

**Department of Children and Families
Follow-up Questions and Responses
Assembly Budget Committee Hearing on May 5, 2009**

1. Assemblyman Greenwald:

- **The Office of Information Technology will assume maintenance and operational responsibility for NJ Spirit in FY 2011. Please provide information as to the estimated costs associated with the Office of Information Technology assuming these responsibilities.**

DCF's maintenance contract with CGI, which includes 12 full time staff, ends June 30, 2010. Thereafter, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) will assume application maintenance responsibility for NJ Spirit. OIT currently has six staff, with an annualized salary of \$486,000, assigned to manage and transfer this system from CGI to the state. OIT is in the process of hiring four additional Software Development Specialists to fully round out the staff needed to fully manage NJ Spirit. The salary for these additional four software specialists is estimated to be \$275,000 annually. DCF is responsible for covering the salary costs for all ten positions.

2. Assemblyman Coutinho:

- **Please provide the Department's policies and procedures related to monitoring foster care placements and monitoring resource families.**

Resource families are monitored by two entities: DCF's Office of Licensing and the appropriate DYFS Local Office. DCF's Office of Licensing (OOL) is the regulatory unit that conducts comprehensive program and life/safety inspections for prospective and existing licensed resource family homes. The licensing renewal process occurs every three years.

OOL shares its inspection findings with the DYFS local office and the resource family. Violations of the resource family licensing requirements can result in corrective actions and/or enforcement actions.

A Resource Family Unit within every DYFS Local Office manages and supports the resource families within their coverage area. Resource unit staff monitors and supports their assigned resource homes by making monthly phone contact and visits to the resource home, establishing individual relationships with the resource family to best identify the strengths and needs of the resource parent while maintaining the connection and support system between the Resource Family Unit and the family.

The Resource Family Unit staff study and assess applicants and provide support and information to resource parents through the licensing process as well as the licensing renewal process, helping them to understand the case practice expectations and licensing requirements.

Resource family staff also acts as a liaison to the child caseworkers to help ensure that the resource families have the appropriate services or supplies in the home to care for the specific needs of the child or children in their care and the necessary information to be a supportive part of the child's case planning process. Resource family workers also work in conjunction with casework staff to ensure the family is linked to community services and support organizations.

- **Please provide a list of the programs funded by the department in support of the Governor's Safe Streets/Safe Neighborhood Program initiative.**

The Department of Children and Families' Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships currently funds two Safe Street initiatives: Outreach to At-Risk Youth, which includes 21 programs across the state that receive both DCF and DHS funding; and, the Statewide Youth Helpline, which is a single statewide program. Here is a list of those programs:

County	Agency Name
Atlantic	Atlanticare Behavior Health
	Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City, Inc.
Camden	Boys and Girls Club of Camden County
	Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. Camden County
Cumberland	Boys and Girls Club of Vineland/Cumberland County, Inc
	Boys & Girls Club of Newark, Inc./Essex County
Essex	Family Connections, Inc.
	Unified Vailsburg Services
	Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. Essex County
Hudson	Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County, Inc
	Urban League of Hudson County
Mercer	Boys & Girls Club of Trenton, Inc & Mercer County
	Isles, Inc.
	Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. Mercer County
Middlesex	Jewish Renaissance Foundation
Monmouth	Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County
Passaic	NJ Community Development Corporation
	Tri-County Youth Services
Union	Boys & Girls Club of Union, Inc. City of Plainfield
	Boys & Girls Club of Union, Inc. City of Elizabeth
	Proceed, Inc.
Teen Helpline	
Statewide services	180 Turning Lives Around

- **Please provide statistical data on foster care placements.**

As of March 31, 2009 (point in time), there were 8,783 children in out of home placement. DCF posts quarterly data on its website at (<http://www.nj.gov/dcf/home/childdata/dyfsdemo/index.html>) that includes additional information about children in foster care. Attached are data sheets that can be found at this website, which provide a breakdown of the type of out of home placement, age groups, gender and race and ethnicity.

3. Assemblyman Malone:

- **Please provide the number of federally funded positions that are not filled.**

The Department of Children and Families has a total of 1,581 federally funded positions. The Department works on an ongoing basis with the Office of Management and Budget to realign state positions into federally funded positions as soon as federal vacancies occur. The Department has dedicated one staff member to track these movements on a biweekly basis to ensure that individuals that leave federal numbers are replaced quickly, and that federal vacant numbers are utilized before any vacant state numbers. There is an average balance of 30+ federal vacancies at any given time due to this fluid process.

- **Please provide the number of DCF part-time employees.**

The number of part-time employees at this time is 104.

- **Please provide the number of child abuse investigations, by county.**

The following are the number of children for whom DYFS conducted an abuse/neglect investigation.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008*</u>
Atlantic	3,903	4,998
Bergen	4,250	5,428
Burlington	4,770	5,649
Camden	8,517	10,877
Cape May	1,562	1,977
Cumberland	3,420	4,415
Essex	9,663	11,234
Gloucester	3,192	4,201
Hudson	6,656	7,679
Hunterdon	709	872
Mercer	4,022	4,817
Middlesex	6,077	7,196
Monmouth	5,157	6,497
Morris	3,144	3,805
Ocean	5,663	6,930
Passaic	6,163	7,085
Salem	1,270	1,505

Somerset	1,869	2,905
Sussex	1,751	2,142
Union	4,649	5,278
Warren	1,846	2,131
Out of State	941	537
Grand Total	89,194	108,158

** The 2008 data is preliminary and requires further validation before it is final.*

- **Please provide the number of agencies the department contracts with in 2009 compared to 2006.**

Our department contract data is available from FY '07 when DCF became a department.

FY07: 1,420 contracts valued at \$533,529,107

FY09: 1,337 contracts valued at \$632,977,210

While DCF has reduced the number of contracts we hold based on a number of reasons (contract terminations, contract consolidations, etc.), DCF has significantly increased funding for direct services over the last three years through its contracts with existing and some new providers.

- **Please provide a listing of the agencies that receive funds and the amount of funds each agency receives pursuant to budget language on D-43: After School Reading Initiative (\$400,000), After School Start-Up Fund (\$200,000), School Health Clinics (\$400,000) and Positive Youth Development (\$530,000).**

DCF's Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships (DPCP) funds thirty-eight agencies which operate 64 school-based Family Friendly Centers across the state. (See attached list of contract agencies and school sites.) These centers provide supplemental connections to social services and provide opportunities for cultural experiences, and after school recreation and academic support, which includes homework and reading assistance.

DPCP funds the Jewish Renaissance Foundation a total of \$624,000 to operate five School Based Youth Services Health Centers in Newark at the following schools: Quitman Elementary School, Carver Elementary School, Dayton Elementary School, Shabazz High School and Barringer High School.

DPCP funds 69 high schools to support a Youth Development Specialist position in their School Based Youth Services Program. (See attached list of contract agencies operating the School Based Youth Services Program and the high schools in which they operate.)

- **During 2008, the department closed a regional day school in Somerset County operated by the Office of Education. Please provide information as to the disposition of the children served by the school. For example, how many children were provided services by their local school district, etc.**

The children served in the Somerset Campus were transferred to the Office of Education's Middlesex Campus, as this school campus was able to accommodate them.

4. Assemblywoman McHose:

- **Please provide the Department's furlough plan, when finalized.**

DCF employees were furloughed on May 22 except for the following employees/units deemed necessary to ensure proper staffing and critical coverage for 24/7 and emergency operations that are critical to the life, health or safety of the children and families of New Jersey:

- Statewide Central Registry (SCR) - screeners and supervisors
- Residential Treatment Centers (RTC) - all direct care staff
- Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) - all intake investigators and corresponding supervisors and facilitators who coordinate placements for children who are removed from their homes as a result of an intake investigation substantiating abuse or neglect.
- Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU) - investigators and corresponding supervisors.

In short, SCR, RTC, IAIU and DYFS staff as detailed above are exempted from furlough as their staffing is necessary to ensure 24/7, emergency operations. DCF's Office of Education staff was exempted for May only because May 22 was a state mandatory testing day.

Any furlough days scheduled during FY10 will be carried out in accordance with a final and ratified agreement with the Communication Workers of America (CWA).

- **Provide the timetable as to when the 18 regional schools are scheduled to close.**

Per an agreement with CWA, which has not yet been ratified at the time of this submission, DCF would be required to rescind the plan to close the 18 regional schools. Further, the pending agreement would establish a committee to explore the future of the regional schools.

- **With respect to the closing of the regional schools, please provide information as to the specific dates when the parents of children and the employees of the regional schools were first notified of the department's plan to close the regional schools.**

All school supervisors were notified by conference call on Friday, March 27, 2009. They in turn notified their school staff in person on Monday, March 30, 2009. Parent notification letters were emailed on March 31, 2009 to each school supervisor and the letters, also dated March 31, were sent home with the students on that date where feasible. A copy of the letter also was mailed to the parent/surrogate of each student.

DCF's Office of Education sent a subsequent letter on May 1, 2009, informing parents about the new date established for the closures. However, as noted above, DCF is required to the plan to close the 18 regional schools pending a final agreement with CWA.

5. Assemblyman O'Scanlon:

- **The department indicated that it has been successful in its efforts to recruit new foster homes and retain existing foster homes. Please provide information regarding these efforts.**

DYFS has successfully employed a multi-prong effort to recruit and retain foster and adoptive families. These efforts include:

Recruitment

- Using data to target recruitment efforts. Available data shows the areas of greatest need, as well as potential target areas more likely to attract families interested in caring for children.
- Using community based recruiters focused on the neighborhoods and communities that reflect the greatest need for resource families.
- Conducting community based outreach with key partners, including the faith-based community and local civic and community groups.
- Developing a strong marketing campaign that includes public service announcements, newspaper advertisements, enhanced websites and printed educational materials.
- Implementing technical assistance training opportunities for community-based recruiters. Recent trainings have been conducted by national experts in the area of child specific recruitment, general and targeted recruitment, and recruiting families for siblings and children with specialized needs.
- Providing statewide access to a toll free information hotline for community members who are interested in becoming a resource parent. Interested callers are guided to additional information and potential applicants are invited to community-based informational meetings.
- The community based venue affords the prospective family the opportunity to listen to more detailed information in order to make a better-informed decision before they apply.
- Making available honorarium incentive to current resource parents who are successful in recruiting new resource families who complete the licensing process.

6. Assemblyman Wolfe:

- **Please provide information concerning the department's plans to increase the number of Children Crisis Intervention Services beds.**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) reviews occupancy rate data and evaluates the need for an increase in Crisis Intervention Services beds. Based on an identified and quantified bed need by county, DCF would request in writing that the DHSS issue a Certificate of Need (CN) call for hospitals to apply to meet this need. CN decisions would be made with collaboration between the two Departments and would be based on which applicant can best meet then needs of the at-risk population in terms of access, quality of care and financial viability. Below are the yearly occupancy rates for the Monmouth Medical Center Child and Adolescent In-patient unit (CCIS):

Average Occupancy Rate:

2004	80.1%
2005	71 %
2006	71.8%
2007	73.7 %
2008	61.3%

DCF would not request an increase in beds on the basis of a 61% occupancy rate.

The noted reduction in admissions over the last five years, which is a statewide trend, is likely due to the substantial development and investment in community based resources. DCF estimates the state saved \$22 million dollars in FY 07 and FY08 as a consequence of providing youth and families' community based alternatives to hospitalization.

FAMILY FRIENDLY CENTERS

AGENCY	FY'09 FUNDING	SCHOOL
ASPIRA	\$90,926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rafael Cordero Molina School (Camden) • Public School #5 (Jersey City)
Atlantic Care	\$90,926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warren Sooy School & Uptown School • Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School/Family Center
BASC Network	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell School • Moss School
Babyland Family Service	\$136,388	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. E. Alma Flagg School • 13th Avenue School • Dayton School
Bergenfield Outreach	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoover School • Roy Brown Middle School
Brookdale College	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neptune Middle School
Catholic Charities	\$136,390	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weston School • VanDerveer School #10 • Willow Grove School
Catholic Family & Community Service	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastside High School
Center for Family Resources	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryerson Middle School
Cherry Hill Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Paine School • Joyce Kilmer School
Clayton Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herma Simmons Elementary School
Communities in Schools of Newark	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William H. Brown Academy
Community YMCA	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley Elementary
East Orange YMCA	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mildred Barry Garvin Elementary East
Hackensack Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson Avenue School
Harrison Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Middle School
Hoboken Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connors School
Ironbound Community Corp.	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkins Street School
Keansburg Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caruso School
La Casa de Don Pedro	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franklin Elementary School
Millville Board of Education	\$90,924	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maurice River School • RD Wood School • Rieck Avenue School • Silver Run School • Lakeside Middle School • Mt. Pleasant School • RM Bacon School
Mt. Olive Child Care	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Stephens School • Mt. Olive Middle School • Mt. View Elementary School • Sanshore Elementary School • Tine Road Elementary School

FAMILY FRIENDLY CENTERS

AGENCY	FY'09 FUNDING	SCHOOL
New Brunswick Tomorrow	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Redshaw
New Community Corp.	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newton Street School
NJCDC	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public School #2
Paterson YMCA	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public School #20
Plainfield Board of Education	\$90,926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerson School • Jefferson School
Preferred Children's Services	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Street School
Princeton YMCA	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnson Park School • Littlebrook School
Puerto Rican Association	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert N. Wilentz School
Salem City board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Fenwick School
South Brunswick Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossroads Middle School
The Connection for Women and Families	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jefferson School • Lincoln-Hubbard School • Washington School • Brayton School
Tri-City Peoples	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South 17th School
Unified Vailsburg	\$90,926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boylan Street School • Mt. Vernon School • Speedway School
Union City Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosevelt School
Vineland Board of Education	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cunningham Elementary School
YMCA of Western Monmouth	\$45,463	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Avenue School

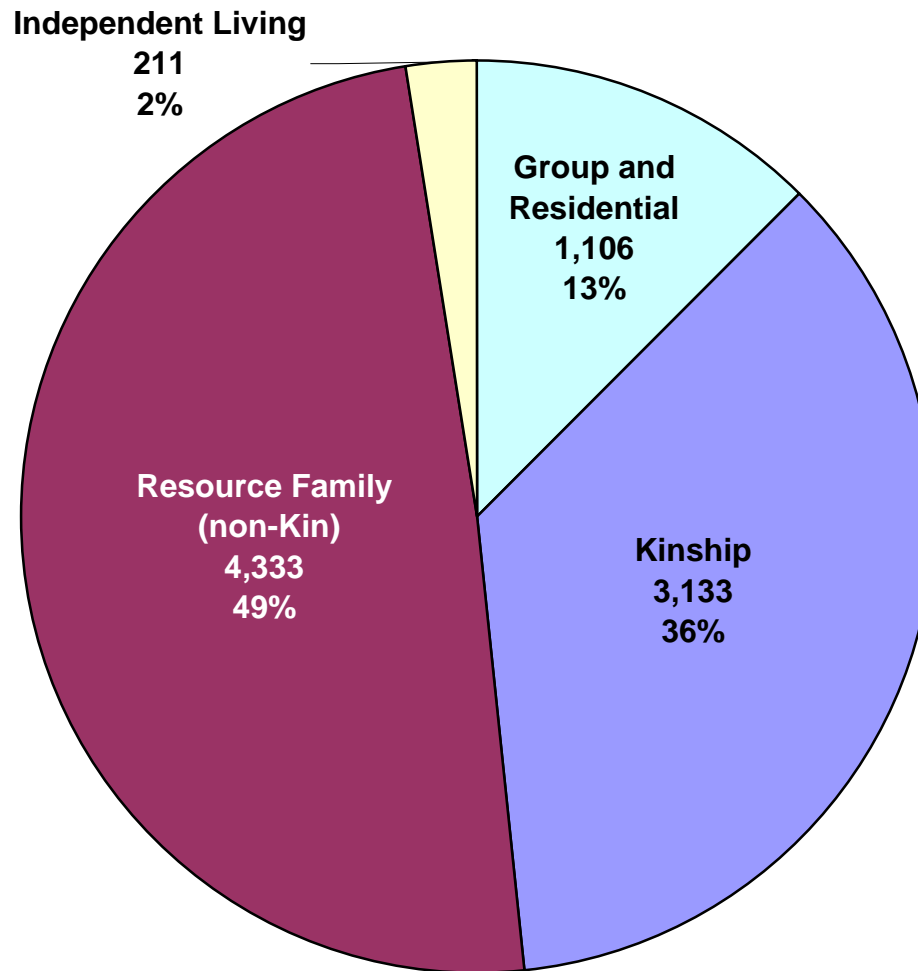
List of School Based Youth Services Programs Funded for a Youth Development Specialist

Asbury Park Board of Ed	Asbury Park HS
Atlanticare Behavioral Health Inc	Atlantic City HS
Atlanticare Behavioral Health Inc	Buena Regional HS
Atlanticare Behavioral Health Inc	Oakcrest HS
Bayonne Board of Ed	Bayonne High School
Bergen Family Center	Dwight Morrow HS
Camden City Board of Ed	Camden City HS
Camden City Board of Ed	Woodrow Wilson HS
Cape Counseling Services, Inc	Cape May County Tech
Cape Counseling Services, Inc	Lower Cape May Regional
Carteret Board of Education	Carteret High School
Children's Hospital of NJ	Barringer High School
City of Paterson	Kennedy High School
Clayton Board of Ed	Clayton JR/SR HS
Community Health Care Inc	Bridgeton HS, Broad St & Downe Twp
Community Health Care Inc	Cumberland Regional HS
Dover Board of Ed	Dover High School
Drenk Behavioral Health	Pemberton HS
Education Info. & Resource Center	Willingboro High School
Family Connections	Columbia High School
Family Connections	Orange High School
Family Connections	Bloomfield High School
Family Guidance Center of Warren County	Warren Hills Regional HS
Family Service Assoc. Atlantic	Egg Harbor Township HS
Family Service Assoc. Atlantic	Pleasantville HS
Family Services - Burlington	Burlington City HS
Gloucester County Spec Svcs	Gloucester County Tech
Hackensack Board of Education	Hackensack HS
Harrison Board of Ed	Harrison High School
Highland Park Board of Ed	Highland Park HS
Hoboken Public Schools	Hoboken High School
Hunterdon Medical Center	Hunterdon Central Regional HS
Jersey City Medical Center	Snyder High School
Jewish Renaissance Foundation	Perth Amboy HS
Keansburg Board of Ed	Keansburg HS
Kearny Board of Ed	Kearny High School
Long Branch Board of Ed	Long Branch HS
Manchester Reg. HS	Manchester High School
Mental Health of Passaic	Passaic High School
Mercer Council on Alco. & Drug Add.	Ewing High School
New Brunswick Tomorrow	New Brunswick HS
NJ Community Development Corp.	Clifton HS
NJ Community Development Corp.	Passaic Valley
NJ Community Development Corp.	Passaic County Vo-Tech

Phillipsburg Board of Ed	Phillipsburg HS
Pinelands Reg. School District	Pinelands Regional HS
Plainfield Board of Ed	Plainfield HS
Preferred Children's Service	Brick Memorial HS
Preferred Children's Service	Brick Township HS
Preferred Children's Service	Lakewood High School
Red Bank Reg. HS	Red Bank Regional HS
Salem City Board of Ed	Salem City High School
Salem County Board for Voc. Ed	Salem County Vo-Tech
Somerset County Voc. and Tech	Somerset County
South Jersey Healthcare	Millville High School
South Jersey Healthcare	Vineland High School
Sussex County Tech. School	Sussex County
Teaneck Board of Education	Teaneck High School
The Bridge, Inc.	Irvington High School
Trenton Board of Ed	Trenton High School
Trinitas Hospital	Thomas Jefferson
Trinitas Hospital	Abraham Clark
Trinitas Hospital	William S Halsey House
Union City Board of Ed	Union Hill HS
Union City Board of Ed	Emerson HS (Union City)
University of Beh. Health (UMDNJ)	South Brunswick HS
University of Med. & Den. of NJ	Newark Tech Career CNT
Winslow Board of Ed	Winslow Township HS
Youth Consultation Services	East Side HS

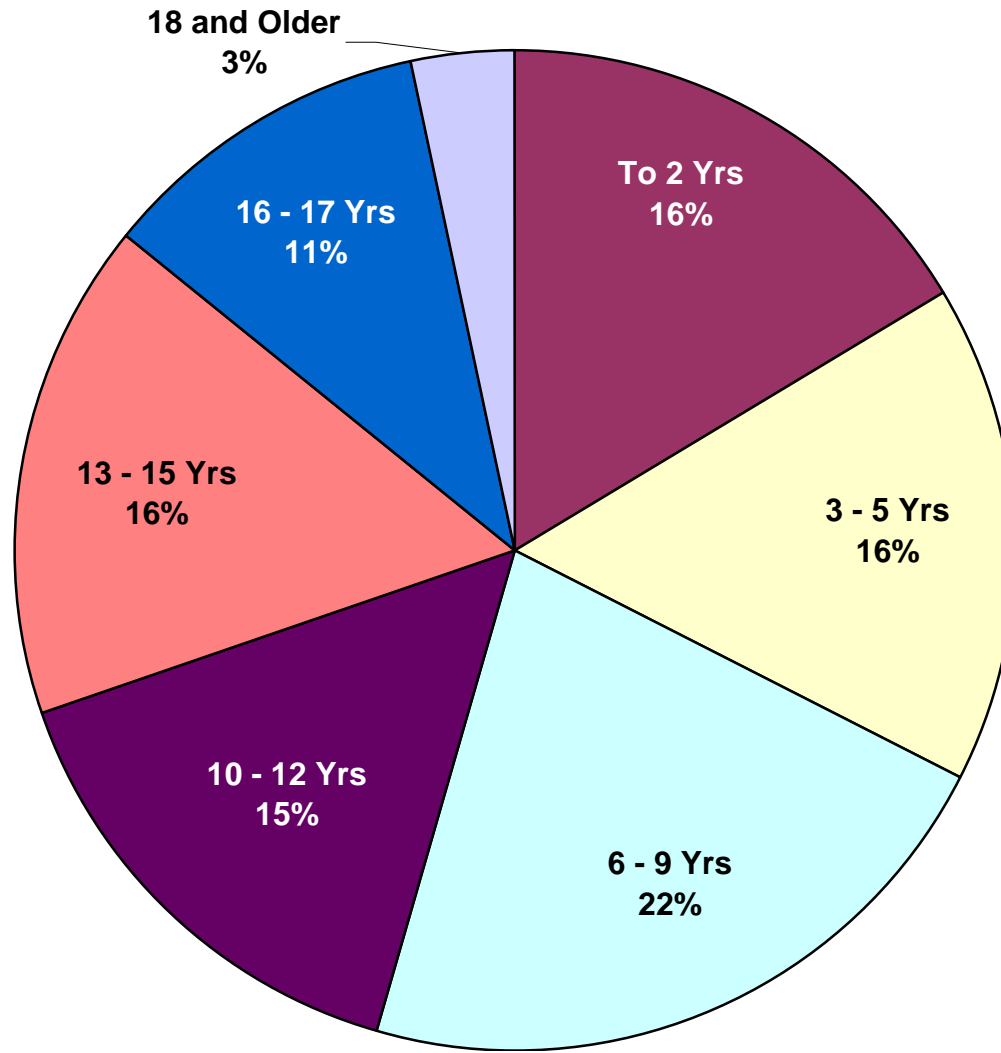
Children in DYFS Out-of-Home Placement by Type of Placement

(Total = 8,783 as of March 31, 2009, point in time)



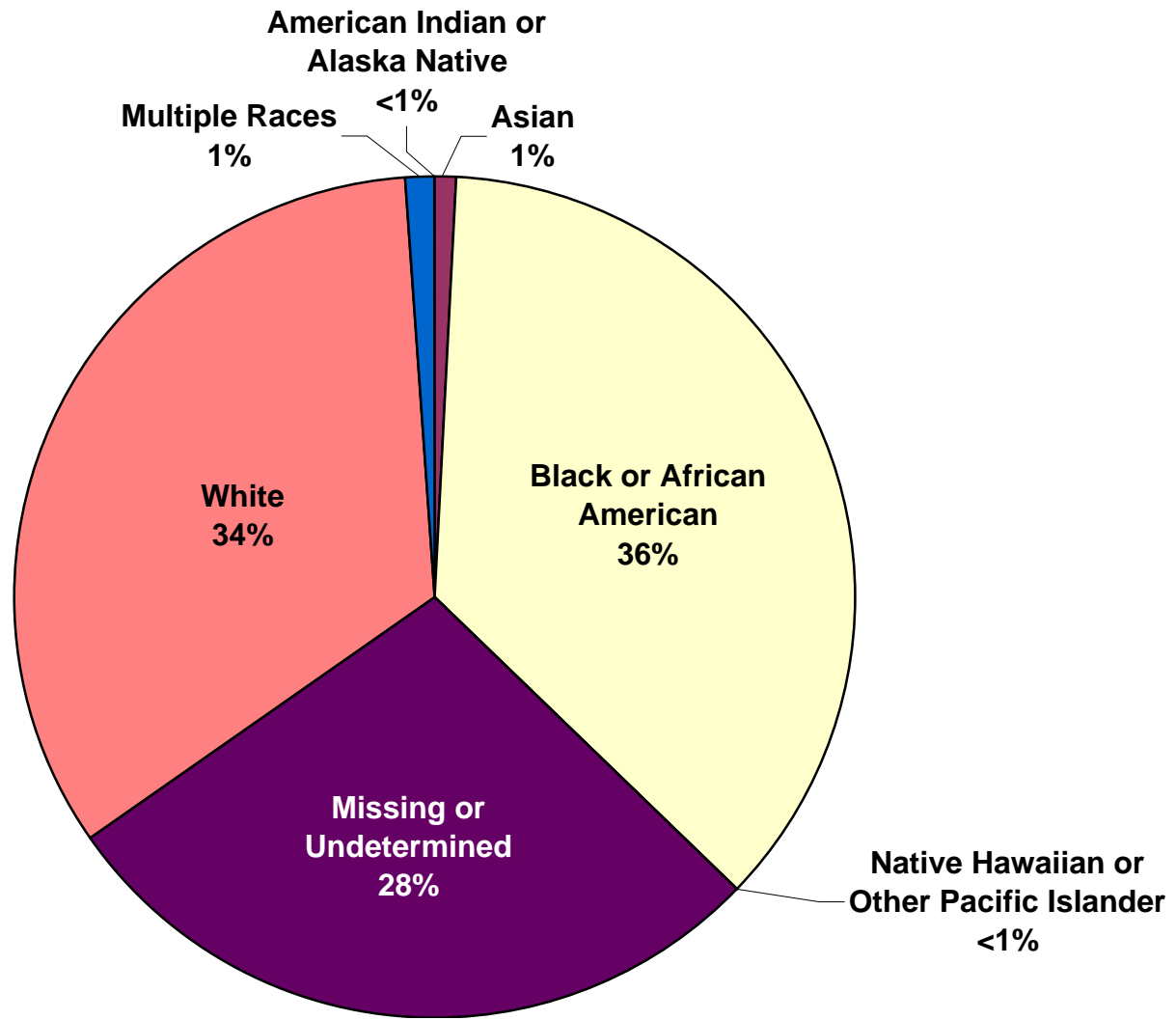
Children In Own Home Receiving DYFS Services By Age

As of March 31, 2009; Total = 39,225



All Children Receiving DYFS Services By Race

as of March 31, 2009, Total = 48,008

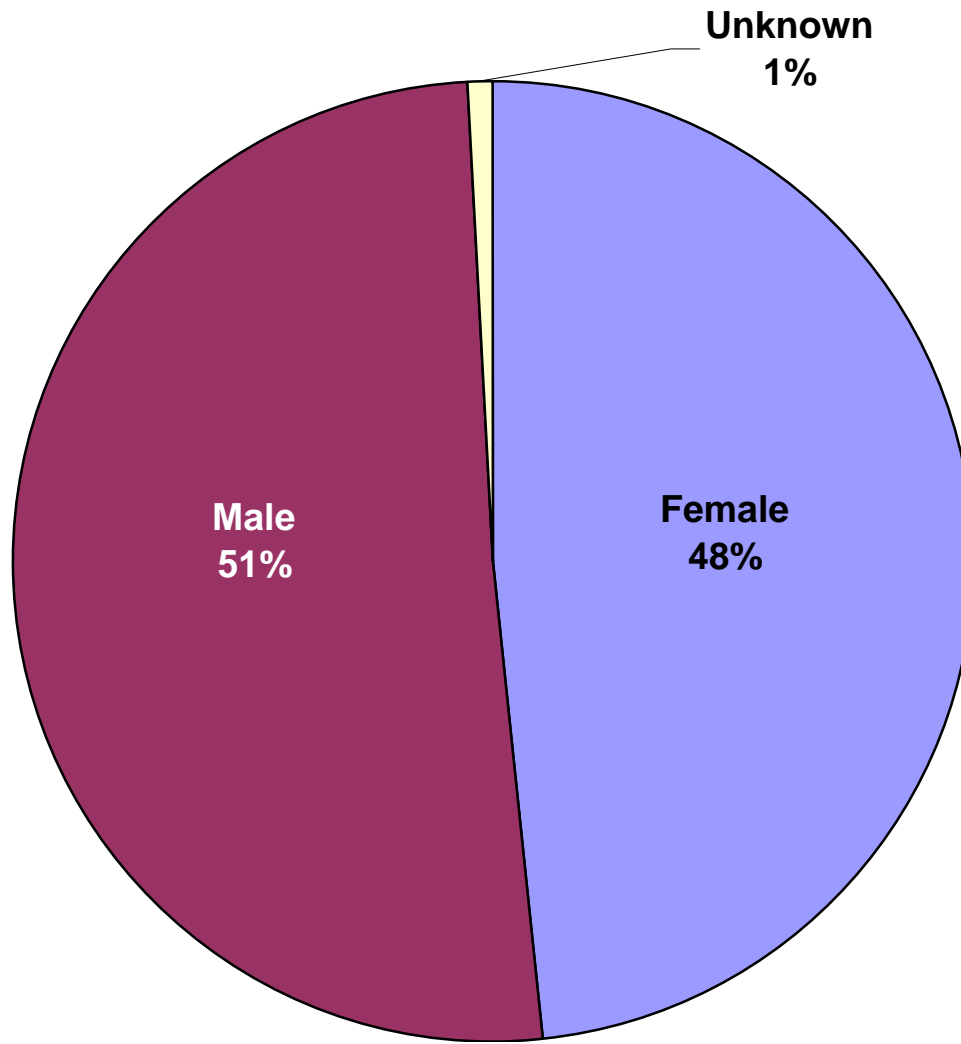


April 2009

As of April 2009

All Children Receiving DYFS Services By Gender

As of March 31, 2009, Total = 48,008



All Children Receiving DYFS Services Hispanic Ethnicity

As of March 31, 2009, Total = 48,008

