



ADMINISTRATIVE DATA – Administrative data reflect the administration of programs, policies or services, not direct population data.

ADOLESCENT ARRESTS FOR PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIMES – New York State Uniform Crime Report (UCR) violent index crimes include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Property index crimes include burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. An arrest is counted on each separate occasion a person is taken into custody, notified or cited by a law enforcement official. An arrest is recorded in the jurisdiction where it occurs (this jurisdiction is not necessarily where the crime occurred), and only the most serious offense that was committed during a crime incident or multiple crime incidents is recorded. It is important to note that many persons who commit crimes are never arrested, a single arrest can involve multiple crime incidents, and more than one person can be arrested for the same crime incident. The adolescent arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of reported adolescent arrests for violent and property index crimes (or, for adolescents who are not treated as adults, for acts which would constitute violent and property index crimes if committed by an adult) by an estimate of the population of youth in the appropriate age category.

ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES AND BIRTHS – Pregnancies are the sum of the number of live births, reported induced terminations of pregnancies and reported fetal deaths of all gestations. The adolescent pregnancy rate is the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females in the stated age group. The adolescent live birth rate is the number of live births in an age group per 1,000 female population in the same age group. Rates are presented for adolescent pregnancies

and live births for the age groups 10 through 14, 15 through 17, and 15 through 19 years.

AGE – Age is generally derived from date of birth information, and is based on the age of the person in complete years.

AGENCY SOURCE – The agency source identifies the agency that supplied the data to KWIC.

AGGREGATE DATA – Aggregate data present the total number of occurrences within a geographic area, not individual data.

ANNUAL DROPOUTS-PUBLIC SCHOOLS – In New York State, the annual dropout rate refers to the proportion of students in grades 9 through 12 who left school prior to graduation for any reason, except death and did not enter another school or high school equivalency preparation program. Annual high school dropout percents are calculated by dividing the number of students who drop out during a single year by the enrollment in grades 9 through 12 (including the portion of any ungraded secondary enrollment for that year that can be attributed to grades 9 through 12) and multiplying by 100.

ARRESTS FOR DRUG USE/POSSESSION/SALE/DUI – The youth drug arrest rate is based on the number of arrests for the use, possession or sale of drugs, public narcotic intoxication or driving under the influence (DUI) of drugs, per 10,000 youth 10 through 20 years.

CENSUS – A census is a complete enumeration, usually of a population, but also of businesses and commercial establishments, farms, governments, and so forth. The Decennial Census is the census of population and housing, taken by the Census Bureau in years ending in zero (0). Article I of the Constitution requires that a census be taken every



ten years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives. By 2010, the American Community Survey will replace the decennial long form and censuses will consist of a short form only.

CHILD – A child is a son or a daughter by birth, an adopted child, or a stepchild, regardless of the child’s age or marital status, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

CHILD ABUSE – Refers to a child whose parent or other person legally responsible for his/her care inflicts upon the child serious physical injury, creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury, or commits an act of sex abuse against the child. Not only can a person be abusive to a child if they perpetrate any of these actions against a child in their care, they can be guilty of abusing a child if they allow someone else to do these things to that child. (Child Abuse is defined in law at Section 412 of the Social Services Law and at Section 1012 of the Family Court Act.)

**CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT—
Children and Youth in Indicated Reports
of Child Abuse and Maltreatment** – Maltreatment and neglect represents an impairment or imminent danger of impairment of a child’s physical, mental or emotional condition due to the failure of a parent, guardian or other person legally responsible for the child to exercise a minimum degree of care toward the child. This can involve the failure to provide a minimum degree of care regarding a child’s basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or proper supervision or guardianship. It can also involve the parent or other legally responsible person’s use of excessive corporal punishment, the abuse or misuse of drugs or alcohol, and abandonment of a child (U.S. DHHS, 2006). Children and youth in indicated

reports of child abuse and maltreatment presents the number of unique children experiencing child abuse and neglect in a given year and the rate per 1,000 children and youth 0 to 17 years in the general population.

**CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT—
Indicated Reports of Child Abuse and
Maltreatment** – The State Central Register receives reports concerning alleged incidents of abuse and neglect in families and certain publicly licensed settings. A report becomes “indicated” when there is some credible evidence that a child has experienced abuse or neglect. This indicator presents the number of indicated reports in a given calendar year and the percentage of reports that are indicated in a given year. The percentage is determined by dividing the total number of indicated reports by the total number of reports. Reports can include more than one child and more than one type of abuse or neglect; therefore, this indicator is report-oriented, not child-oriented.

**CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT—
Recurrence of Maltreatment** – While most children who are the subject of a child abuse and maltreatment report are in indicated reports once over the course of their lives, some children in indicated reports are the subject of subsequent indicated reports, referred to as the recurrence of maltreatment. As measured by the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), a child is the victim of recurrent maltreatment if he or she is the subject of two or more substantiated reports of abuse or neglect within a six-month period. The rate of maltreatment recurrences is determined by dividing the number of children with a second substantiated allegation in an indicated report of child abuse or neglect within 6 months of the initial substantiated allegation in an indicated oral report





for a given calendar year by the total number of unique children with a substantiated allegation during that year.

CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT —

Resulting in Court Cases – In New York State, Child Protective Services (CPS), within the local Department of Social Services [in New York City, the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) provides child protective services], is the authorized entity that investigates reports of child abuse and maltreatment, protects children (under 18 years old) from further abuse or maltreatment, and provides rehabilitative services to children, parents and other involved family members. If there is some credible evidence that the report of child abuse or maltreatment is true, the report is considered indicated. In those situations where, in order to protect the child, CPS finds it necessary to remove the child from the home, or CPS finds that families are not complying with the rehabilitative services deemed necessary to maintain a child safely at home, the law instructs CPS to seek the authority of the court to sanction the removal of the child or to mandate the services. These proceedings are initiated by filing a petition in Family Court charging neglect or abuse. The rate of children in indicated reports of child abuse and maltreatment that result in petitions to Family Court is determined by dividing the number of unique children in indicated reports with petitions filed in Family Court in a given year by the total number of unique children in indicated reports of child abuse and maltreatment in that year.

CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT —

Resulting in Removal of Child – In New York State, children who are suspected of being abused or maltreated become the subject of a report to the State Central Registry (SCR). Reports to the SCR are transmitted electronically to local Social

Services District (SSD) child protective service (CPS) units for investigation and assessment of risk of harm and services need. The CPS caseworker determines whether a child named in an SCR report has been abused or maltreated and whether the child is at imminent risk of harm by remaining in the home and at immediate risk of foster care placement. If deemed necessary, CPS may remove children on an emergency basis, at or before submitting a petition of abuse and neglect to Family Court, or after the Court investigates the evidence and issues a disposition (decision) ordering the removal. Removal, based on the perceived threat to a child’s safety and well-being, can occur at any time while a child abuse and neglect case is open. The rate for children removed is calculated by dividing the total number of children with a removal date at or before the initial court hearing by the total number of children with abuse and neglect petitions filed in that year. The rate of children removed at or before petition filing date is calculated by dividing the number of children with a removal date equal to or less than the petition date in a given year by the total number of children with abuse and neglect petitions filed in that year. The rate of children removed at the initial court hearing is calculated by dividing the number of children removed at the initial court hearing by the total number of children with abuse and neglect petitions filed in that year.

CHILD ABUSE/MALTREATMENT REPORTS –

Reports refer to the allegation of any concerned person or “mandated” reporter (persons who are required by state law to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect) of suspected child abuse or neglect to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (1-800-342-3720). The Central Register relays information from the calls to the local Child Protective Service for investigation, monitors their prompt response,



and identifies if there are prior child abuse or maltreatment reports. Reports can include more than one child as well as more than one type of abuse or neglect for an individual child. Therefore, reports do not reflect individual children.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH LIVING BELOW

POVERTY – Children are considered to be living in poverty if their family income, before taxes, falls below the poverty thresholds set by the federal government for families of different sizes. The Federal and State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as well as the value of non-cash benefits such as public housing, food stamps, Medicaid, or school meals are not included when calculating family income; in addition, certain costs such as taxes and work-related expenses are not subtracted from family income in determining the number of children who are poor. The poverty thresholds are adjusted each year for changes in the cost of living. In 2003, the poverty threshold for a single parent and two children was \$14,825; for a married couple with two children the poverty threshold was \$18,660.

COHORT – A cohort is a well-defined group of people who have had a common experience. For example, a group of people born during a particular period or year is called a birth cohort.

CONFIDENTIALITY – KWIC presents the total number of occurrences within a geographic area, not individual data. For indicators with relatively rare events in many counties, rates are presented as three-year averages. Therefore, it is unlikely that individuals would be identified. However, data users need to be aware of confidentiality issues related to using health and well-being data and respect and protect the privacy of individuals.

DATA SOURCE – The data source identifies the agency that compiled the data along with the file, certificate, or record used to compile the data (pertains to the numerator data).

DATE COMPILED – The date compiled identifies the time the data were accessed and calculated. Since data for some indicators are continuously updated (e.g., SPARCS data), the numbers and rates accessed at different dates may reflect different findings.

DECENNIAL CENSUS – The census of population and housing, taken by the Census Bureau in years ending in 0 (zero). Article I of the Constitution requires that a census be taken every ten years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives. Title 13 of the U. S. Code provides the authorization for conducting the census in Puerto Rico and the Island Areas.

DEMOGRAPHICS – The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanic, a self-designated classification, is defined as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. Origin can be viewed as ancestry, nationality, or country of birth of the person or person's parents or ancestors prior to their arrival in the United States. In an effort to better reflect the country's growing diversity, the U.S. Census gave respondents the option of self-selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities as of the 2000 Census. Respondents indicating only one race are referred to as race alone population or the group that reported only one race category. Six categories make up this population: White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and Some Other Race. Individuals who chose more than





one of the six race categories are referred to as the Two or More Races population. All respondents who indicated more than one race can be collapsed into the Two or More Races category. The six One Race Alone categories with the Two or More Races category produce seven mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories and tally the sum of the total population.

DENOMINATOR – The denominator is the lower portion of a fraction used to calculate a rate or ratio. In a rate, the denominator is usually the population at risk.

DETERMINING CAUSE – While data may help describe factors of an event (e.g., who, what, when and where of an occurrence), data alone usually cannot demonstrate why an event occurs.

DETERMINING COMPARABILITY – In order to confidently compare two or more percents/rates, the numerators and denominators need to be compatible. Use data that have been collected with scientific rigor and consistency to ensure the integrity of the data. In addition, here are some other factors to consider: Who collected the data?; Why were the data collected?; Were similar methods and definitions used to identify the occurrences?; Were similar population sources/ estimates used?; If the rates are crude, what population characteristics need to be considered?; Are the numbers large enough to portray reliable data?; What time periods are being compared?; Have policy shifts occurred that could influence the findings?; and Have resources targeted the indicator that could influence the findings?

DISABILITY – As defined by the U.S. Census, disability is a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing

stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

DISPOSITION – Disposition refers to a determination made by a social service agency that evidence is or is not sufficient under state law to conclude that maltreatment occurred.

FIREARM RELATED INDEX CRIMES – New York State Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Index Crimes track whether a firearm was present during the commission of a murder, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault. A reported crime is recorded in the jurisdiction where it occurs, and only the most serious offense that was committed during a criminal incident is recorded. The firearm-related crime rate is the number of reported UCR crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault where a firearm was present divided by an estimate of the population of persons of all ages in the general population and multiplied by 1,000.

FOSTER CARE—Adoption Milestones – Adoption Milestones presents four indicators that measure milestones in the multi-step adoption process for children in foster care on the adoption track. (Note: Children with waivers are excluded from all indicators.) Goal Set presents the number of children with a goal set to adoption during the calendar year and the percentage of all children in foster care at any time during the calendar year. Freed for Adoption presents the number of children freed during the calendar year and the percentage of all children in foster care at any time during the calendar year. Placed for Adoption presents the number of children placed for adoption during the calendar year and the percentage of all children in foster care who had a goal of adoption on December 31 of given year or had a goal set to



adoption, were freed, placed or discharged to adoption at any time during the calendar year. Discharged to Adoption presents the number of children discharged to adoption during the calendar year and the percentage of children in foster care at any time during the calendar year with a goal of adoption and status of free for adoption.

FOSTER CARE—Children and Youth

Admitted to Foster Care – Children admitted to foster care are those children under age 18 who enter placement outside their home as the result of a court order in a given calendar year. Responsibility for the care and custody of these children is transferred, by court order, from the child’s parents to the Commissioner of the local Department of Social Services. Children and youth admitted to foster care provides the number of children admitted to foster care during a given calendar year and the rate per 1,000 children 0 to 17 years in the general population. Children and youth admitted to foster care by placement type, age groups and race/ethnicity presents the number of children entering foster care in a respective sub-category in a given year and the percentage per children and youth entering foster care in that given year.

FOSTER CARE—Children and Youth

Discharged from Foster Care – Children are discharged from foster care when the court is satisfied that a permanency plan is sufficient to ensure the child’s safety and well-being. Children are discharged from foster care to a variety of caregivers, including: parent(s), relative, adoptive parent, their own care, and “other.” The rate of children discharged from foster care is calculated by dividing the number of children discharged in a given calendar year by the total number of children who were in foster care at any time during the calendar year. The percentage of each type of

discharge is calculated by dividing the respective number of children discharged by the total number of children and youth discharged during the given calendar year.

FOSTER CARE—Children and Youth in

Foster Care – Children in foster care are children and youth who are in the care and custody of the Commissioner of the local Department of Social Services on December 31 of a given year. The foster care settings for this “24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians” (U.S. DHHS, 2005) include, but are not limited to: home care refers to nonrelative foster family homes and pre-adoptive homes, relative care refers to relative foster homes, congregate care refers to group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, and other care refers to agency operated boarding homes, group residences, residential treatment facility (RTF) and intermediate care facility (ICF). Children and Youth in Foster Care presents a “point in time” number of children in the care and custody of the Commissioner of the local Department of Social Services on December 31 of a given year and the rate per 1,000 children 0 to 21 years in the general population. Children and Youth in Foster Care by Placement Type also presents a “point in time” number of children in a respective type of care on December 31 of a given year and the percentage per children in foster care on December 31 of a given year.

FOSTER CARE—Children and Youth In Indicated Reports of Abuse and

Maltreatment in Foster Care – Children are the victims of abuse and maltreatment in foster care if they are the subject of indicated reports of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff. The rate of abuse and neglect in foster care is calculated by dividing the number of children in indicated reports of abuse and maltreatment in foster care in





a given federal fiscal year by the total number of children in foster care during that period.

FOSTER CARE—Parental Rights

Surrendered—The surrender of parental rights is a voluntary legal agreement whereby the parent intentionally relinquishes his or her parental rights. Unlike a termination of parental rights (TPR) order, a parent voluntarily signs a surrender agreement that can be unconditional (birth parent has no rights) or conditional (e.g., the birth parent could identify adoptive parent(s) and establish visitation rights). The percentage of parental rights surrendered is calculated by dividing the number of judgments resulting in the surrender of parental rights in a calendar year by the total number of surrender of parental rights judgments considered by the court during that year.

FOSTER CARE—Permanent Exits from

Foster Care—The New York State alternative measure of permanent exits replaces the national standard measures for evaluating the length of time to adoption and reunification. Permanent exits measure the number of care days of foster care used during the 2003 to 2004 period by different groups of children and the proportion of children who exit from each group to reunification or adoption by the end of the two-year period. A child's spell(s) is associated with the county that most recently had jurisdiction over the child's case. Children are counted as exiting foster care if they have been absent or on trial discharge for more than 30 days. If the child returns to foster care, this is counted as an admission. A child's spell in foster care continues if the time out of care is 30 days or fewer. Only spells that are at least 5 days long are included. This CFSR alternative measure provides a baseline percentage of children with permanent exits from foster care during 1999 and 2000 and a target percentage based on the county baseline.

FOSTER CARE—Re-entry into Foster Care –

The New York State alternative measure for re-entry into foster care replaces the national Permanency Outcome standard measure for re-entry into foster care. The New York State re-entry measure provides data on children re-entering foster care within 24 months of being reunified with parents or discharged to relatives. Re-entry includes children who were discharged for more than 30 days but less than 24 months after a trial or final discharge. This CFSR alternative measure provides a baseline percentage of children who re-entered foster care during 1999 and 2000. A baseline percentage was calculated for counties with at least 25 discharges. Counties without baselines had less than 25 discharges. The current measure reflects the percentage of children who re-entered care between 2003 and 2004. The percentage change reflects the percent change between the baseline and current rates [(current minus baseline)/baseline]. Only reentries from reunification and discharge to relative are measured for this performance standard.

FOSTER CARE — Two or Fewer Placement Settings While In Care Less Than 1 Year –

Two or fewer placements while in care less than 1 year is a measure of stability for children in foster care. The percent of children in foster care for less than one year with two or fewer placement settings is calculated by dividing the unique count of children in foster care less than one year with two or fewer placements in a given fiscal year by the total number of children in foster care less than a year during that fiscal year multiplied by 100.

FOSTER CARE—Terminated Parental Rights Judgments –

The termination of parental rights (TPR) involves the ending of the legal parent-child relationship. Once the relationship has been terminated, the child is then



legally free to be placed for adoption with the goal of securing a stable, permanent family environment that can meet the child's long-term parenting needs. According to the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, states are required to initiate hearings to terminate the rights of parents if a child has been in foster care for 15 of the past 22 months, unless compelling circumstances exist. There are four possible outcomes of TPR hearings: granted, dismissed or withdrawn, suspended for up to one year, or in a relatively few cases an "other" outcome might apply. The proportion for each of these outcomes is calculated by dividing the number of respective judgments in a calendar year by the total number of completed TPR judgments considered by the court during that year.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – The Touchstones framework, organized by six major life areas: economic security, physical and emotional health, education, citizenship, families and communities. Each life area has a set of goals and objectives—representing expectations about the future, and a set of indicators—reflecting the status of children and families.

HISPANIC ORIGIN – The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Thus Hispanics may be of any race. Hispanic, a self-designated classification, is defined as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. The terms Hispanic and Latino are used interchangeably. The term Latino appeared on the Census form for the first time in 2000. Origin can be viewed as ancestry, nationality, or country of birth of the person or person's parents or ancestors prior to their arrival in the United States.

INDICATED REPORT – Indicated Report refers to a type of investigation disposition that concludes that the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatments was supported or founded by state law or policy. This is the highest level of finding by a state agency. An indicated report can include more than one child as well as more than one type of abuse for individual children. Therefore, indicated reports do not reflect individual children.

INDIRECT MEASURES – Community indicators are not necessarily direct measures of the population's behavior but may be measures of the community service systems. Policy shifts, resource fluctuations, degree of centralization and standardization, local reporting practices and local service delivery differences affect indicator data. Other factors in the community – including availability, affordability and quality of service—may also affect indicator data. Local qualitative information regarding the role of the indicator in the context of its service setting must be obtained and applied when interpreting the results of indicator-based studies. For example, the youth arrest rate for driving while intoxicated is a direct measure of a law enforcement response to youth alcohol and other drug (AOD) use and is an indirect measure of your AOD use in the population.

INFANT MORTALITY (THREE-YEAR AVERAGE) – Infant mortality is the number of deaths to infants under one year of age. Neonatal mortality is the number of deaths to infants under 28 days of age. Postneonatal mortality is the number of deaths to infants at 28 days of age, but less than one year of age. The annual number of these deaths per 1,000 live births occurring during the year is the infant, neonatal, or postneonatal mortality rate. Because infant, neonatal, or postneonatal deaths are relatively rare events in many counties, the numbers and rates are presented as three-year





averages. This is necessary to improve the reliability (or stability) of the data. For example, in a small county, a serious tragedy such as a fatal fire or an automobile accident may cause the infant, neonatal, or postneonatal mortality rate to fluctuate greatly from one year to another.

KIDS COUNT – KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States.

LIFE AREA – The Touchstones framework is organized by six major life areas: economic security, physical and emotional health, education, citizenship, families and communities.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT AND PREMATURE BIRTHS – Infants weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth are considered to be low birthweight. The low birthweight rate is the number of low birthweight births per 100 live births for which a birthweight is known. This rate is presented as a percentage for all age groups and the age group 10 through 19 years. Infants born with less than 37 weeks gestation are premature births. The premature birth rate is the number of premature births per 100 live births for which gestation is known. This rate is presented as a percentage for women of all ages and the age group 10 through 19 years.

MALTREATMENT – Maltreatment refers to the quality of care a child is receiving from those responsible for him/her. Maltreatment occurs when a parent or other person legally responsible for the care of a child harms a child, or places a child in imminent danger of harm by failing to exercise the minimum degree of care in providing the child with any of the following: food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care when financially able to do so.

Maltreatment can also result from abandonment of a child or from not providing adequate supervision for the child. Further, a child may be maltreated if a parent engages in excessive use of drugs or alcohol such that it interferes with their ability to adequately supervise the child. (Neglect is defined in law at Section 1012 of the Family Court Act. Maltreatment is defined in law at Section 412 of the Social Services Law. Although the terms are not synonymous in the law, the terms neglect and maltreatment are used interchangeably.)

MARITAL STATUS – Adults are generally classified by marital status as being married, never married, separated, divorced or widowed.

MAXIMUM – The maximum identifies the largest value within the range of percents or rates.

MEAN – The mean, a measure of central tendency, is the average. To calculate the mean add all of the values for each region and divide by the total number of regions.

MEDIAN – The median, a measure of central tendency, is the value of the middle item when the data are arranged from lowest to highest. Since New York State has an even number of counties (62), the median is computed by averaging the two middle observations, point 31 and 32. If New York City Counties' data are not available, the median is the middle observation, point 29 of the range. While the median is not sensitive to outliers and guarantees that 50 percent of the values fall on either side of the value, it may not be representative of all county percents or rates.

METADATA – Metadata provides information about the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data.



MINIMUM – The minimum identifies the smallest value within the range of percents or rates.

NARRATIVE – Narratives provide descriptive stories of the indicators – i.e., the purpose, significance, current findings and any additional notes that contribute to the accurate and effective interpretation of indicators.

NEW YORK CITY – NYC consists of five counties that are coextensive with the five NYC boroughs: Bronx Borough (Bronx County); Brooklyn Borough (Kings County); Manhattan Borough (New York County), Queens Borough (Queens County), and Staten Island Borough (Richmond County).

NEW YORK STATE – NYS consists of 62 counties.

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – The Council acts as a neutral body to coordinate the state health, education and human services systems to ensure that all children and families in New York State have the opportunity to reach their potential. While the Council neither funds nor operates programs, it engages in both interagency policy development and research.

NUMBER – The number is the count of occurrences within a defined geographic area during a specified period of time. Numbers are used to determine the size of an occurrence in a particular location. Numbers, however, do not take the size of the population who could experience the occurrence into account. Therefore, numbers cannot show the probability of this occurring in the population. While numbers can compare the size of an occurrence within the same population group, numbers generally should not be used for comparisons, especially when comparison groups have differing population size or composition.

NUMERATOR – The numerator is the upper portion of a fraction that reflects the number of events within a geographic area and designated time.

OBJECTIVE – An objective outlines strategic conditions to be attained as a means of achieving an over-reaching goal, the state of affairs that a plan is intended to achieve.

PERCENT – A percent reflects the occurrence per 100 of the population and can be expressed in other formats (e.g., 25% can also be expressed as 25 in 100, one quarter, or 1 in 4). To compute a percent, divide the number of occurrences by the total population who could experience the occurrence and multiply by 100.

PERCENT CHANGE – By accessing base and current period data, the user is able to determine the percent of change between two periods of time. To calculate a percent change, find the difference between the current year rate and base year rate [subtract the base rate from the current rate], then divide the difference by the base year and multiply by a standardized multiplier (100 is used as the multiplier to present the change as a percent). The difference between the rates can show an increase (positive number) or decrease (negative number) and depending on the indicator, can depict a negative or positive change.

PERCENT DIFFERENCE – By accessing base and current period data, the user is able to determine the percent of change between two periods of time. To calculate a percent difference, subtract the base rate from the current year. The difference between the rates can show an increase (positive number) or decrease (negative number) and depending on the indicator, can depict a negative or positive difference.





PERSONS IN NEED OF SUPERVISION (PINS)

CASES OPENED FOR SERVICES – Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) are juveniles less than 18 years of age for whom complaints were filed with local probation departments because of non-criminal misconduct, such as truancy from school, incorrigibility, ungovernability or habitual disobedience. Complainants in these cases are generally parents or school officials who are seeking the formal intervention of the family court to control a juvenile's misconduct. PINS cases are recorded in the county in which a PINS complaint is filed. Since only the aggregate number of cases is reported by local probation departments to the State, it is impossible to present frequencies and rates by age categories. The rate for PINS cases is calculated by dividing the number of PINS cases opened by an estimate of youth 10 through 17 years of age; the population of youth less than 10 years of age was excluded, because few PINS complaints are filed for juveniles in this lower age category.

PETITION – Petition refers to the document that is filed with the court for child protection proceedings. The petition contains the essential allegations (charges) of abuse or neglect that make up the petitioner's complaint about a particular child's situation.

POPULATION SOURCE – The population source identifies the source used to estimate the total population who could experience the occurrence, frequently referred to as "population at risk" for traditional indicators (pertains to the denominator data used to calculate the percent or rate) e.g., all people, children, youth or labor force in a given geographic area.

PROPERTY AND VIOLENT INDEX CRIMES

KNOWN TO THE POLICE – New York State Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Index Crimes include serious property and violent crimes reported or otherwise known to the police. Property index crimes include burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Violent index crimes include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. A reported crime is recorded in the jurisdiction where it occurs, and only the most serious offense that was committed during a criminal incident is recorded. The crime rate is the number of reported UCR index crimes divided by an estimate of the general population and multiplied by 1,000.

RACE/ETHNICITY – The 2000 Census, in an effort to better reflect the country's growing diversity, gave respondents the option of self-selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities. Respondents indicating only one race are referred to as race alone population or the group that reported only one race category. Six categories make up this population: White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and Some Other Race. Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the Two or More Races population. All respondents who indicated more than one race can be collapsed into the Two or More Races category. The six One Race Alone categories with the Two or More Races category produce seven mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories and tally the sum of the total population. Race categories include: "White" refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who indicated their race or races as "White" or wrote in entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab or Polish.; "Black or African American" refers to people having



origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Black, African American or Negro,” or wrote in entries such as African American, Afro American, Nigerian or Haitian.; “American Indian and Alaska Native” refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South American (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment. It includes people who indicated their race or races by making this category or writing in their principal or enrolled tribe, such as Rosebud Sioux, Chippewa or Navajo.; “Asian” refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Asian Indian,” “Chinese,” “Filipino,” “Korean,” “Japanese,” “Vietnamese,” or “Other Asian,” or wrote in entries such as Burmese, Hmong, Pakistani or Thai.; “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Native Hawaiian,” “Guamanian or Chamorro,” “Samoan” or “Other Pacific Islander,” or wrote in entries such as Tahitian, Mariana Islander or Chuukese.; “Some other Race” was included in Census 2000 for respondents who were unable to identify with the five Office of Management and Budget race categories. Respondents who provided write-in entries such as Moroccan, South African, Belizean, or a Hispanic origin (e.g., Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban) are included in the Some Other Race category.; “Two or More Races” includes individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the “Two or more races” population or as the group that reported more than one race. All respondents who indicated more than one race can be collapsed into the “Two or more races” category.

RATE – A rate is a measure of some event, disease, or condition in relation to a unit of population, along with some specification of time. Rates provide a standardized means of comparing the prevalence of an indicator over time and across different geographical areas (e.g., counties, states). Therefore, rates provide an excellent way to measure progress towards meeting goals and standards. To compute a rate, first divide the number of occurrences (the numerator) by the total population who could experience the occurrence (the denominator), then multiply by a standardizing multiplier. Indicators in this data book utilize the following multipliers: 1,000; 10,000; or 100,000 and are reported as per 1,000; per 10,000; and per 100,000, respectively. However, rates calculated in this manner are called crude rates and have not taken into consideration possible differences in population characteristics necessary for comparisons.

REST OF STATE – Rest of State consists of 57 counties, representing New York State counties (62 minus New York City counties (5).

SEX – Sex refers to an individual’s gender classification: male or female.

SMALL NUMBERS – Rates are sensitive to variations in the size of both the numerator (the number of occurrences) and the denominator (the estimated population who could experience the occurrence). KWIC reminds users that rates and percents based on fewer than 20 occurrences may exhibit significant variation from one year to the next. This variation is often referred to as “not stable.”

STANDARD DEVIATION – The standard deviation measures the spread of the distribution of county percents or rates and shows the average variability in population from the mean. It is defined as the square root of the variance.





THREE-YEAR AVERAGING – For indicators with relatively rare events in many counties, rates are presented as three-year averages. This is necessary to improve the stability of the data because rates are sensitive to variations in the size of both the numerator (the number of occurrences) and the denominator (the estimated population who could experience the occurrence) in small counties. The number is determined by adding the numbers and dividing by three. The mid-year population estimate is used as the denominator.

TIME PERIOD – The timeframe (e.g., base year, current year) for the majority of indicators in KWIC is the annual calendar year, January 1 through December 31. However, there are two exceptions: (1) the State Education Department generally collects data for the school year, July 1 through June 30 and (2) the rates for indicators with relatively rare events in many counties are presented as three-year averages. Three-year averaging is necessary to improve the reliability (or stability) of the data.

TOUCHSTONES – The Touchstones framework, established by the Council on Children and Families and its 12 member agencies, provides a holistic approach and is organized by six major life areas: economic security, physical and emotional health, education, citizenship, families, and communities. Each life area has a set of goals and objectives-representing expectations about the future, and a set of indicators-reflecting the status of children and families. This structure cuts across all service sectors and allows individuals and organizations with diverse missions to come together to improve outcomes for children and families.

UNEMPLOYMENT—RESIDENT CIVILIAN – Civilian unemployment is defined as adults 16 years of age and older who were not employed but were able, available and actively looking for work during the week including the 12th of the month. Individuals who were waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days were also considered unemployed. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed per 100 persons in the labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed). Rates represent the annual average.

UNIQUE CHILD – Unique child refers to an individual child who is included in an indicated report of child abuse or maltreatment. The number of children reflects unique children. The unique number, within New York City or Rest of State, will count a child only once during a year even if that child has more than one indicated abuse or maltreatment.

VITAL STATISTICS – Vital statistics are systematically tabulated information about births, marriages, divorces, and deaths (including fetal deaths), based on registration of these vital events. The registration of vital events is a State function. In New York State, the Department of Health maintains vital statistics and provides annual vital statistics records.

Additional Information



Sample of Other Commission Publications

Available online at <http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/justiceforchildren/publications>

Addressing the Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care: A Guide for Judges, Advocates and Child Welfare Professionals. 2006.

Opening the Door to Early Intervention for Abused and Neglected Children: A New CAPTA Requirement, *Child Law Practice* 23(3), May 2004.

Building Bridges for Babies in Foster Care: The Babies Can't Wait Initiative, *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Spring 2004.

Education Matters: Addressing the Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care. 2004.

Ensuring the Healthy Development of Infants in Foster Children: A Guide for Judges, Advocates and Child Welfare Professionals. 2004.

Building a Pathway to Well-Being: The Story of the Healthy Development Checklist for Children in Foster Care, *Zero to Three Bulletin* 22(5), April-May 2002.

Improving the Odds for the Healthy Development of Young Children in Foster Care: Promoting the Emotional Well-Being of Children and Families, *Policy Paper #2*, National Center on Children in Poverty. 2001.

A major child welfare resource...

The federal government's Child Welfare Information Gateway is among the numerous sources of information and data about child abuse and maltreatment and foster care. This resource is available at

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/index.cfm>.

The Child Welfare Information Gateway consolidates and builds upon the services formerly provided by the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse.

To report child abuse and/or maltreatment in New York State...

Reports of suspected child abuse or maltreatment should be made immediately

– at any time of the day –

– on any day of the week –

by telephone to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (sometimes referred to as the State Central Register or SCR).

Child Abuse Hotline Numbers:

1-800-342-3720 (toll free)

or 1-518-474-8740

To learn about becoming a foster parent in New York State...

Visit the New York State Office of Children and Family Services website at

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/fostercare>.

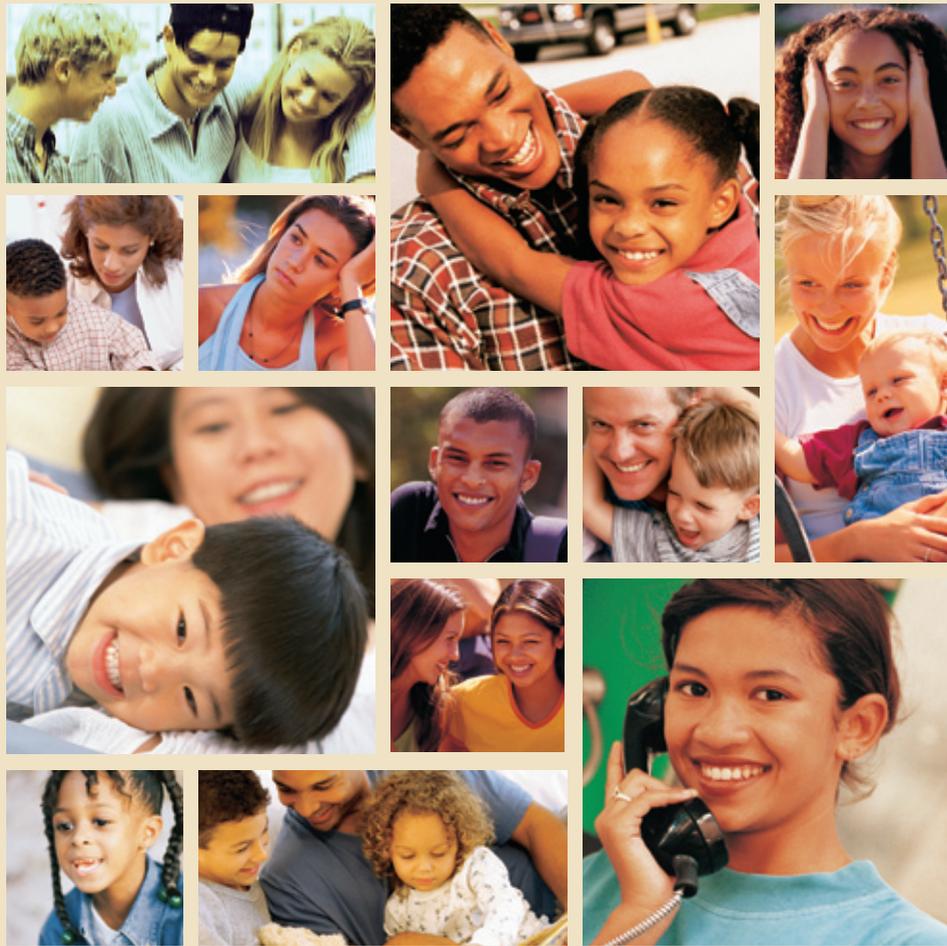
Information about New York State's foster care system and the needs of children in temporary out-of-home placement is available in English and Spanish.

For information on the Abandoned Infant Protection Act...

Visit the New York State Office of Children and Family Services website at

[http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub4759\(AbandInfantGuidelines\).pdf](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub4759(AbandInfantGuidelines).pdf)

or call -866-505-SAFE.



**For more child well-being indicators,
visit the New York State
Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse
at <http://www.nyskwic.org>.**

NYS Unified Court System
Office of Court Administration
Division of Court Operations
Family Court Improvement Project
98 Niver Street
Cohoes, NY 12047
518-238-2888
<http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/fcip>