

Child Protection

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 to seek another permanent home for children who cannot be safely reunified with their parent(s) within the timeframes provided by law.

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	4,287	4,186	4,125	3,758	3,960	-8
Essex	6,564	6,598	6,410	5,881	6,216	-5
New Jersey	51,864	51,412	50,792	48,169	47,762	-8

Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Services

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	3,421	3,377	3,289	2,948	3,145	-8
Essex	5,214	5,327	5,180	4,723	5,079	-3
New Jersey	44,234	43,752	43,291	41,044	41,155	-7

Children in Out-of-Home CP&P Placement

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	866	809	836	810	815	-6
Essex	1,350	1,271	1,230	1,158	1,137	-16
New Jersey	7,630	7,660	7,501	7,125	6,607	-13

Child Welfare Monitor

New Jersey’s child protection system is currently under court supervision, as part of a 2004 agreement under the federal class action lawsuit *Charlie and Nadine H. v. Christie*. The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) (<http://www.cssp.org>) currently serves as the Federal Monitor. As Monitor, CSSP is charged with evaluating how well New Jersey is meeting the performance measures established by the court settlement. The Monitor issues data reports, typically covering six-month periods. The Monitor’s reports, which contain more child protection data, can be viewed on the Department of Children and Families’ website, <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/welfare/federal/>. The most recent monitor’s report, released on January 11, 2018, showed progress in many areas, and room for improvement in others.

Number of Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	5,939	6,047	5,578	5,811	5,834	-2
Essex	10,344	10,479	9,627	10,044	10,123	-2
New Jersey	92,924	94,486	90,135	89,441	88,972	-4

Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	680	944	821	664	632	-7
Essex	1,100	1,443	1,305	1,084	1,003	-9
New Jersey	9,250	11,972	11,556	9,397	8,256	-11

Note: Data from 2013 onwards include both substantiated and established findings.

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

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Newark	11.4	15.6	14.7	11.4	10.8
Essex	10.6	13.8	13.6	10.8	9.9
New Jersey	10.0	12.7	12.8	10.5	9.3

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Children Under Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) Supervision, 2013-2017. 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, 2013-2017. 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, 2013-2017. 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, 2012-2016. 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/ Neglect, 2012-2016. 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 Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/ Neglect, 2012-2016. 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”.