007. DCF will also finalize over 1,300 additional adoptions in calendar year 2008.

For the first time since the data has been tracked, these same two years witnessed a consistent decrease in the number of children waiting to be adopted, which dropped below 1,300 children in December 2007. With approximately 1,200 new children becoming legally free for adoption every year, DCF has significantly increased the number of children who join their adoptive families in a timely fashion.

Finalized Adoptions: Fiscal Year 2006-2008



Adoption & Permanency for Children



DYFS Director Christine Mozes and DCF Commissioner Kimberly Ricketts pictured with newly-adopted youth, Tyree on National Adoption Day 2008 in Atlantic County.

“The love of a family gives you a sense of security. It is just so comfortable. We feel blessed to be together forever no matter what happens,” said Christine Ross, whose family adopted 17-year old Tyree at the National Adoption Day event in Atlantic County.

Special Focus on Teens and Sibling Groups

Since 2007, DYFS has focused on a special initiative to recruit adoptive homes for adolescents who have been in the foster care system the longest amount of time awaiting a forever adoptive family.

Six adoption recruiters from across the state were reassigned to the DYFS central office in Trenton to work exclusively on finding homes for these children. The vast majority of these children are adolescents and youth who want to be adopted with their siblings. DCF has committed to pursue individualized and intensive permanency activities and supports for these often difficult-to-place populations.

In calendar year 2008, DCF finalized adoptions for over 120 teens and nearly 400 children were adopted with their biological siblings.

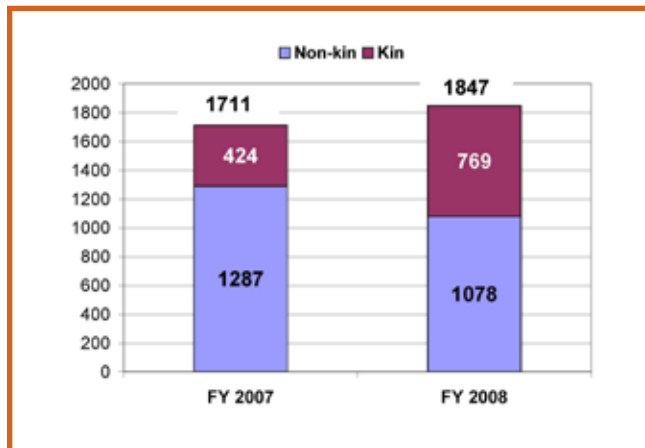
Recruiting and Licensing Resource Family Homes



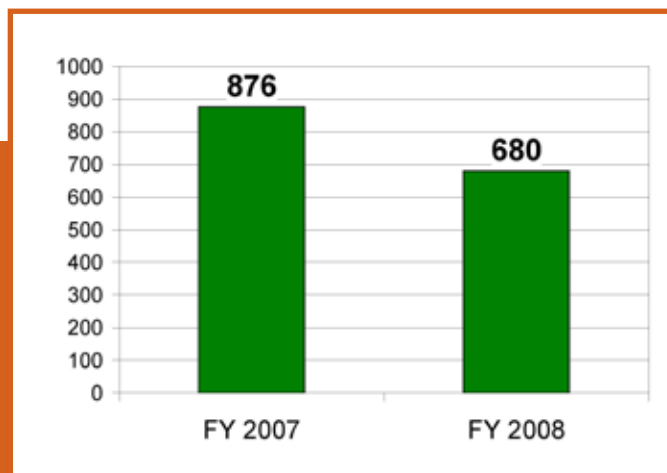
In Fiscal Year 2008, DCF continued to build on the exceptional gains it made in its recruitment and licensure of resource families, which include kinship, foster and adoptive caregivers.

As recently as 2004 and 2005, DCF experienced net losses in its pool of resource families, leaving the system dangerously stretched without enough safe and loving homes for children who were removed from their families. But beginning in 2006, with changes in both structure and strategy, DCF made aggressive progress in recruitment and licensing, resulting in a net gain of more than 1000 homes between 2006 and 2007. (A net gain is the balance between new homes opened and the number of existing homes closed.) That progress continued in 2008 with DCF licensing 992 new resource family homes by June 2008 – well beyond the mid-year target of 764.

Total Resource Family Homes Licensed
FY 2007 - 2008



Net Gain of Resource Families
FY 2007 - 2008



Services for Aging-Out Youth



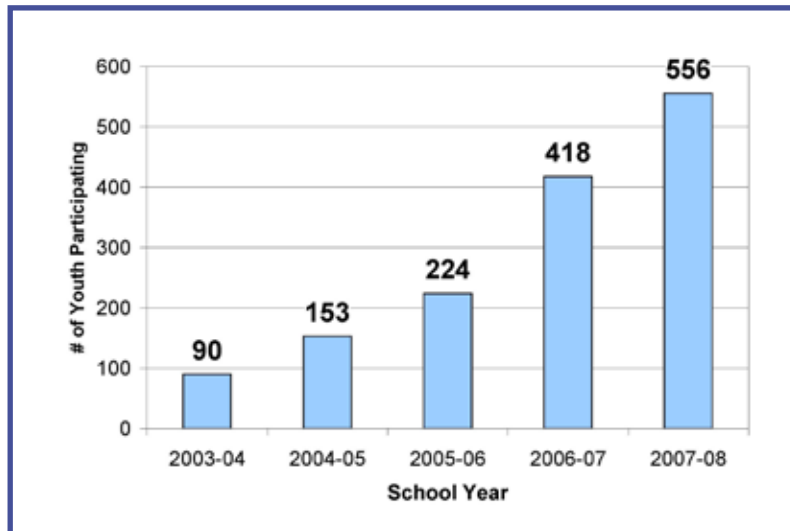
New Jersey Scholars Program

The New Jersey Scholars Program was developed in 2003 and is specifically designed to help adoptive and foster families with the growing expenses of providing a college education to their youngsters. A college education is often the key to helping youth achieve a successful transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency.

In addition to financial assistance with college expenses, participants in the Scholars Program also receive services through Project MYSELF, a mentoring program sponsored through Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Project MYSELF helps current foster youth plan and prepare for post-secondary educational programs and provides support to those who go on to post-secondary educational programs.

Over 500 youth participated in the Scholars Program in the 2007-2008 school year, a dramatic increase from the 90 youth who participated the first year the program was instituted. The FY 2008 budget for the Scholars Program was \$2.5 million, which included \$986,000 in available federal funding and \$1.6 million in state funds.

Children Participating in the NJ Scholars Program
2003 – 2008 by School Year



DCF is committed to providing services to adolescents in foster care as they transition to adulthood and independence. In 2007, as a part of the Youth Supportive Housing Initiative, DCF provided over \$2 million to community organizations to make 112 new housing options available to youth (ages 18 to 21) who are homeless or making the transition from the child welfare system to self-sufficiency and adulthood. The new placements supplemented the 150 transitional housing beds already in place statewide and represented the single largest expansion in transitional housing for homeless and aging-out youth in the state's history.

The Youth Supportive Housing Initiative also included the first-ever program in New Jersey geared toward providing targeted residential services to gay and lesbian youth. DCF has also funded nine new slots to serve youth who are aging out of foster care and also have a disability – a vulnerable population that previously had few placement options available to them.

Coordinated Child Health Services for Children in Out-of-Home Care



When DCF has to remove a child from his or her home to ensure safety, DCF steps into the role of providing for that child as a parent would, including the responsibility to provide the child with quality health care. To that end, DCF developed and released a plan in May 2007 to provide children in out-of-home placement with coordinated, consistent, and comprehensive health care that is one of the most ambitious in the country. As of June 2008, Child Health Units were operational in four counties long enough to demonstrate that DCF's health care model works and will lead to better outcomes for children in out-of-home placement. DCF was also able to ensure that 100 percent of children entering care received a pre-placement assessment, and by the end of Fiscal Year 2008, approximately 90 percent of those children received their examinations in a non-emergency room setting⁶.

Based on that plan, DCF is focused on building Child Health Units – staffed by nurses and staff assistants whose job is to ensure that children in out-of-home placement receive quality health care – across the state. DCF is partnering with the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center School of Nursing at UMDNJ (UMDNJ-FXB) to staff these Child Health Units in DYFS Local Offices across the state. The four Child Health Units fully established in Sussex, Hunterdon, Bergen, and Passaic counties are the farthest along in development, and as a result provide the most significant insight into the efficacy of the model.

By the end of the fiscal year, the advent of the child health units had a major impact on improving the timeliness in which children in out-of-home placement receive comprehensive medical examinations (CMEs). As demonstrated by the following chart, children served by the Child Health Units' health care case management (HCCM) in Sussex, Hunterdon, Bergen, and Passaic Counties received CMEs within 60 days 77 percent of the time and within 90 days 92 percent of the time.

This is real and meaningful progress over 2005 and 2006, when the vast majority of children did not even receive these exams. In the local offices that do not yet have fully effective Child Health Units, there has also been improvement with the work and the help of nursing staff assistants. But much work is still ahead in order to ensure that children in out-of-home placement receive the medical care they need and deserve.

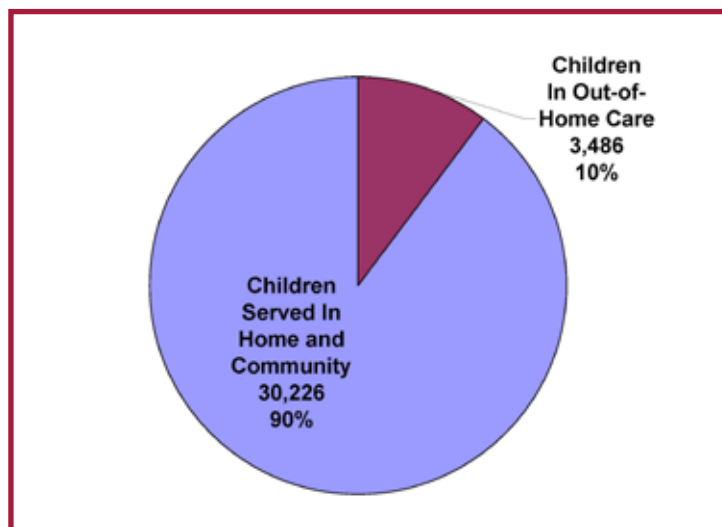
Local Office	Children Entering Placement*	CME within 60 days	%	CME within 90 days	Cumulative Percentage
Bergen Central	27	12	44%	9	78%
Bergen South	25	19	76%	4	92%
Hunterdon	2	2	100%	0	100%
Passaic Central	56	46	82%	7	95%
Passaic North	28	23	82%	3	93%
Sussex	16	16	100%	0	100%
TOTAL	154	118	77%	23	92%

⁶See Appendix D for further information on the number of children receiving pre-placement assessments and the frequency with which those exams are completed in emergency room settings.

Services for Children with Mental and Behavioral Health Needs



DCF’s Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) works hard to keep kids in their homes whenever possible, and serves the majority of youth – approximately 90 percent – at home, with 10 percent receiving care and services in out-of-home placement. Whenever youth are served outside the home, DCBHS strives to serve those children as close to home as possible, and has been reducing the use of out-of-state providers dramatically over the last two years as noted on page 15.



NOTE: The chart above reflects individual children served in Fiscal Year 2008.

	FY 2007	FY 2008
Intensive In-Community	19,027	18,006
Behavioral Assistance	7,953	6,568
Mobile Response	7,341	7,669
Wrap/Flex	5,578	6,816
Out-of-Home Placement	3,465	3,289
Outpatient Services	2,417	3,269
Partial Care	353	370
Hospital	145	168
TOTAL	46,279	46,155

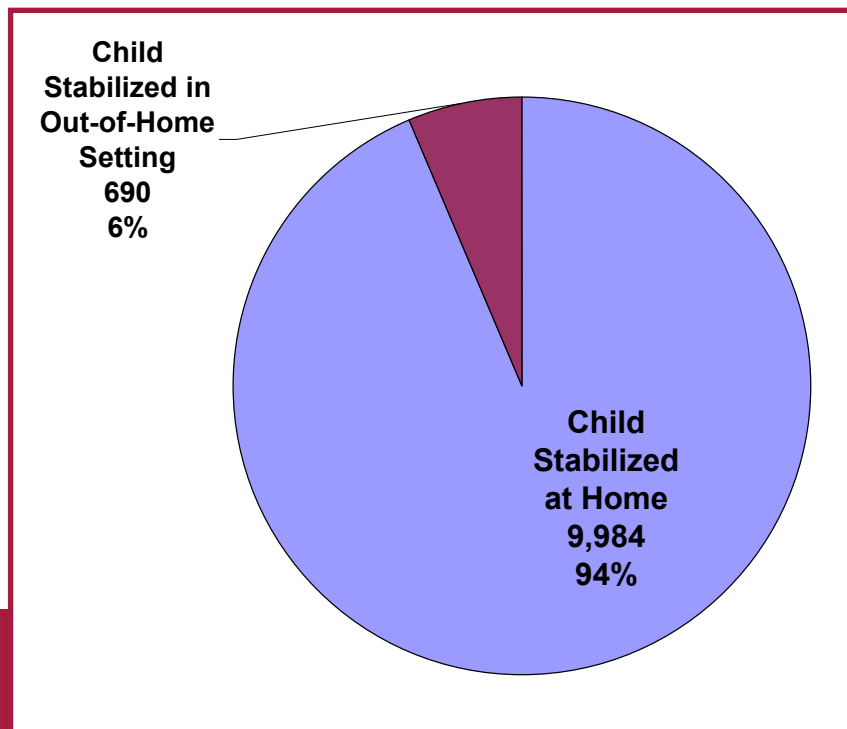
NOTE: The chart of services above reflects the number of services accessed, not individual children. Some children may access several different services over time.

Serving Children in their Homes - Mobile Response and Stabilization Services

Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) begins with a phone call that deploys clinical staff rapidly to a family's home to respond to a child's mental or behavioral health crisis. Clinical staff respond within one hour of dispatch, and families receive up to 72 hour in-home crisis and stabilization services which can be followed by up to eight weeks of intensive in-community, behavioral assistance or wrap-around services. The goal of MRSS is to maintain youth in their home environment and avoid unnecessary hospitalization or out of home placement.

In Fiscal Year 2008, there were over 10,000 children served by MRSS. The vast majority of these children were stabilized and able to continue to receive services in their homes.

Mobile Response: Children Stabilized in Their Own Homes
FY 2008

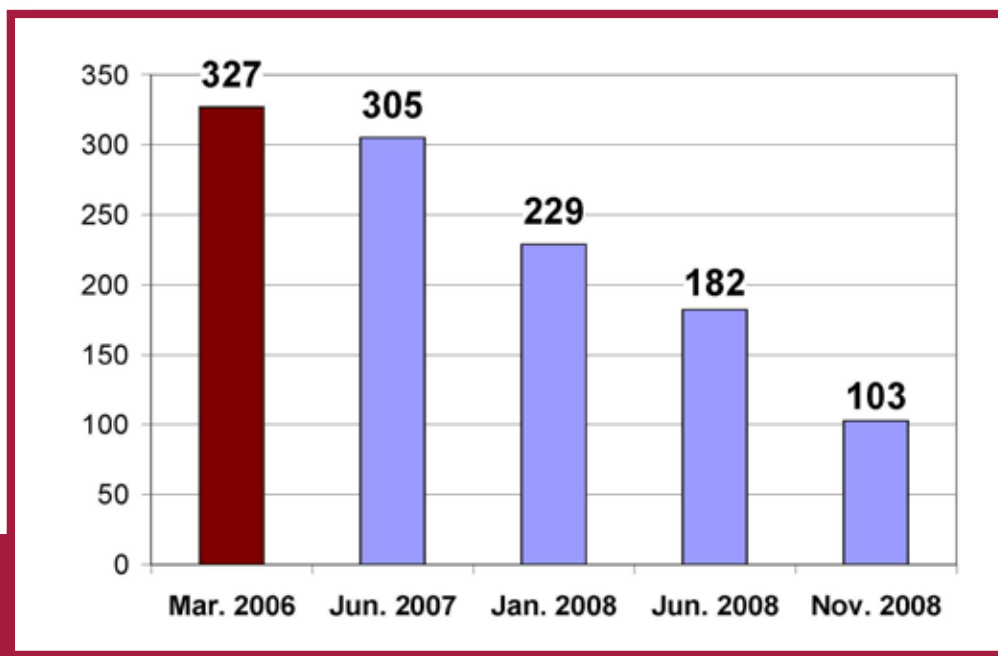


Children in Out-of-State Placements

DCF continued its unprecedented success in reducing the number of children receiving behavioral health services in out-of-state facilities. As of June 2008, at the end of this monitoring period, only 182 youth were placed out-of-state – down from 305 one year earlier, in June 2007, and down from 229 in January 2008. The remarkable progress continued with only 103 children placed out of state in November 2008.

DCF's continued success is due to the department's focus on managing new authorizations to out-of-state care, a year-long case planning initiative focusing on returning youth from out-of-state care, and continuing efforts to develop appropriate in-state resources for these youth. Notably, DCF continued this success not by focusing on just reducing the count of youth in out-of-state care. DCF instead emphasized providing high quality, appropriate care for youth as close to their home communities as possible⁷.

Number of Children in
DCBHS Out-of-State Placements



⁷See Appendix E for further information on youth in DYFS custody in juvenile detention post-disposition awaiting placement, January 2008 - June 2008.

Child Abuse Prevention Programs



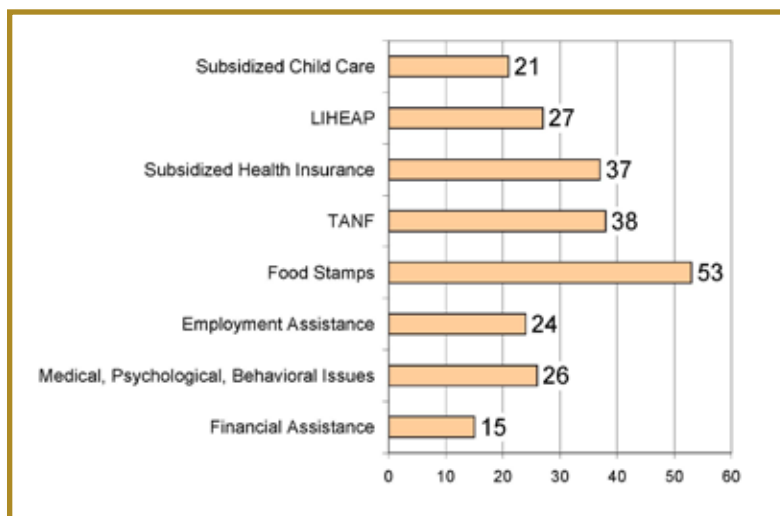
Since 2006, New Jersey has made unprecedented strides in expanding child abuse prevention and family support services, as well as increasing access to resources that are designed to strengthen families and prevent child abuse or neglect.

Differential Response Pilot Initiative

The Differential Response Pilot Initiative assists families who call or are referred to the New Jersey abuse/neglect hotline when they need social services and there are no issues of child abuse or neglect. Differential Response is designed to give access to support services that can strengthen families and help prevent child abuse and neglect when children may be at risk. There are currently four counties participating in this initiative: Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem. And additional two counties, Middlesex and Union, will become operational in early 2009. Over 750 families were served by Differential Response in FY 2008.

The Differential Response Pilot Initiative represents a significant step in the improvement in New Jersey's child welfare system as it reduces the number of cases that must be opened and managed by DYFS but still works to ensure families get the support they need. Keeping families out of the child welfare system, when achieved appropriately and safely, is a real outcome for those families.

Example of Requests to Differential Response Site: Camden
FY 2008



Home Visitation Programs

The Home Visitation Program provides services to families challenged by complex health related and/or social problems. This program focuses on young families who are at risk for abuse and neglect with primary prevention and early intervention services for pregnant women and children up to age five. There are currently 30 total Home Visitation Programs represented in 18 counties (16 are Healthy Family models, seven are Nurse Family Partnership models, and seven are other models). In FY 2008, over 2,200 families were served by a Home Visitation program in New Jersey.

Child Abuse Prevention Programs

“These Family Success Center grants signify another positive step reached by the Department of Children and Families in its mission to ensure the protection of our children while creating stronger family units in communities across the state.”

Governor Corzine (DCF press release “DCF marks 1-year anniversary with family success,” 07/11/2007)

Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education

The Strengthening Families Initiative (NJ SFI) is an approach to preventing child abuse and neglect by strengthening families through early care and education developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP).

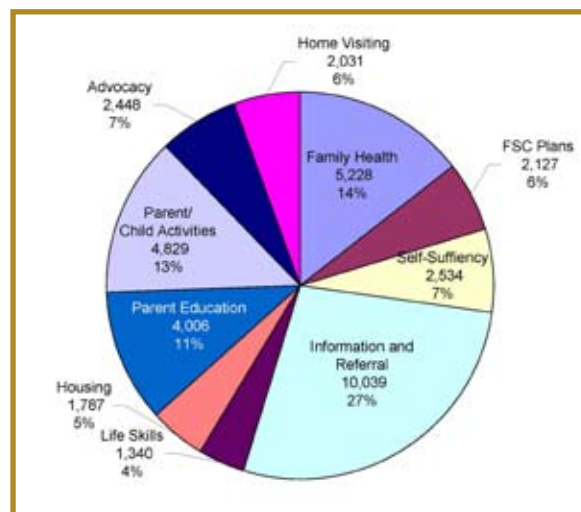
The fundamental principle is that certain protective factors contribute towards family resiliency and strength and have proven to be effective in preventing child abuse and neglect. Early Care and Education Centers play a prominent role in building these protective factors among the families they serve. Through seven key strategies, centers become well positioned to help families build these protective factors. There are currently eight total SFI programs represented in eight counties. Over 8,000 families accessed services through NJ SFI in FY 2008.

Family Success Centers

New Jersey now has one of the country’s only statewide systems of publicly-supported Family Success Centers. These centers are neighborhood-based gathering places where any community resident can access family support, information and services. The purpose of the Family Success Center is to enrich the lives of children by making families and neighborhoods stronger. In Fiscal Year 2008, over 15,000 families accessed services through their local Family Success Center.

There is no cost to access services provided by Family Success Centers. Some of the services include: employment, information and referral, parent education, health care, parent-child activities, home visiting, life skills training, advocacy and housing. There are currently 37 total Families Success Centers represented in 16 counties.

Types of Services Families are Connected to through FSC
FY 2008



Child Abuse Prevention Programs

DCF's Community Program Directory

In addition to the programs noted here, there are many other services available in the community supported by DCF, including adolescent pregnancy prevention services and parent linking and empowerment programs. Information on all these services can be found in the DCF Community Program Directory, which can be found on the DCF Web site: <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/prevention/directory.html>.

This directory helps to increase access to resources that are designed to strengthen families and prevent child abuse or neglect, as well as serves as a tool for DYFS caseworkers in the field. The services identified in the directory are funded by DCF's Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships, a grant-making and best practices team committed to strengthening New Jersey's families.

Outreach to At-Risk Youth

Outreach to At-Risk Youth is a new initiative that is part of Governor Corzine's crime prevention plan. It is designed to prevent crime and deter gang involvement by providing enhanced recreational, vocational, educational, outreach or supportive services to youth, ages 13 to 18, with the option to serve youth until age 21. Programs are located in communities with demonstrated high crime and gang violence. There are currently 22 total Outreach to At-Risk Youth programs represented in 10 counties. Nearly 700 youth participated in these programs in the first half of 2008.

Domestic Violence: Sanctuary and Advocacy

DPCP is a primary funding source and oversight agency for 24 domestic violence programs and the New Jersey Coalition of Battered Women. There is at least one DCF-designated lead domestic violence program in each county, including a shelter with a 24-hour hotline and response. Programs offer information and referral, counseling, support groups, financial, legal services, housing and general advocacy, children's services and community education. There are currently 27 total Domestic Violence programs represented in all 21 counties

PALS Programs (PEACE: A Learned Solution)

DPCP oversees PALS programs for children who have witnessed domestic violence. PALS, which served nearly 900 children in FY 2008, is an intensive program that provides counseling and creative arts therapy for children who have witnessed domestic violence. The program serves children primarily ages four to 12. There are currently 10 total PALS programs represented in 10 counties.

Statewide Youth Helpline: 1-888-222-2228

Launched in September 2008, the NJ Statewide youth helpline, 2NDFLOOR, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to children and young adults ages 10-24. Youth can either call the helpline, 1-888-222-2228, or access the interactive Web site www.2NDFLOOR.org. Calls to the 2NDFLOOR youth helpline are anonymous and confidential, except in life-threatening situations.

School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP)

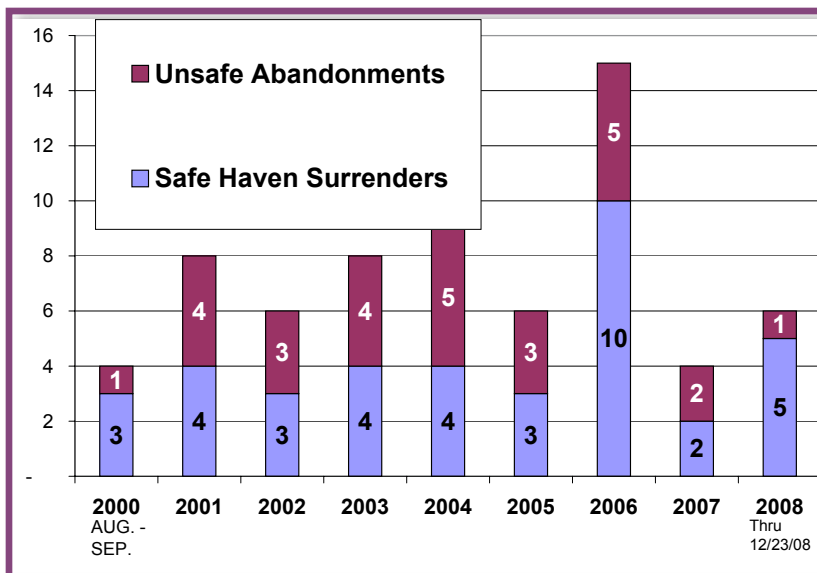
The School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP) sites are located in each of the 21 counties in or near schools in urban, rural and suburban communities. The programs are open to all youth ages 10 -19 enrolled in the school that is home to the SBYSP, and provide services before, during and after school and throughout the summer. Major services include mental health and family services, health services, substance abuse counseling, employment services, pregnancy prevention programs, learning support services, referrals to community based services, and recreation. There are currently 94 total SBYSP programs that served over 37,500 youth in FY 2008.

Safe Haven in New Jersey



In New Jersey, the Safe Haven Infant Protection Act is a law that allows an individual to give up an unwanted infant with no fear of arrest or prosecution. No names or records are required. The parents – or someone acting on their behalf – can bring a baby less than 30 days old to any hospital emergency room or police station. DYFS will immediately take the child into custody and place the infant in a foster or pre-adoptive home. No shame. No blame. No names.

Since it was enacted in August 2000, a total of 38 infants have been safely surrendered under the law.



www.njsafehaven.org
1-877-839-2339

Rolling Out NJ SPIRIT –



New Child Welfare Information System

In August 2007, DCF completed the statewide deployment of the New Jersey's new child welfare information system, NJ Spirit. NJ Spirit is DCF's case management and financial system designed to support the daily work of caseworkers and supervisors. In addition to being vital for caseworkers, NJ Spirit is also used by Deputy Attorneys General, law guardians and the courts.

Before transitioning to NJ Spirit, caseworkers managed their daily work with children and families with an archaic computer system, and even used index cards to keep an inventory of licensed and available foster homes. With the new system in place, caseworkers can now quickly search through NJ Spirit and match the needs of children with the capacities of families.

DCF continues to provide support to staff as they to learn the new system. We have emphasized improving the performance of the NJ Spirit technical support help desk to answer questions as quickly as possible; analyzed trends to identify challenges faced by a number of staff and developed proactive approaches to resolve those issues; and maintained an aggressive schedule of changes/fixes that were prioritized based on the impact on field workers, federal data reporting, and federal claiming.

When workers experience difficulty with NJ Spirit, they call the Help Desk in DCF Central Office. Between January 2008 and June 2008, the Help Desk received 6,837 requests for help. The Help Desk resolved 50 percent of those requests within one work day, 25 percent within seven work days, and 25 percent over seven work days. This response time has been largely improved from the end of 2007, when the average request for help was resolved within 14 work days.

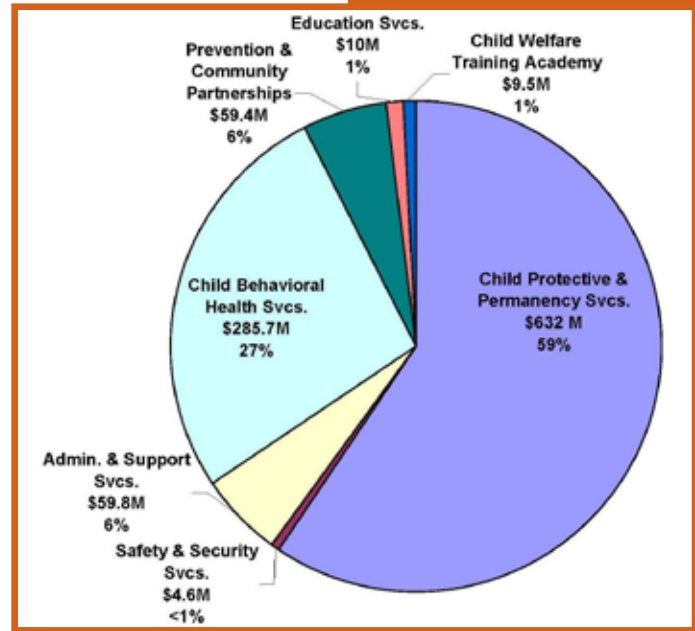
FY 2008 Budget Information



DCF's budget in Fiscal Year 2008 represented new and continued investments in the state's most vulnerable children and families.

DCF FY 2008
Total: \$1.510 Billion
(with state, federal and
dedicated funds)

Breakdown of State Funds –
\$1.06 billion



The Fiscal Year 2008 budget included:

- ▶ **Investments in child welfare staff with no new positions**
 - \$10 million in annualized positions
 - \$2 million to improve safety and security for caseworkers
 - \$3 million for improved case practice and specialized training
- ▶ **Continued investments in improving services for kids and families**
 - \$6 million for the Differential Response Pilot Initiative, domestic violence services and family support services
 - \$4 million for health care, addiction and dental services
 - \$3.3 million to develop evidence-based, early intervention and home visitation programs
 - \$2.8 million for supervised visitation in home-like settings
- ▶ **\$2 million to continue expanding service capacity for children with mental health needs**
- ▶ **\$1.5 million for increased supports and services for both birth and resource families, including flex funds and child care**
- ▶ **\$1 million for older and aging-out youth permanency and supported housing**
- ▶ **Supporting service providers in the community with a 2% cost of living adjustment**

Annual Agency Performance Report



Fiscal Year 2008

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

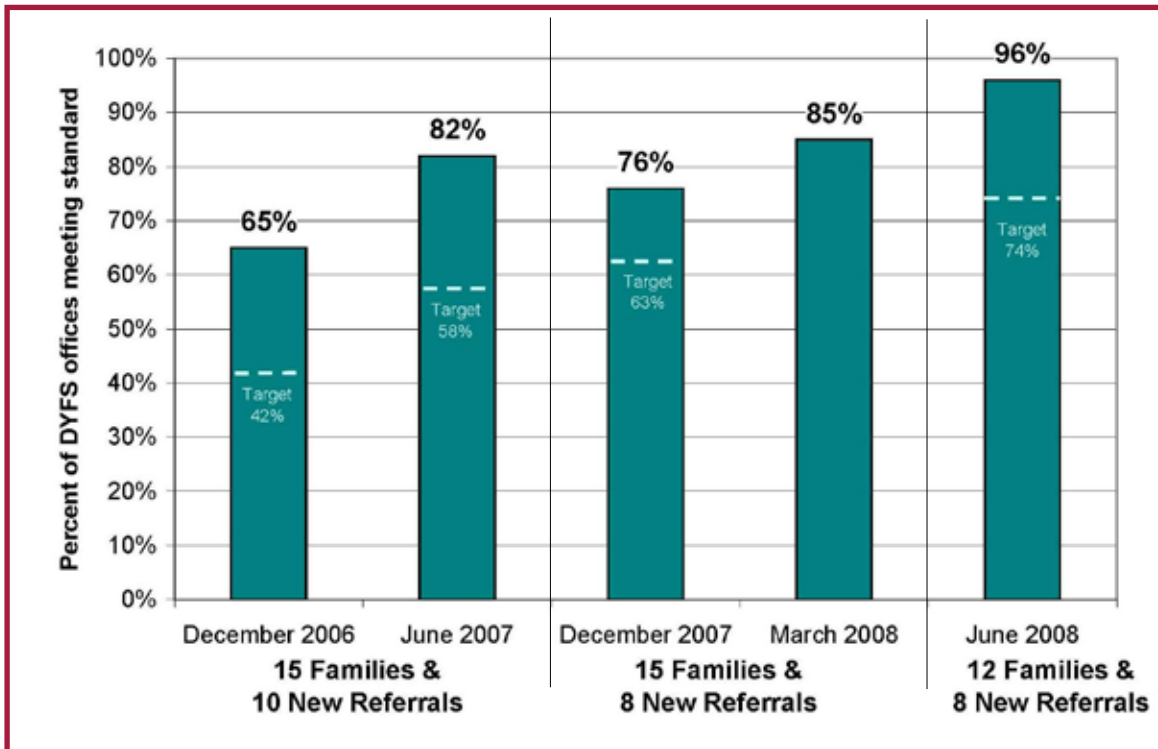
APPENDICES A - E

This appendix to DCF's Annual Agency Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2008 includes supplemental data and charts as noted in the full report.

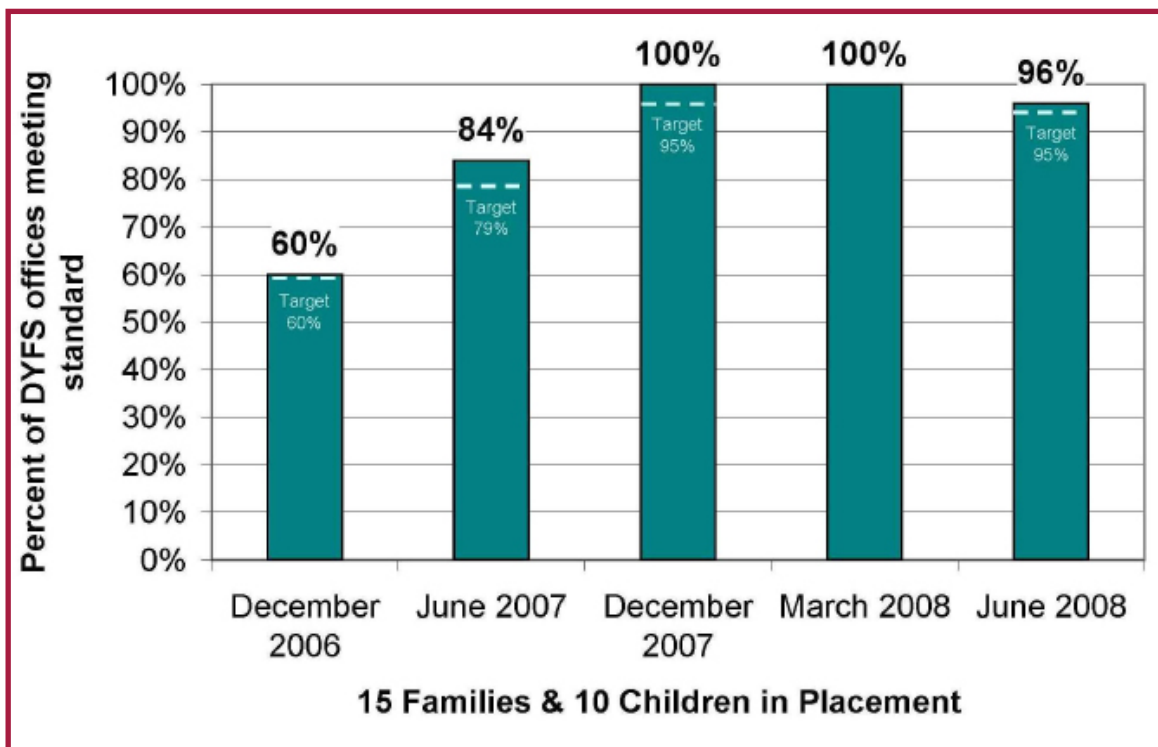
Readers can find additional statistics and data for New Jersey's child welfare system, updated regularly, on the DCF Web site: www.nj.gov/DCF

APPENDIX A: Caseloads

INTAKE CASELOADS

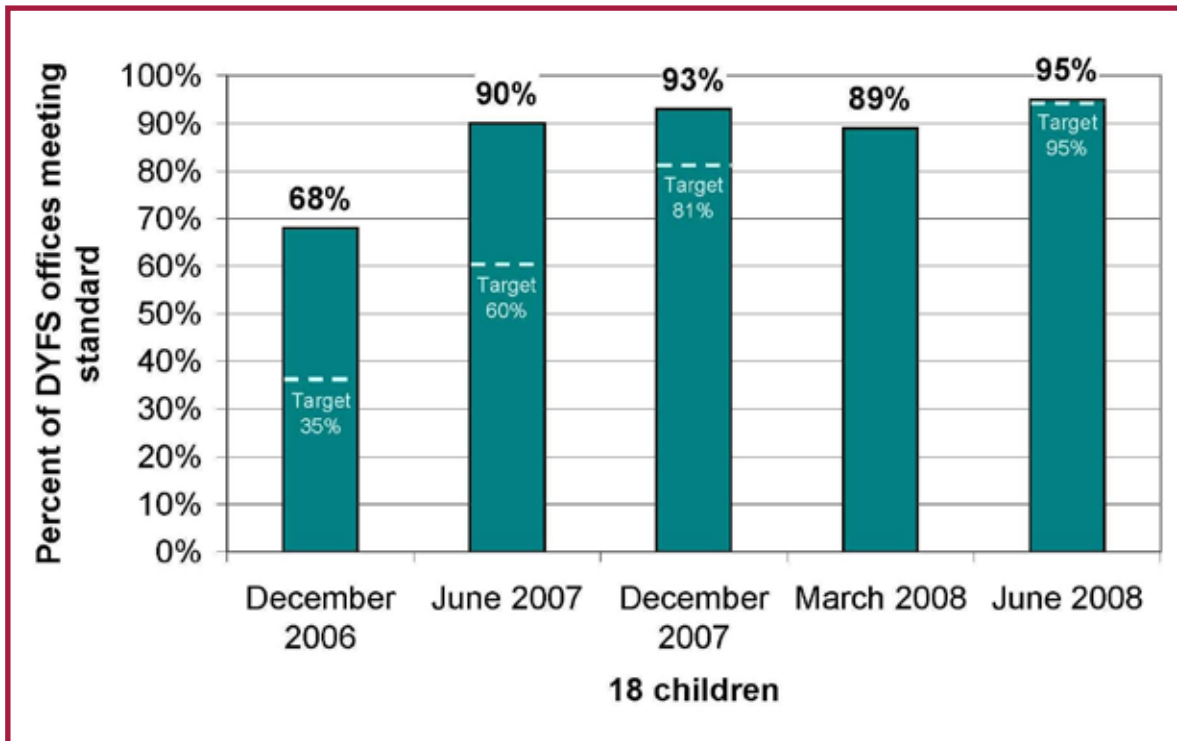


PERMANENCY CASELOADS

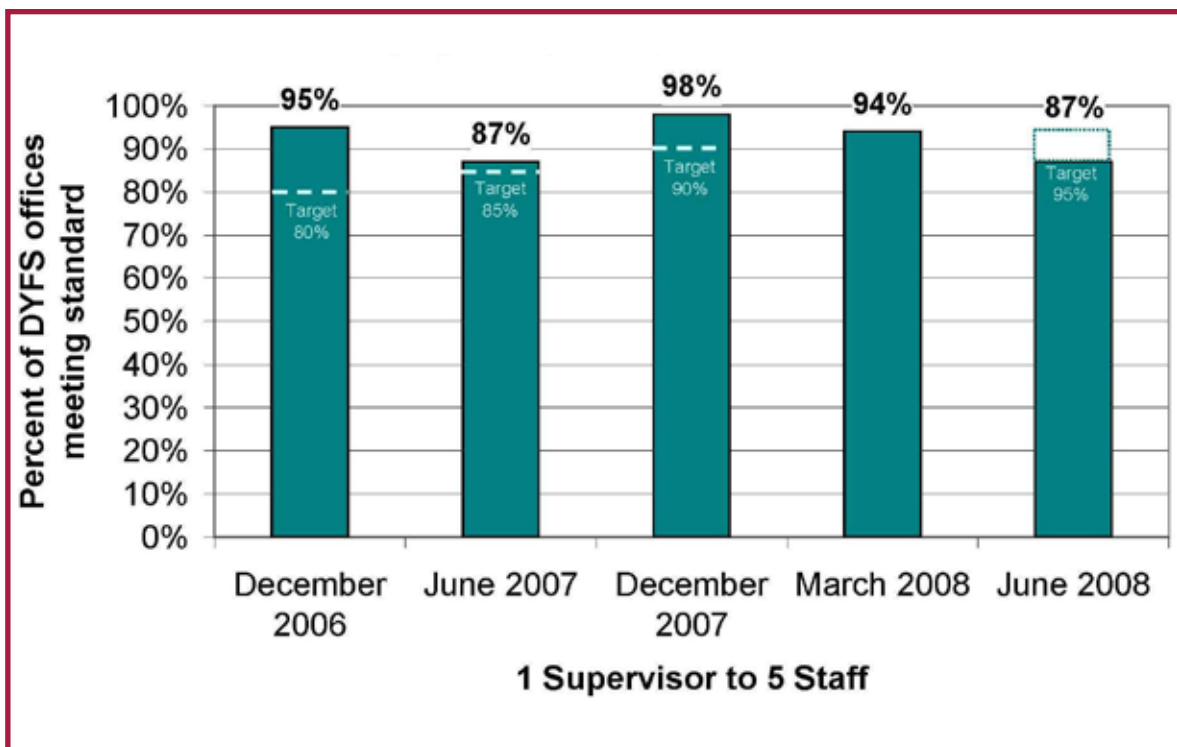


APPENDIX A: Caseloads

ADOPTION CASELOADS



SUPERVISOR RATIOS

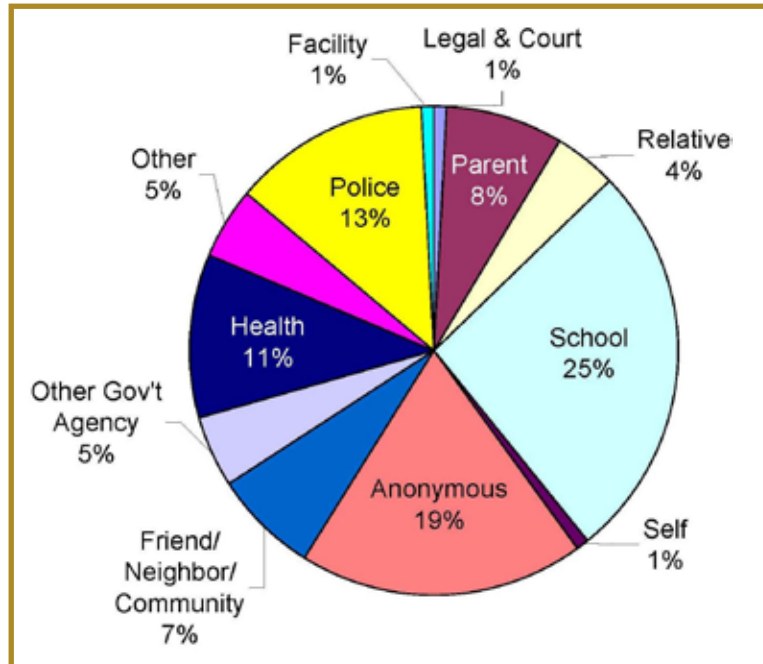


APPENDIX B: Initial Response

STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY

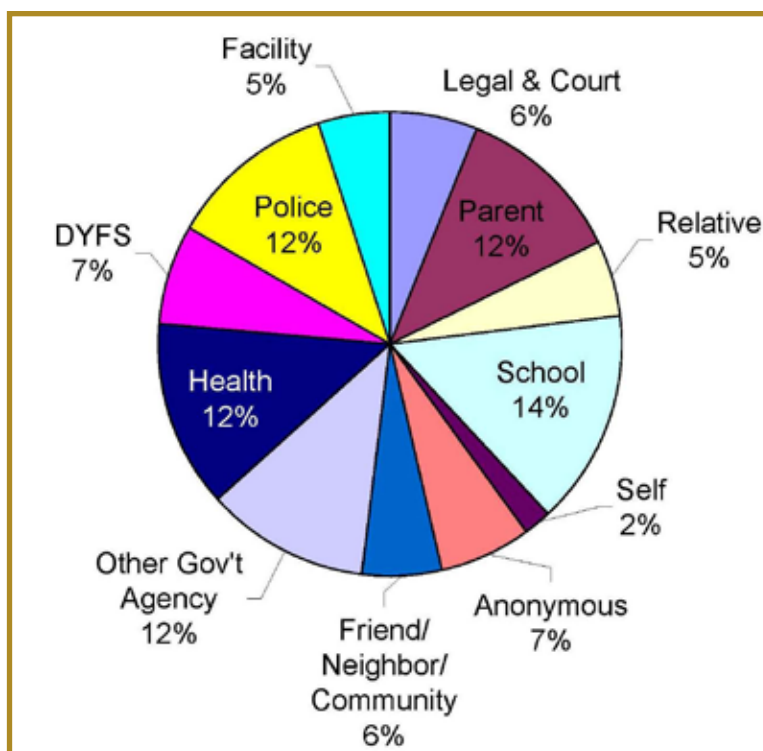
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Source of Referral



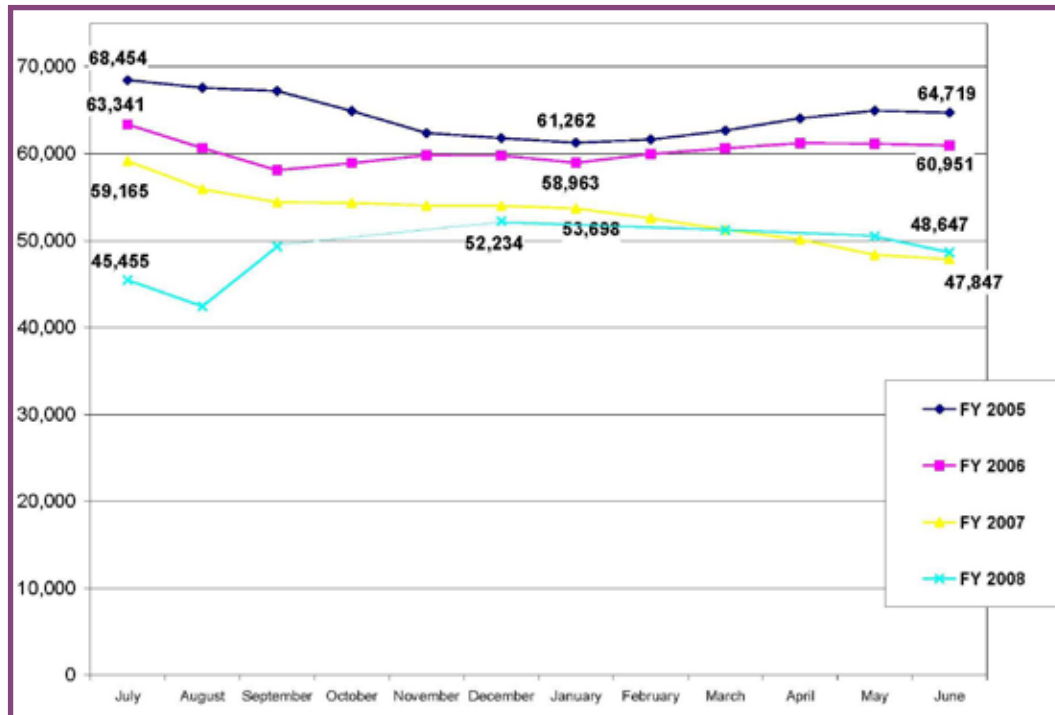
FAMILY SERVICE REQUESTS

Source of Referral

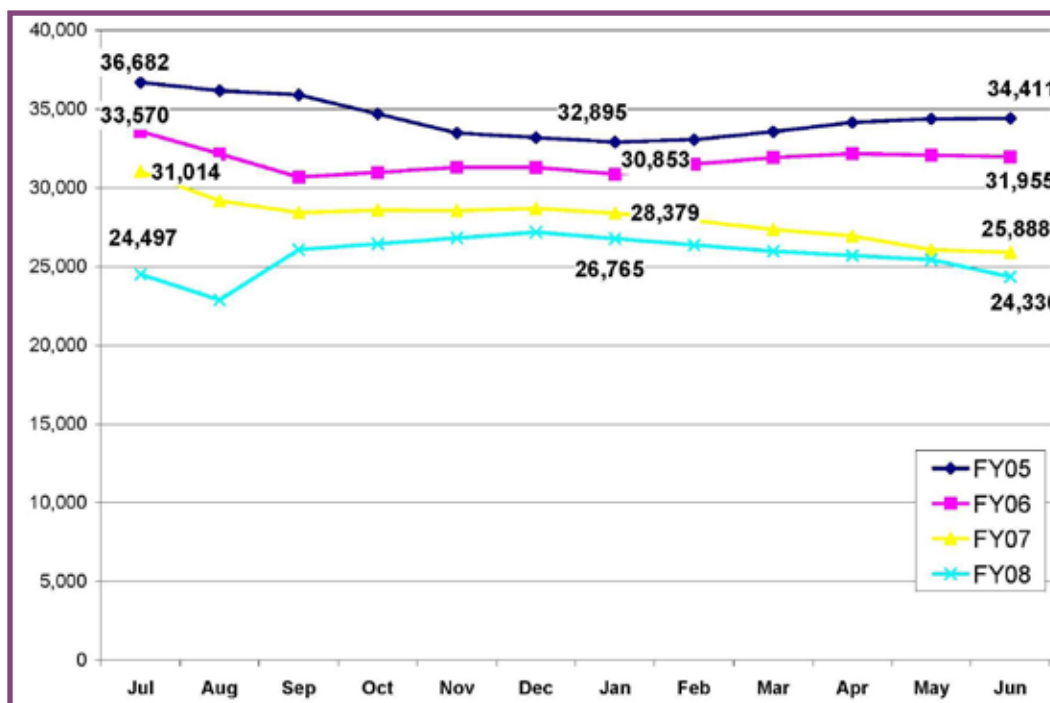


APPENDIX C: Children Served By DYFS

All Children Served by DYFS FY 2006 - FY 2008



All Families Supervised by DYFS FY 2006 - FY 2008



APPENDIX C: Children Served By DYFS

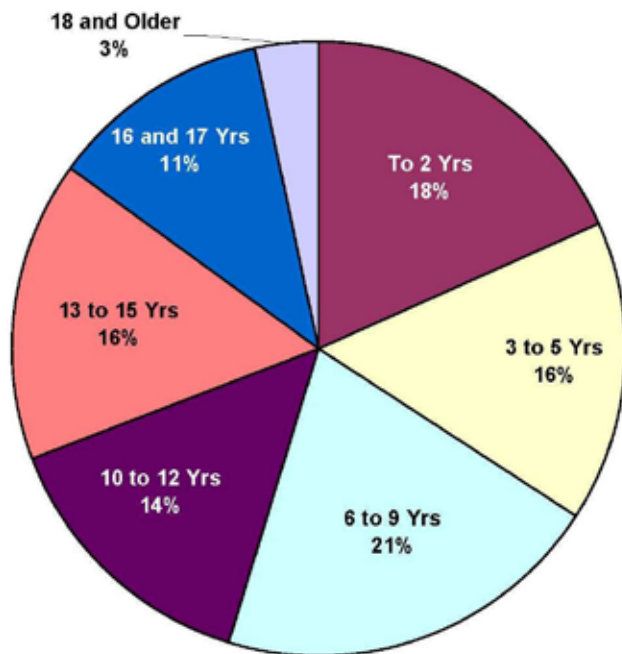
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

As of June 2008

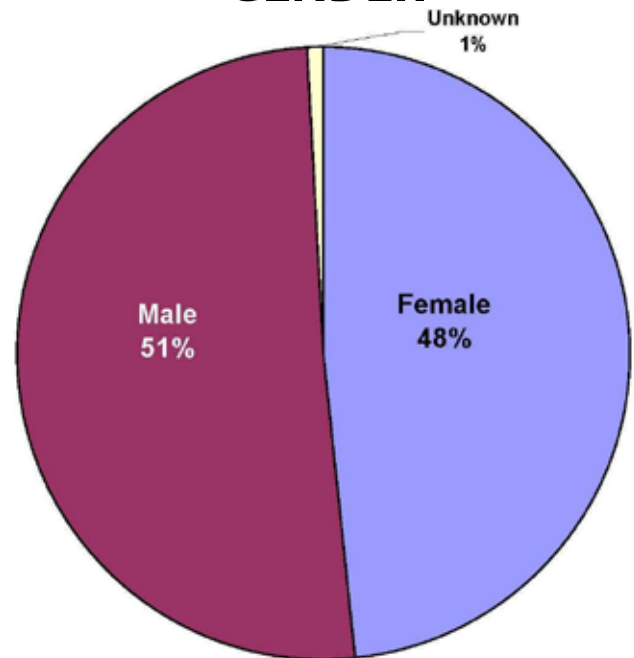
All Children Served by DYFS

Total: 48,647

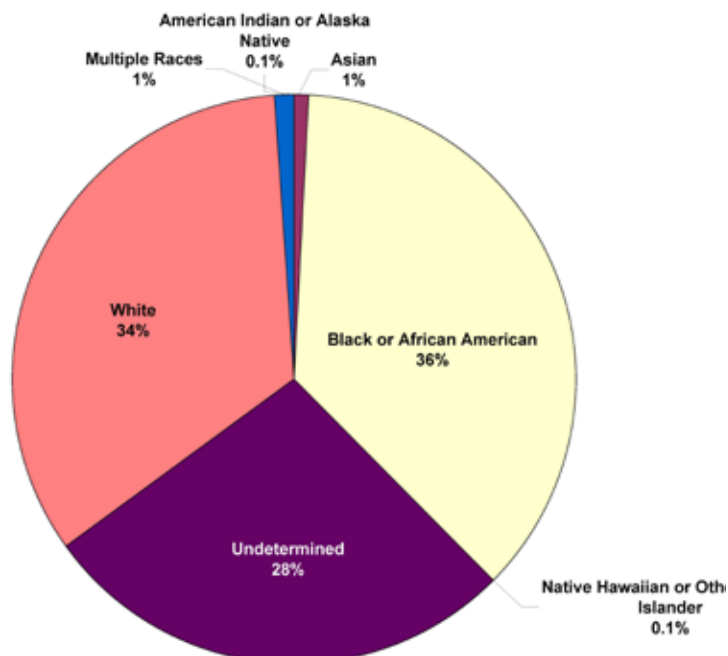
AGE



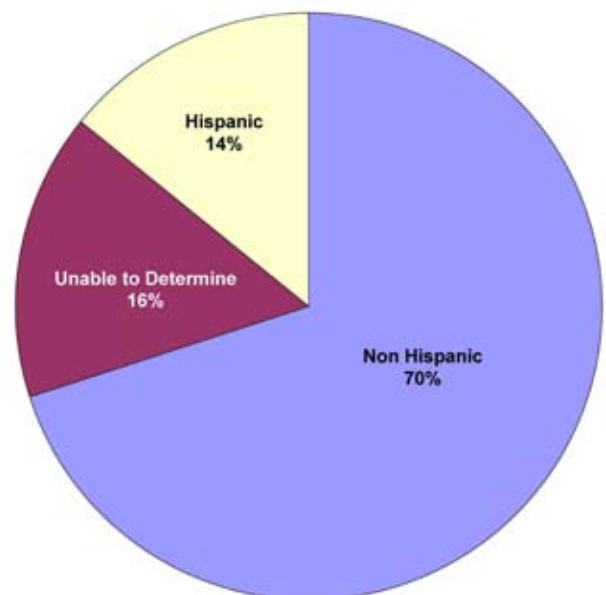
GENDER



RACE



ETHNICITY



APPENDIX C: Children Served By DYFS

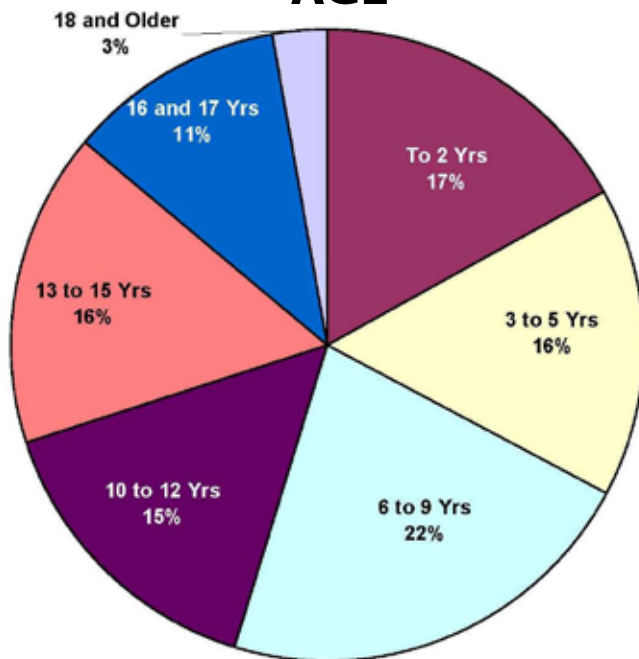
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

As of June 2008

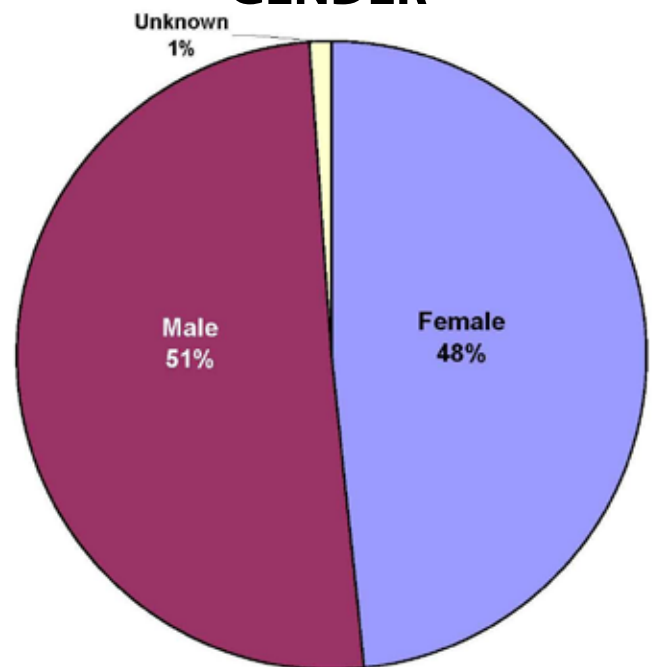
Children In Own Homes Receiving DYFS Services

Total: 39,272

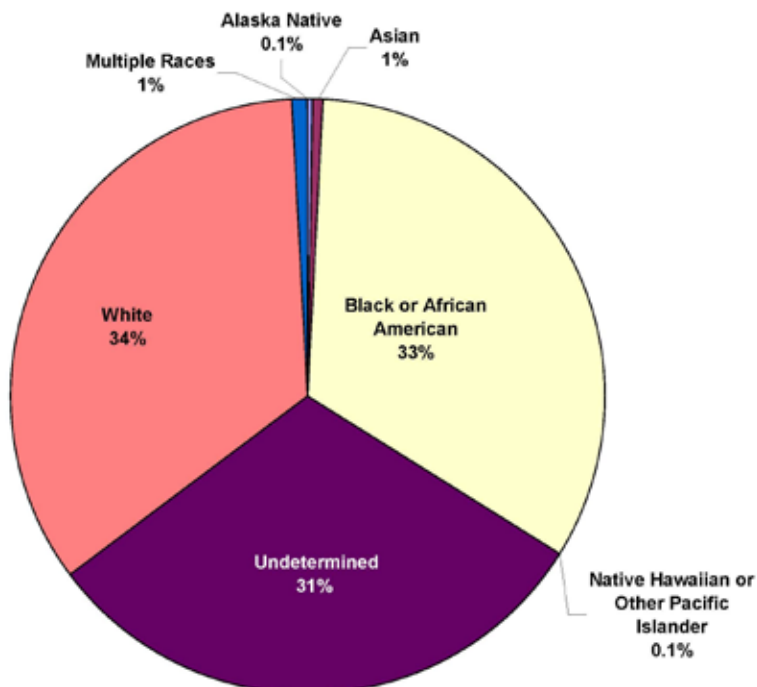
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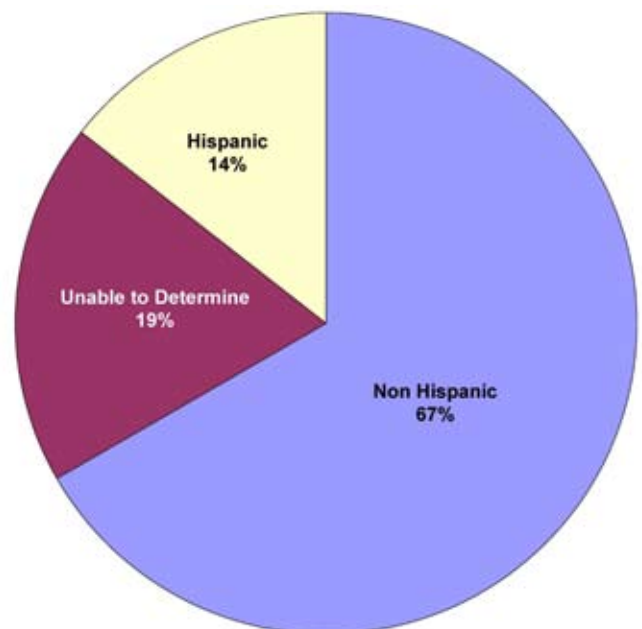
GENDER



RACE



ETHNICITY



APPENDIX C: Children Served By DYFS

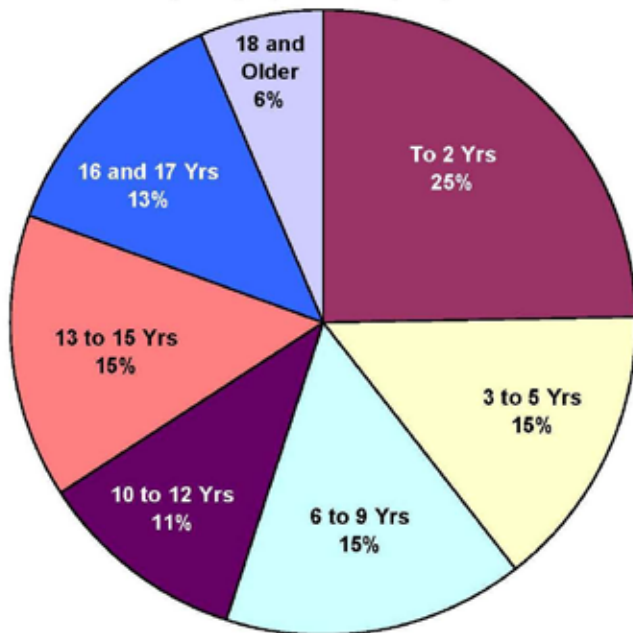
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

As of June 2008

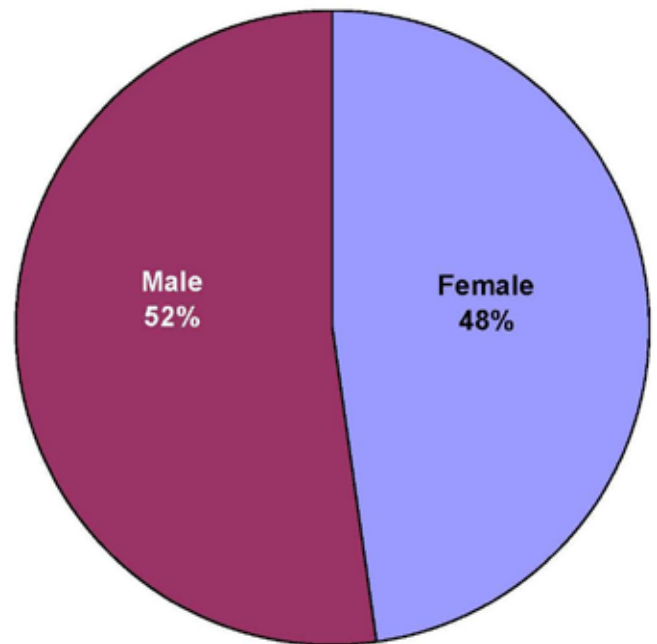
Children in DYFS Out-of-Home Placement

Total: 9,372

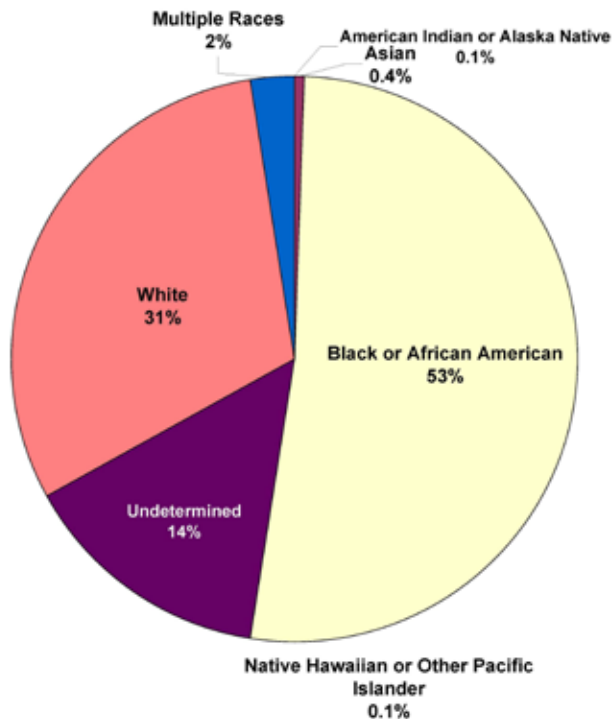
AGE



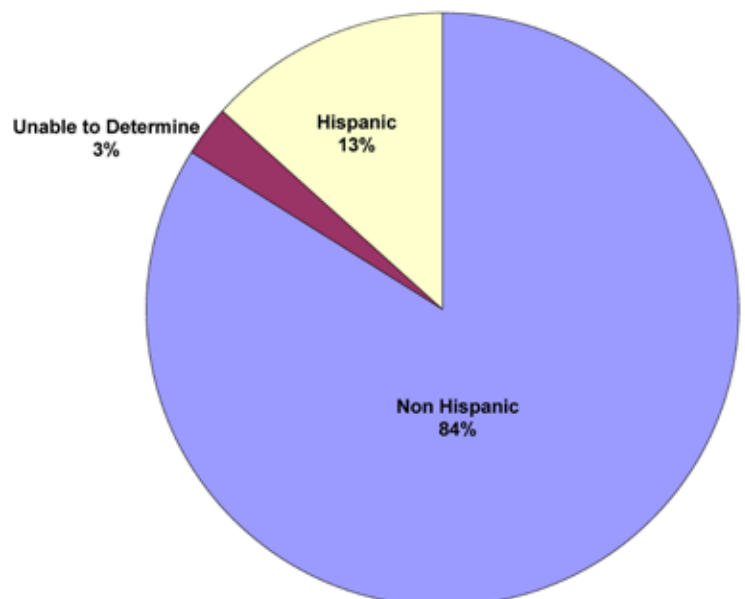
GENDER



RACE



ETHNICITY



APPENDIX C:

Children Served By DYFS

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Children in Out-of-Home Placement by County as of June 30, 2008	
County	Number of Children
Atlantic	240
Bergen	394
Burlington	361
Camden	757
Cape May	162
Cumberland	268
Essex	2,060
Gloucester	278
Hudson	734
Hunterdon	35
Mercer	525
Middlesex	508
Monmouth	496
Morris	191
Ocean	597
Passaic	489
Salem	138
Somerset	148
Sussex	87
Union	676
Warren	169
<i>Other</i>	<i>62</i>
Total	9,375

APPENDIX D: Coordinated Child Health

Pre-Placement Assessments for Children in Care
January 2008 - June 2008

	Children Entering Care	Pre-Placement Assessments Completed	Percentage Completed	Percent Completed in Non-ER Settings
January 2008	308	308	100%	86%
February 2008	382	382	100%	87%
March 2008	372	372	100%	94%
April 2008	406	405	100%	88%
May 2008	374	374	100%	90%
June 2008	407	407	100%	91%
TOTALS	2,249	2,248	100%	89%

APPENDIX E: Child Behavioral Health

Youth in DYFS Custody in Juvenile
Detention Post-disposition Awaiting Placement
January 2008 - June 2008

Length of waiting time	Number of Youth
0-15 days	0
16-30 days	8
Over 30 days	1