

How to Find Information on Child Welfare

by Christine Bruzzese

Public Charities and Department of Welfare. Early efforts at child welfare were overseen by such agencies as Department of Public Charities, Department of Welfare and Board of Child Welfare. *Annual Reports* of these entities are available from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries and provide background information on programs, activities and statistics.

Department of Social Services and Administration for Children's Services. The establishment of the Department of Social Services (DSS) in 1967, brought child welfare services under their aegis. In 1992, Administration for Children's Services took over most child welfare and protective services such as adoption, foster care and aid to abused children. *The Child Protectors*, published by DSS/HRA in 1979, examines the function and workings of child protective and court services in New York City with statistics and recommendations for change. ACS has produced many reports since its inception. *Selected Child Welfare Trends* presents historical data on protective and preventive services, foster care, adoptions and related programs. Years covered are mainly 1990 to 1998. Three ACS *Status Reports*, prepared from 1998 to 2001, detail the agency's plans to reform and reconstruct operations and the results of the changes made.

Other agencies and organizations. Department of Health, City Council and

Public Advocate have published materials on child welfare issues. The Mayor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect produced a *Final Report* in 1970. This study examines the issues of child abuse and how the agencies involved can improve services to abused children. *The Children are Waiting*, prepared by the HRA Early Development Childhood Task Force in 1970, reviews social services provided to young children, such as Head Start. Findings are summarized and recommendations given for change. Citizens' Committee for Children of New York offers a number of studies. *Keeping Track of New York City's Children* presents statistics and discussion on economic conditions, health, child care, education, drug use and other pertinent topics. Holdings are for 1999 and 2000.

Websites. The Administration for Children's Services website can be found at www.nyc.gov/acs. Programs and services are described and statistics and publications can be accessed. Citizens' Committee for Children of New York at www.cccnewyork.org offers detailed statistics on children, press releases and other information. Check the Department of Records website at www.nyc.gov/records under the link "**Publications**" for current city agency reports. Many publications on child welfare can be found under the topic "**Human Services.**"