

## Office of Adolescent Services Safe Space Program

### Structure

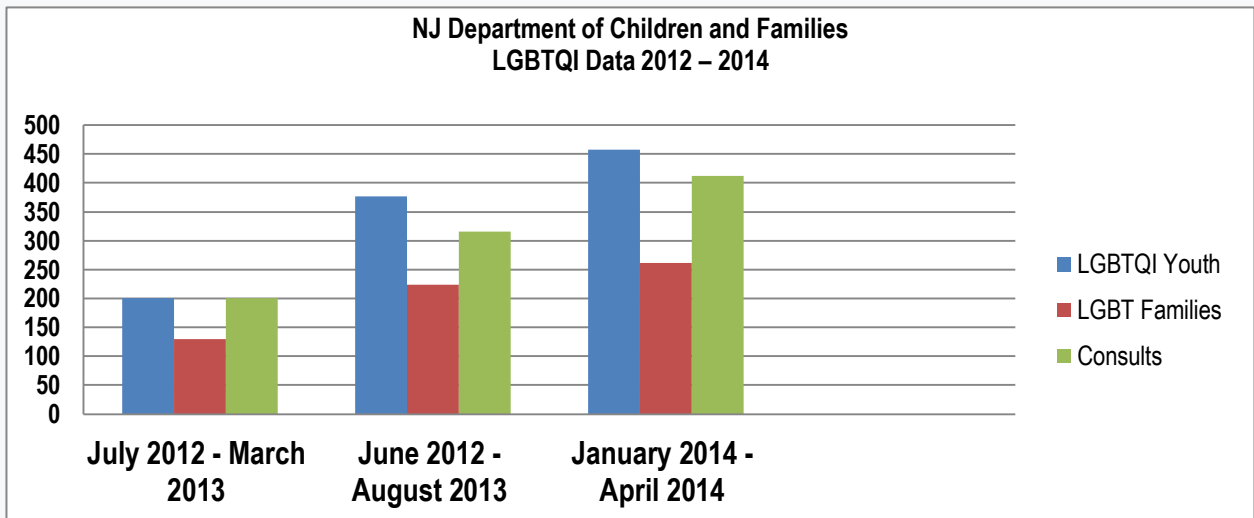
The Safe Space Program ensures the safety, well-being, and health of LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex) youth and families. The program is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all and providing support, advocacy, and training.

The Safe Space Program's Data Analysis Reporting and Tracking Statistics (DARTS) team collects data on youth and families who openly identify their sexual orientation or gender expression. The team also tracks the number of case practice consults between casework staff and the Safe Space liaisons.

### Services

Safe Space liaisons help identify local resources, such as LGBTQI affirming support groups, therapists, welcoming congregations, and medical practitioners. Liaisons are also consultants on LGBTQI case practice.

The Safe Space Program strengthens positive LGBTQI case practice and promotes education, awareness, and cultural competence regarding best practices for LGBTQI individuals. The program is inclusive of race, ethnicity, national origin, culture, language, gender and gender expression, sexuality, religious and political beliefs, age, and ability.



### QUICK FACTS

- DCF has 168 Safe Space liaisons
- Since 2012, DCF has provided services to 451 LGBTQI youth and 255 LGBT families
- Twenty-three LGBTQI competent experts provide training, education, and resources to Safe Space liaisons
- Safe Space has partnered with 13 agencies to form a LGBTQI Youth Committee