



Special Report

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# New Jer

## Finding Permanent Homes For Foster Children

	Years	Base Year	Most Current	% Change	Better/Worse
Median length of stay in months	2002/2004	11.5	10.5	-9	Better
Average length of stay in months for current placement	2001/2005	22.2	16.5	-26	Better
Average length of stay in months for all placements	2001/2005	31.5	27.6	-12	Better
Children reunified within 12 months of entering care	2001/2005	59.5%	58.6%	-2	Worse
Children leaving foster care for permanency within 12 months of entering care	2001/2004	36.2	39.1	8	Better
Children with no permanent home 24 months after entering care	2001/2003	50.4	46.8	-7	Better
Children with no permanent home 36 months after entering care	2001/2002	41.8	40.1	-4	Better
Children with adoptions finalized within 24 months of last removal from home	2001/2005	16.3	16.9	4	Same*
Number children legally free for adoption with					

## **THE OUTCOMES**

### **Child Safety Improves**

All five measures of child safety posted improvements from 2002 to 2004. Children were less likely to be abused again after coming to the attention of the state Division of Youth and Family Services. They were also less likely to be abused



## **THE SYSTEM**

### **More Abused Children Strain System**

The number of children in New Jersey's child protection system has burgeoned since 2002, with 22 percent more children on the DYFS caseload in 2006 than in 2002.

Some of this is attributable to an increase in reports of child abuse and neglect, especially following the very high-profile child death and starvation cases that surfaced in 2003.







## **DATA DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES**

### **KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE**

**Children with substantiated abuse report within 6 months of previous substantiation.** Calculated based on state data provided to the federal government for the Child and Family Service Reviews. Numbers represent a percent of all children with at least one substantiated allegation in 2001 and 2004 who had another substantiated allegations within six months of the first.



## Keeping Children Safe

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Children with substantiated abuse report within 6 months of previous substantiation	6.3	6.9	5.6	5.0
Children with substantiated abuse report within 12 months of previous substantiation	N/A	9.5	8.5	7.2
Children with substantiated abuse report with previous unsubstantiated report	N/A	4.8	4.6	4.3
Children re-abused after reunification with birth family	N/A	5.1	5.2	4.8
Children re-entering care after being reunified with birth family	N/A	30.0	29.0	24.0
Number of children re-entering care after being reunified with birth family	N/A	1,434	1,577	1,470

## Finding Permanent Homes For Foster Children

2001      2002      2003      2004      2005

Median length of stay in months (cohort) 19.1)1.6(-)6.7(5.1)1.4.4s723(04)5.77.33t1300045.5(003 w9.9998ui0.9999 0 0

### Help Youth Transition to Productive Adulthood

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number in Medicaid extension (Chafee)	N/A	167	234	204	271	337
Number juveniles committed to state-run secure facilities	1,084	1,262	1,159	908	1,031	N/A
Average number juveniles in county detention (daily population)	987	966	933	806	N/A	N/A
Non-permanent exits from foster care, ages 18+ (aging out/runaway)	58.2	59.7	63.1	66.2	72.6	N/A
Permanent exit (adoption, guardianship, reunification, relative care)	31.8	25.0	25.9	23.8	17.2	N/A
Total 18+ leaving system (total)	424	455	497	592	735	N/A
Total 18+ permanency exit	135	114	129	141	127	N/A
Total 18+ aging out	235	262	301	380	518	N/A
Total 18+ run away	12	10	13	12	16	N/A
Total 18+ "other" exit (includes independent living)	42	69	54	59	74	N/A

### Children Under DYFS Supervision

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Children under DYFS supervision	49,625	51,705	65,772	62,651	60,622
Children supervised in home	38,816	40,085	52,794	50,613	49,318
Percent children supervised in home	78	78	80	81	81
Children in out-of-home placement	10,812	11,620	12,978	12,038	11,304
Percent children in out-of-home placement	22	23	20	19	19
Total families under DYFS supervision	26,185	27,268	35,086	33,557	31,906