

Top 12 User Guide

Outcome 5: Low Repeat Maltreatment

The best measure for this indicator is the percent of children with an indicated abuse/neglect report within one year of the determination of an initial indicated report.

Key Notes on Source Data

The source of the data is Connections, which is one of New York City's data systems of record. Connections captures data about all investigations of abuse and/or neglect and on foster care facilities and foster parents.

- Local district case workers, contract agency workers and State Central Register (SCR) staff enter their case documentation directly into the Connections database. For allegations of abuse and/or neglect the data include demographic information for people involved in the case as well as the specifics of the allegations, the safety assessments conducted and the investigation conclusion and the accompanying narrative.
- The SCR receives all calls reporting suspicion of abuse and/or neglect for the State of New York. Calls are screened and are immediately referred to the appropriate jurisdiction/borough based on where the biological mother resides or where the person legally responsible for the care of the child resides.
- Abuse/neglect reports, upon completion of the investigations, are found to be either indicated or unsubstantiated. An indicated report is a report for which a determination was made that at least one of its allegations has credible evidence of abuse or neglect. An unsubstantiated report is a report for which a determination was made that none of its allegations have credible evidence of abuse or neglect.

Total Number and Types of Reports

Two levels of reporting have been devised for presenting the data: summary reports and comparative reports. There is a the citywide, or system wide, summary report and three similar reports – Jurisdiction Borough, Child's Borough and Child's Community District (CD) – which consider smaller subpopulations of the citywide. In addition, a comparative report has been designed, using the basic format of the summary reports allowing the user to compare cross-sections of the data. Both levels of reporting present the data using the same measures in a similar format.

Summary Reports

1. Citywide – This is the overall system wide report for the city.
2. Jurisdiction Borough – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses only on children named as victims or alleged victims in abuse/neglect reports where the jurisdiction of the investigation is assigned to a particular borough.
3. Child's Borough – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses only on children from a particular borough who were named as victims or alleged victims in abuse/neglect reports.
4. Child's CD – This report mimics the citywide report, but focuses only on children from a particular CD who were named as victims or alleged victims in abuse/neglect reports.

Comparative Reports

1. CD Comparative with City and Borough – This report compares information about children from a particular CD in a particular borough with information about children from the same borough and the city as a whole.

Report Layout

Reports 1, 2, 3 and 4 are summary reports for the City, Borough, CD and Agency, respectively.

The layouts for each of these reports show:

- The three most recent months of data for the calendar year; and
- Calendar year-to-date (CYTD) cumulative totals for the most current year and the three years prior.

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For example, for the September 2003 report, the three most recent months of data are shown, which are July 2002, August 2002 and September 2002. The CYTD 2002 data reflect the cumulative total from January 2002 to September 2002. The period covered in the cumulative total for the most current year is the same period covered in the cumulative totals for the other years listed – CYTD 2001 would represent the same January to September period. In essence, there is a one-year lag in reporting because the report tracks what happens to a group of children over the course of the past year.

Report 5 is a *comparative* report for CD.

This report allows you to compare a particular CD's performance with that of the Borough's and the City's. The layout for this report shows:

- the most recent month of data for the calendar year; and
- the percentage change from the same month of the previous year.

For example for the September 2003 report, the data for September 2002 is shown as well as the percent change from September 2001.

Details on Performance Report

When looking at the repeat maltreatment data, the group of children examined is those whose initial abuse/neglect report was determined within the month that is one year (365 days) ago from the current month of reporting. Specifically, we follow children with a determined investigation to see if they become the subject in another alleged abuse/neglect report within 365 days of the date of determination the prior report.

For example: If a child's abuse/neglect investigation is indicated on June 15, 2002 and he is named as a subject in another abuse/neglect report any time before June 15, 2003 (within 365 days of the initial determination date) that is determined to be indicated, he is counted as having experienced repeat maltreatment.

Section 1

Number of children with indicated investigations

The first section of the table provides an overview of the number of children with indicated investigations of abuse/neglect in a given month or CYTD.

- Of the total number of children with an indicated investigation, the percent with another indicated report within one year (365 days) of the determination of the initial report is provided.
- Of the total number of children with an indicated investigation, the percent with another indicated report within six months (183 days) of the determination of the initial report is provided.

In the second part of Section 1 the initial indicated reports are broken down by the status of the case at the time the reports were indicated. While the status of the cases may have changed by the time of the repeat report, only the status at the time of indication is considered.

- The number with initial case open with court ordered services and percent with repeat indicated report within a year is shown.
- The number with initial case open with voluntary services and percent with repeat indicated report within a year is shown.
- The number with initial case closed with no services and percent with repeat indicated reports within a year is shown.

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Section 2

This section of the table provides further detail of the children who were found to have a repeat report within one year (365 days) of the determination date of an initial report that was either indicated or unsubstantiated. Information concerning the determination of the subsequent report as it relates to that of the prior report is presented.

Number of children with determined investigations
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This is the number of children with a determined investigation, either indicated or unsubstantiated. This number is used to determine the “percent with repeat report within 1 year”.

In the rest of this section information concerning the determination of the repeat report as it relates to that of the prior is shown.

Of the children who had a repeat report within one year, percents are given for:

- reports where the determination is pending;
- indicated repeat reports where the prior reports were indicated;
- indicated repeat reports where the prior reports were unsubstantiated; and
- unsubstantiated repeat reports where the prior reports were unsubstantiated.

The percentages in this section of this report should add up to 100%, however due to rounding it may be slightly above or below 100%.