

Child Protection

Children Under Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P)* Supervision

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	4,931	4,287	4,186	4,125	3,758	-24
Essex	7,195	6,564	6,598	6,410	5,881	-18
New Jersey	52,873	51,864	51,412	50,792	48,169	-9

*Formerly the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Services

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	4,131	3,421	3,377	3,289	2,948	-29
Essex	5,925	5,214	5,327	5,180	4,723	-20
New Jersey	45,389	44,234	43,752	43,291	41,044	-10

Children in Out-of-Home CP&P Placement

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	800	866	809	836	810	1
Essex	1,270	1,350	1,271	1,230	1,158	-9
New Jersey	7,484	7,630	7,660	7,501	7,125	-5

What is CP&P?

The Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), formerly the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), operates within the New Jersey Department of Children and Families as the state's child welfare and protection agency. CP&P is responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect, and, if necessary, arranging for the child's protection and services for the family. When children cannot remain at home due to safety concerns, CP&P may ask the family court to place the child into foster care and must seek another permanent home for children who cannot be safely reunified with their parent(s) within the timeframes provided by law.

Number of Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 11-15
Newark	5,353	5,939	6,047	5,578	5,811	9
Essex	9,584	10,344	10,479	9,627	10,044	5
New Jersey	91,680	92,924	94,486	90,135	89,441	-2

Substantiated Vs. Established— The Department of Children and Families’ Four-Tier System

In 2013, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families introduced a “four-tiered system” for assessing and categorizing incidents of reported child abuse or neglect. Upon completing an investigation, case-workers now make one of four administrative findings: “substantiated, established, not established, or unfounded”— expanding on the previous options of “substantiated” or “unfounded”. Both substantiated and established findings indicate that CP&P has determined through its investigation that the child has been abused or neglected. However, an “established” finding indicates that the act committed may not be as

severe or there may have been mitigating factors. Thus the parent, guardian or caretaker committing the neglect or abuse does not need to be placed in the child abuse registry. A “not established” finding indicates that CP&P’s investigation found evidence that the child was harmed or placed at risk of harm but that harm does not meet the legal definition of child abuse or neglect. In these cases, the family may be monitored and/ or offered services. If the CP&P investigation determines that the child was not abused or neglected as defined by law, and that the child was not harmed or placed at risk of harm, the finding will be “unfounded.”

Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse or Neglect

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 11-15
Newark	743	680	944	821	664	-11
Essex	1,167	1,100	1,443	1,305	1,084	-7
New Jersey	9,414	9,250	11,972	11,556	9,397	0

Data from 2013 onwards includes substantiated and established findings.

Percentage of Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse or Neglect

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Newark	13.9	11.4	15.6	14.7	11.4
Essex	12.2	10.6	13.8	13.6	10.8
New Jersey	10.3	10.0	12.7	12.8	10.5

Data from 2013 onwards includes substantiated and established findings.

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Children Under Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) Supervision, 2012-2016. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June 30 for each year.

Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Services, 2012-2016. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June 30 for each year.

Children in Out-of-Home CP&P Placement, 2012-2016. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June 30 for each year.

Number of Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect, 2011-2015. Number of children who were reported for child abuse/neglect. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families for each calendar year.

Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse or Neglect, 2011-2015. The number of children found to be victims of child abuse/neglect. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families for each calendar year. In 2013, the N.J. Department of Children and Families added two possible findings of child abuse/neglect investigations—“established” and “not established.” Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was “substantiated” or “unfounded.”

Percentage of Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse or Neglect, 2011-2015. Based on the number of children found to be substantiated or established victims of child abuse/neglect out of the number of children reported for abuse or neglect. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. In 2013, the N.J. Department of Children and Families added two possible findings of child abuse/neglect investigations—“established” and “not established.” Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was “substantiated” or “unfounded.”