



Covid-19's Effects on Child Welfare System Assessed in CNYCA's Annual Report

April 2022

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY 20	FY 21	TREND
REPORTS							
Reports of abuse and neglect dropped at the onset of Covid-19 and have stayed considerably lower than in prior years. The rate at which reports were substantiated declined slightly in FY21.							
Reports of Abuse and Neglect	62,639	67,752	68,766	66,212	55,984	53,311	
Percentage of Reports Substantiated	36.1	40.4	38.0	37.7	36.4	35.2	

CASELOADS

Average caseloads among child protective caseworkers dropped significantly in FY20 and continued to decline in FY21.							
Average Child Protective Caseload	10.6	12.4	12.5	10.5	7.5	6.3	
Caseworkers with Caseloads over 15 (June)	173	341	NA	96	0	8	

PETITIONS AND OUTCOMES (CHILDREN)

The number of children in cases of abuse and neglect, and under ACS supervision continued to decline.							
Abuse and Neglect Cases Filed by ACS - Family Court	9,375	14,207	14,913	12,723	10,305	7,791	
ACS Supervision Ordered by Family Court	6,115	9,462	10,033	8,299	6,786	4,725	
Total Emergency Removals	1,464	1,835	1,918	1,820	1,348	1,302	
Emergency Removals Approved at Initial Hearing	1,006	1,287	1,360	1,284	956	N/A	

FATALITIES

The number of child fatalities in families known to ACS decreased in Calendar Year 2020.							
Child Fatalities in Cases Known to ACS	43	56	63	59	57	52	

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

FAMILIES SERVED IN PREVENTIVE SERVICES

While the total number of families receiving preventive services dropped significantly in FY21, the number of new preventive cases increased and those in evidence-based services are back in line with recent years.							
Families Receiving ACS-Contracted Preventive Services	21,980	20,207	20,315	21,101	19,209	15,469	
New Preventive Cases in Evidence-Based Services	3,530	2,851	2,901	2,989	2,334	2,879	
New Preventive Cases Overall	10,540	9,240	9,608	9,965	7,699	8,317	

PREVENTIVE SERVICES ENTRIES AND EXITS

The percentage of preventive cases that were referred by ACS increased in FY21. The percentage of those admitted to foster care during or shortly after preventive services declined in CY20.							
% of Preventive Cases Referred by ACS	74.4	77.8	78.4	77.8	74.0	80.5	
% of Children Admitted to Foster Care who received Preventive Services within the Previous Year (CY 15- 20)	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.1	1.9	1.1	

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The total foster care population declined in FY21, continuing a long downward trend. The number of children newly admitted to foster care dropped below 3,000 in CY2020.							
Total Average Foster Care Population	9,906	8,921	8,732	8341	7,827	7,639	
Children Admitted to Foster Care (CY 2015-2020)	3,790	3,680	4,285	3743	3,497	2,643	

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS

Kinship care placements continued to increase. The percentage of siblings separated in FY21 decreased.							
% of Separated Siblings (Calendar Year)	42.4	41.3	40	42	44.4	41.9	
% of Foster Children in Kinship Care	32.8	30.9	33	38.1	39.8	42.2	
% of Foster Placements in Contiguous Community Districts	36.3	36.6	36.2	28.7	28.9	25.9	

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY 20	FY 21	TREND
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FOSTER CARE DISCHARGES CALENDAR YEAR (2015 - 2020)
 The pandemic continued to constrain Family Court operations and fewer children were discharged from foster care. The number of children discharged to reunification within a year dropped 29% from the prior year.

Children Discharged from Foster Care	4,943	4,388	4,487	4100	3,102	3,042	
Number of Children Discharged to KinGAP	343	384	306	379	267	414	
Number of Children Discharged to APPLA	773	712	673	613	570	568	
Percentage of Children with Reunification Goal	49.8	52.6	54.5	51	50.0	48.3	
Children Discharged to Reunification within a Year	1,554	1,440	1,322	1356	1,111	790	
Percentage of Children Discharged to Permanency within a Year of Placement	32	31.8	29.9	32.5	29.6	26.5	

DISCHARGE OUTCOMES - CALENDAR YEAR (2015 - 2020)
 In CY20, the percentage of children returning to foster care within 2 years of discharge decreased slightly.

Percentage of Children Returning to Care within Two Years of Discharge	10.7	11.6	9.9	11.4	11.9	11.3	
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ADOPTION SERVICES

ADOPTION SERVICES - CALENDAR YEAR (2015 - 2020)
 In CY20, children with adoption as a goal increased to 25.6%. The number of completed adoptions dropped dramatically.

Percentage of Children with Adoption as a Goal	29.8	28	26.8	26.4	23.8	25.6	
Adoptions	1,026	959	888	810	706	240	
Percentage of Adoptions Completed < Two Years	24.4	30	32.2	29	34.7	31.4	

FOSTER CARE POPULATION

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

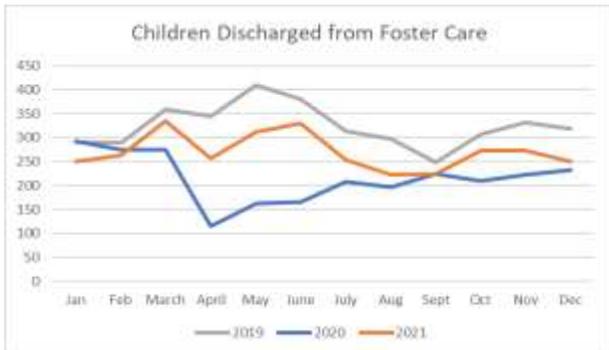
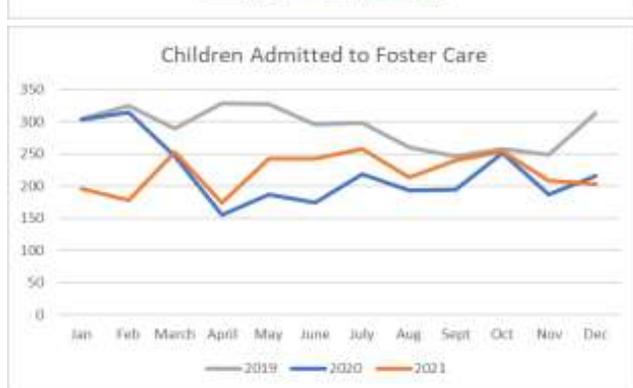
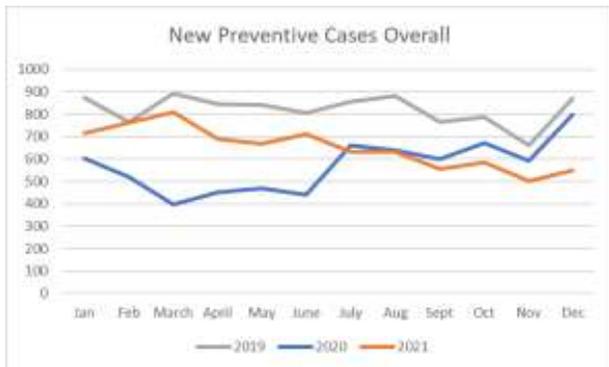
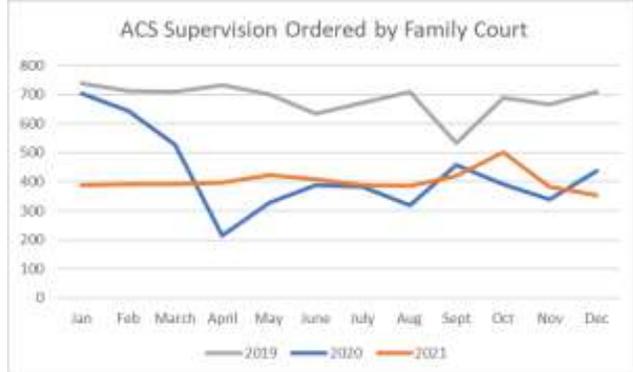
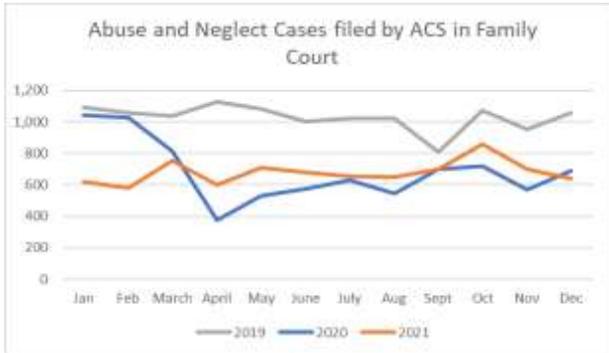
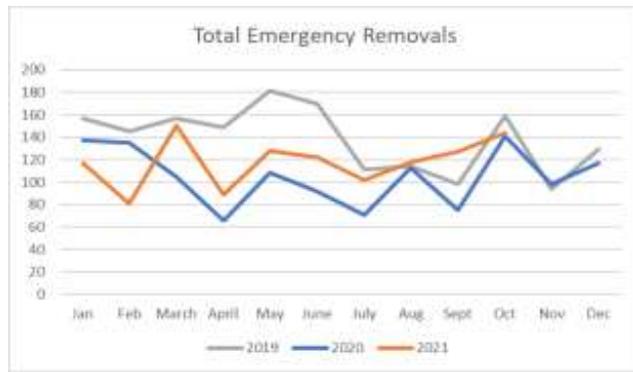
The racial disparities among children in foster care remained unchanged in FY21, with Black and Latinx children making up nearly 90% of all children in care. The percentage of children in foster care for more than three years increased to the highest level since FY17 and increased for all age groups except those 18 and older.

Children Admitted to Foster Care	3,524	4,025	4,068	3717	3,006	2,551	
< 2 years old	27.3%	26.6%	28.7%	28.1%	30.0%	31.4%	
2-5 years old	19.5%	21.3%	21.1%	22.2%	21.3%	21.6%	
6-9 years old	16.0%	17.1%	16.5%	17.5%	15.7%	16.0%	
10-13 years old	13.4%	13.8%	14.7%	14.7%	14.9%	14.2%	
14-17 years old	22.2%	19.9%	18.2%	16.4%	17.3%	15.9%	
18+ years old	1.6%	1.3%	0.8%	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	
Children in Foster Care: (as of June 30th, 2016-2021)	9,215	8,871	8,512	8,358	7,860	7,324	
White	5.1%	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	
African American	56.2%	55.1%	54.7%	53.9%	52.9%	51.6%	
Latinx	32.8%	33.8%	35.2%	35.9%	36.7%	37.3%	
Asian	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%	
Other/Unknown	4.3%	4.1%	3.2%	3.5%	3.5%	3.9%	
% Children in Foster Care < 3 Years (as of June 30th)	39.8%	36.8%	33.0%	29.5%	33.9%	36.7%	
2-5 years old	43.0%	40.1%	35.6%	31.0%	36.9%	44.3%	
6-9 years old	48.4%	44.8%	39.4%	34.0%	41.2%	43.1%	
10-13 years old	46.0%	41.1%	37.1%	31.3%	37.0%	40.5%	
14-17 years old	38.7%	37.6%	34.4%	32.7%	37.7%	39.0%	
18+ years old	65.8%	64.9%	65.3%	64.1%	63.6%	63.4%	

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 ACS annual reports, and ACS data request.

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

Covid-19 Altered Child Welfare Trends: Monthly Comparison 2019 - 2021 (Figures & Corresponding Data)



		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Consolidated Abuse and Neglect Investigations	2019	5,382	4,415	5,338	5,037	5,448	4,175	3,535	3,237	4,093	5,028	4,673	4,467
	2020	5,149	4,469	3,743	2,292	2,890	2,827	2,888	2,870	2,967	3,982	3,616	3,800
	2021	3,835	3,215	4,216	3,879	3,989	3,526	2,873	2,917	3,314	4,093	4,008	3815
	% Change (2019-2021)	-29%	-27.2%	-21.0%	-23.0%	-26.8%	-15.5%	-18.7%	-9.9%	-19.0%	-18.6%	-14.2%	-14.6%
Total Emergency Removals	2019	157	145	157	149	181	170	111	114	98	159	94	129
	2020	137	135	105	66	108	92	71	113	75	141	98	117
	2021	117	81	150	89	128	122	102	118	127	144		
	% Change (2019-2021)	-25.5%	-44.1%	-4.5%	-40.3%	-29.3%	-28.2%	-8.1%	3.5%	29.6%	-9.4%		
Abuse and Neglect Cases Filed by ACS in Family Court	2019	1,092	1,056	1,040	1,127	1,080	1,002	1,021	1,025	810	1,070	951	1,058
	2020	1,044	1,028	816	374	532	576	628	544	701	717	569	688
	2021	622	580	754	602	707	679	656	647	699	856	697	641
	% Change (2019-2021)	-43.0%	-45.1%	-27.5%	-46.6%	-34.5%	-32.2%	-35.7%	-36.9%	-13.7%	-20.0%	-26.7%	-39.4%
ACS Supervision Ordered by Family Court	2019	738	713	709	731	699	633	672	709	532	690	665	710
	2020	704	643	527	216	329	389	383	318	458	390	340	437
	2021	388	392	391	397	422	409	389	386	420	500	381	353
	% Change (2019-2021)	-47.4%	-45.0%	-44.9%	-45.7%	-39.6%	-35.4%	-42.1%	-45.6%	-21.1%	-27.5%	-42.7%	-50.28%
New Preventive Cases Overall	2019	875	767	891	844	843	806	855	880	765	786	659	872
	2020	603	521	398	451	470	439	662	640	599	670	593	799
	2021	714	763	809	691	667	710	631	633	557	585	500	549
	% Change (2019-2021)	-18.4%	-0.5%	-9.2%	-18.1%	-20.9%	-11.9%	-26.2%	-28.1%	-27.2%	-25.6%	-24.1%	-37%
Children Admitted to Foster Care	2019	305	325	289	329	327	296	298	260	247	258	249	314
	2020	303	315	246	155	187	174	219	194	195	252	187	216
	2021	196	178	253	175	243	243	258	214	240	254	208	203
	% Change (2019-2021)	-35.7%	-45.2%	-12.5%	-46.8%	-25.7%	-17.9%	-13.4%	-17.7%	-2.8%	-1.6%	-16.5%	-35%
Children Discharged from Foster Care	2019	291	290	359	344	410	381	314	297	249	307	332	318
	2020	293	275	274	115	163	165	208	197	224	210	223	233
	2021	250	263	335	257	312	330	253	222	225	273	273	250
	% Change (2019-2021)	-14.1%	-9.3%	-6.7%	-25.3%	-23.9%	-13.4%	-19.4%	-25.3%	-9.6%	-11.1%	-17.8%	-21%

Sources: NYC Administration for Children's Services Flash Reports.