



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Division of Family & Community Partnerships Presents: Strengthening Families and Communities to Prevent Child Maltreatment

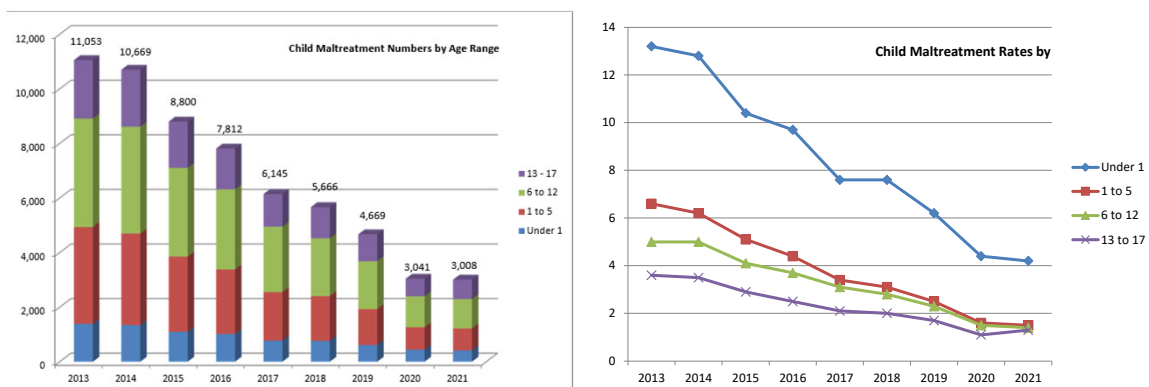
October 21, 2022



1

Child Maltreatment in NJ Has Steadily Declined

Number and Rates of Child Maltreatment in New Jersey by Age Range, 2012 to 2020
Source: NJ Child Welfare Data Hub



New Jersey Child Welfare Data Hub. *Maltreatment Rate*. Retrieved on October 17, 2022 from
<https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/#home>



2

Increased DCF Investment in Prevention

- DCF Strategic Plan
 - Prioritization of primary prevention of maltreatment and maltreatment related fatalities
- Prevention and the Risk and Protective Factors Model
 - Individual
 - Family
 - Community



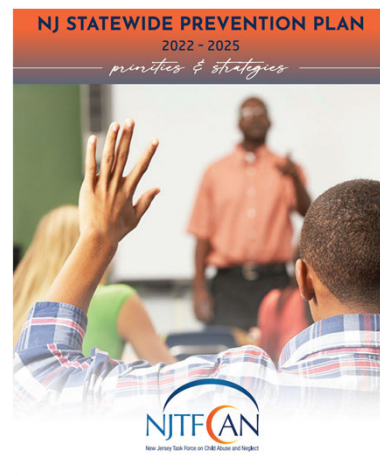
3

NJTFCAN Prevention Committee Strategic Plan

NJ Statewide Prevention Plan 2022-2025

- Promote racial equity/racial justice and reduce disparities across populations in service access, service provision and retention
- Increase opportunities for effective youth and family participation in policy and program planning, implementation, continuous quality improvement (CQI), evaluation, and outcomes.
- Promote developmentally-based trauma-informed and healing-centered prevention practices

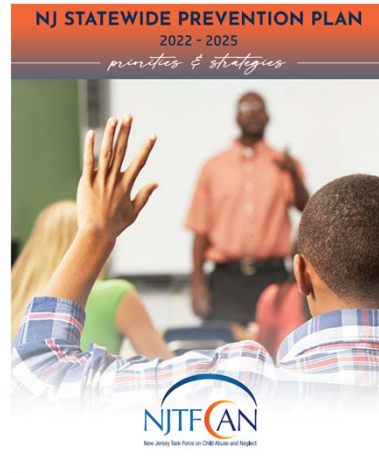
[2022-2025.NJ.Statewide.Prevention.Plan.pdf](#)



4

NJ Statewide Prevention Plan 2022-2025

- Partner and collaborate with key stakeholders across systems to ensure access to a full continuum of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services for universal, select, and indicated populations with an emphasis on non-stigmatizing strategies within a risk and protective factors framework.
- Enhance data infrastructure and appropriate data sharing for decision-making
- Ensure a highly qualified workforce with ties to the local community to provide inclusive, culturally and linguistically sensitive evidence-based prevention services



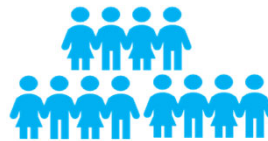
5

Family and Community Partnerships Range of Prevention Services



Primary Prevention

Activities that are directed at the general population (universal) and attempt to stop maltreatment before it occurs.



Secondary Prevention

Activities with a high-risk focus that are offered to populations that have one or more risk factors (select) associated with child maltreatment, such as poverty, parental substance abuse, young parental age, parental mental health concerns, and parental or child disabilities.



Tertiary Prevention


Activities focus on families where maltreatment has already occurred (indicated) and seek to reduce the negative consequences of the maltreatment and to prevent its recurrence.



6

Programs Implemented across Four Offices


Office of Family Support Services	Office of Early Childhood Services	Office of Housing	Office of Family Preservation & Reunification
NJ Family Success Center Network (FSC) Kinship Navigator Program (KNP) School Linked Services (SLS) Outreach to At-Risk Youth (OTARY) NJ Child Assault Prevention (NJCAP)	Evidence-Based Home Visiting Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Intervention (APPI) Parent Linking Program (PLP) County Councils for Young Children (CCYC) Connecting NJ Hubs	Youth Supportive Housing Keeping Families Together (KFT) Transitional Living Programs (TLP & STLP) Street Outreach Adolescent Housing Hub	Peer-2-Peer (P2P) Life Skills Pathways to Academic and Career Exploration to Success (PACES) Visitation Services Family Preservation Services (FPS)



7

Programs We Will Highlight Today

Office of Family Support Services	Office of Early Childhood Services	Office of Housing	Office of Family Preservation & Reunification
NJ Family Success Center Network (FSC) Kinship Navigator Program (KNP) School Linked Services (SLS) Outreach to At-Risk Youth (OTARY) NJ Child Assault Prevention (NJCAP)	Evidence-Based Home Visiting Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Intervention (APPI) Parent Linking Program (PLP) County Councils for Young Children (CCYC) Connecting NJ Hubs	Youth Supportive Housing Keeping Families Together (KFT) Transitional Living Programs (TLP & STLP) Street Outreach Adolescent Housing Hub	Peer-2-Peer (P2P) Life Skills Pathways to Academic and Career Exploration to Success (PACES) Visitation Services Family Preservation Services (FPS)



8

Office of Family Support Services (OFSS)

Office Overview:

OFSS contracts and works in partnership with school districts and organizations throughout the state to build a continuum of family-centered, holistic, and preventive services for New Jersey's children and families.

Programs We'll Focus on Today

- **New Jersey Family Success Centers:** 57 statewide Primary Prevention services
- **New Jersey Kinship Navigator Program:** preserving family stability.

Who do we typically serve?

OFSS' primary and secondary prevention programs touch across the entire lifespan! Serving infants and grandparents as well as many school age children and their parents or caregivers.



9

New Jersey Family Success Centers

- **Serving:** Over 50,000 individuals annually.
- **Program Offerings + the Protective Factors:** calendar of events that promote a caregiver's nurturing and protective capacities.
- **Community Partnerships:** Develop partnerships in the communities to ensure families are referred to the most effective programs
- **Social Connections:** neighbor helping neighbor



10

Family Choice + Family Voice

Building Trusting Relationships



BB connected with the FSC and enrolled into the Parents as Teachers home visitation program. As a new mother she wanted to learn as much as she could...BB participated in the Higher Opportunities for Women (H.O.W) program to further her education and employment. With ongoing support from her FSW and volunteering at the FSC, BB worked hard to overcome fears of public speaking and entering the workforce. BB has secured a job at Shop Rite and has been advancing within her job role.

-Sussex County Family



11

Family Choice + Family Voice

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

RD found out about Shore FSC from another parent and has joined almost every event since 2020. RD wants her daughters to learn compassion for all people. This wonderful family delivered food, clothes and educational materials to families living in local motels. She volunteered to deliver all needed program supplies and crafts for virtual events to families without vehicles during pandemic.

-Cape May Family



12



New Jersey Kinship Navigator Program (KNP)

Serving: over 4,000 caregivers annually.

Connecting Caregivers: with four regional providers across the state.

Services Provided: Information + Referral, Kinship Wraparound Services for qualifying families and Kinship Legal Guardianship.

What's New: Pursuing Family First Act funds to refine practice model and evaluate program model.



13

Kinship Navigator Program Providers

- **Care Plus NJ, Inc.**
 - Serving Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties. (201) 398-9110
- **The Salvation Army**
 - Serving Essex County (973) 373-5045
- **Children's Home Society**
 - Serving Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Union Counties. (800) 396-4518
- **Center for Family Services**
 - Serving Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties. (877) 569-0350



14

Office of Early Childhood Services (OECS)

Office Overview:

The NJ OECS supports the development and implementation of programs and activities related to pregnancy and parent support for families.

Programs We'll Focus on Today

- **NJ Evidence Based Home Visiting Network**
- **Connecting NJ Hubs**

Who do we typically serve?

We reach vulnerable families early during pregnancy and/or infancy up to age 5.



15

What Is Home Visitation?



Common Model Elements:

- Research-driven models
- Strengths-based / family-centered approach
- Relationship-based / Multi-dimensional
- Visits begin early – prenatal/birth
- Voluntary participation of families
- Frequent, long-term home visits

Focus on:

- Prenatal & parent health
- Infant and child health & development
- Parent-child interaction / infant mental health
- Parent Education / Family Social Support
- Early Literacy / School Readiness
- Path to Parent/Family Self-Sufficiency



16

How Are Parents Impacted?

I wish this program was available when I was a child, because I went from foster home to foster home. I'm grateful I can have it with my son.
- NFP Participant

I can't begin to express my happiness for the program. PAT has helped us so much, not just our children, but our whole family... they have been there every step of the way.
- PAT Participant

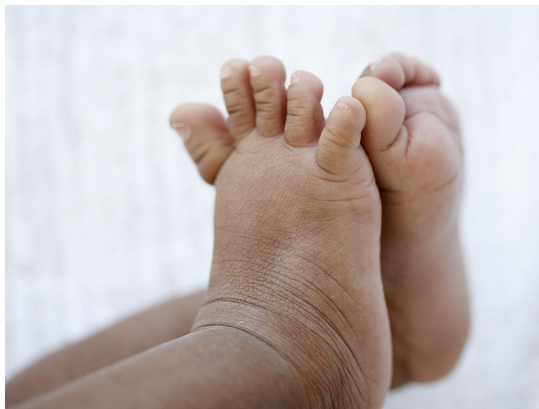
This program has made being a first-time mom a lot easier through information, toys and necessities. I highly recommend [this program] to any mom or family!
- HF Participant

The program helps us feel more confident as parents. [Our nurse] is very knowledgeable and always gives us great advice. She also makes sure that our baby is healthy and on track!
- NFP Participant



17

NJ Universal Newborn Home Visiting



- Statewide, voluntary program
- Culturally competent
- Offer home nurse visitation services
 - in every community in the State
 - for all newborn infants and all parents of a newborn infant residing in the community in which the program operates, including resource family parents, adoptive parents, and parents experiencing a stillbirth;
 - include at least one home nurse visit in the participating newborn infant's home within two weeks after the birth of an infant
 - Requires the visit be conducted by a registered nurse or advance practice nurse



18

How Do NJ Families Get Connected to Services?

Single Point of Entry (toll-free number) - *easy access* for

- Information, eligibility, assessment & referral to family support services

Reach Families Earlier – beginning in pregnancy (**voluntary**)

- Universal Perinatal Risk Assessment (PRA) – 4 P's Plus

Effective Use of Limited Resources

- HV programs stay focused on service delivery--not outreach
- Reduces duplication of services / Identifies gaps in services

Locally Driven – Each county has a local lead coordinating agency

- Designated Central Intake Coordinator
- Partnering with local outreach / Community Health Workers



19

Aligning Early Childhood Initiatives

Continue to Strengthen Collaboration: Across sectors – Home Visiting, Health, Early Head Start/Head Start, Child Care, Preschool, Education, Early Intervention, Special Child Health, Child Welfare, Family Support, etc.

Alignment & Systems Integration

- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)
- Help Me Grow (to age 5)
- Healthy Start
- Improving Outcomes Initiative -- Plans of Safe Care
- Preschool Development Grant-Birth to 5



20

Office of Housing (OOH)

Office Overview:

OOH aims to improve the social and well-being outcomes of constituents involved with DCF by leveraging housing as a foundational platform. The office focuses on 3 Primary functions:

- Program Implementation
- Systems Advocacy and Integration
- Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Programs We'll Focus on Today

Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI)

- Launch in 3 Counties in 2022

Keeping Families Together (KFT)

- Building the Practice

Who do we typically serve?

Youth and families experiencing homelessness, housing instability and/or at risk of homelessness.



21

FYI – A Collective Approach

Public Housing
Authority
(PHA)

Public Child Welfare
Agency
(PCWA)/DCF)

Community Partners
(Service Providers,
Continuum of Care
CoC, Landlords etc.)



22

Additional Investments in *Youth* Housing



Adolescent Housing Hub helps young people locate safe and stable housing options throughout New Jersey.

Adolescent housing supports 428 youth.

**Supervised Transitional Living Programs
Transitional Living Programs
Permanent Supportive Housing Programs**

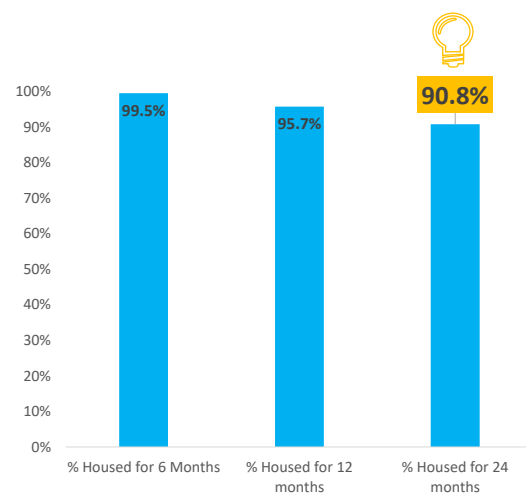


23

Investment in *Family* Supportive Housing

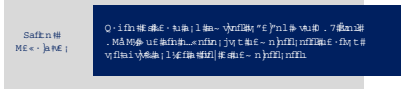


Keeping Families Together (KFT) provides child welfare involved families with housing & supportive services.



24

DCF's Portfolio of Housing Interventions and Services



Transitional Housing

- Transitional Living Programs (Supervised and non-supervised)

Supportive Housing

- Keeping Families Together (KFT)
- Connect to Home (CTH)
- Expectant and Parenting Youth (EPY)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Family Unification Program (FUP)
- Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI)

Housing Related Services

- Street Outreach
- Adolescent Housing Hub (AHH)



25

What's on the Horizon?

- ✓ **'MARKETING' and BUILDING CAPACITY** evolving housing supports information within DCF & its networks.
- ✓ **INVESTING** in supportive housing for youth and families.
- ✓ **STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS** at state, federal, and local levels.



26

Office of Family Preservation & Reunification (OFPR)

Office Overview:

OFPR supports the development and implementation of preservation, in-home family support, adolescent support and reunification programs. We work collaboratively with DCP&P in the management and oversight of the service portfolio.

Programs We'll Focus on Today

- **Peer2Peer Program**, a model selected by the DCF Youth Council, was launched in July 2021.
- **Family Preservation Services**, which is included in the first wave of DCF Monitoring.

Who do we typically serve?

Children, youth and caregivers involved or formerly involved in child protection & permanency.



27

The **Peer-2-Peer Program** will employ credible messengers with lived experience to offer advice, guidance and empowerment strategies to youth in foster care.


Three regional providers were awarded to serve **Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Middlesex, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Union**.

150 youth in foster care will be served across New Jersey.

Young people in care **less than 18 months** will be prioritized for services.



28



Family Preservation Services provide an array of services to meet the needs of families under DCP&P supervision including;

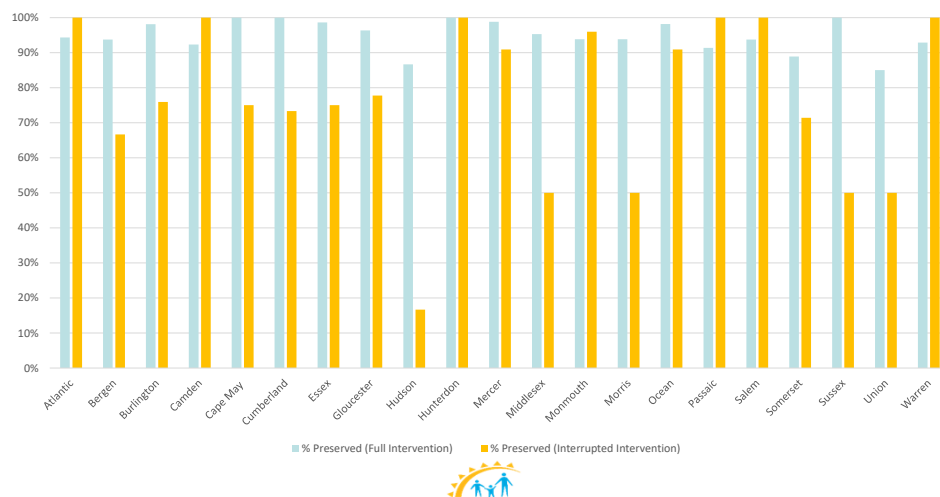
- child and family assessment
- skill-based interventions
- counseling and related support
- linkages to community resources
- limited financial assistance

- In FY21, contract funding for FPS services was nearly **\$10 million**.
- Over **700 families** and more than **1,600 children** received FPS services.
- **51%** of children who received FPS services were **six years of age or younger**.

29

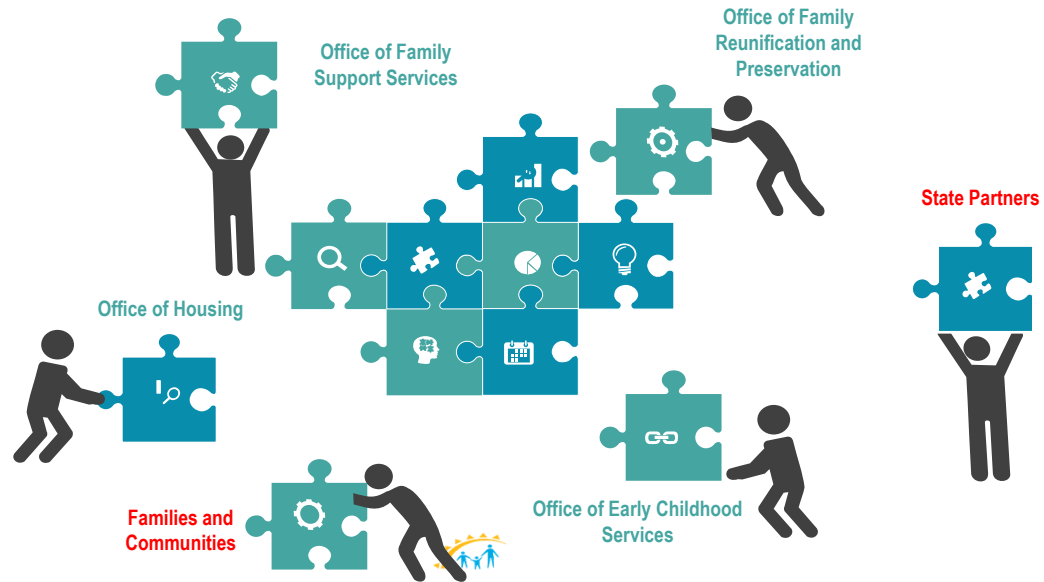
95%* of children were able to remain safely in their home, avoiding the need for a child protective removal.

NJ SFY 2021 Family Preservation Services
Percentage of Children Preserved at Discharge



30

Putting the Pieces Together



31

Connect with FCP!

Office of Early Childhood Services (OECS)

Lenore Scott, LSW - Lenore.scott@dcf.nj.gov

Office of Family Support Services (OFSS)

Jenira Hill, MA - Jenira.hill@dcf.nj.gov

Office of Family Preservation and Reunification (OFPR)

Daniela Guarda, MSW – Daniela.Guarda@dcf.nj.gov

Office of Housing (OOH)

Kerry-Anne Henry, LSW - Kerryanne.henry@dcf.nj.gov or
DCF.OfficeofHousing@dcf.nj.gov

Division of Family Community Partnerships

Assistant Commissioner Sanford Starr, MSW – Sanford.Starr@dcf.nj.gov



32

Final Questions

