

- 1 SEP 2016



Dear 

On 24 May 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *Copies of all reports, briefings, aide memoires, advice, sent to the Minister of Social Development's office since September 2015 mentioning national Child, Youth, and Family - 'Reports of Concern that required further action' numbers, reports of concern national numbers, and national notification numbers*
2. *Between the 2012/13 financial year and the 2013/14 financial year, were there any changes to the way CYFs lodged a report of concern, notification, report of concern that required further action or criteria/specification as to how/when these should be lodged/recorded?*
3. *Please provide copies of all papers, reports, advice, briefings, emails sent to the Minister of Social Development's office on the declining numbers for notifications, reports of concern, reports of concern that required further action being reported by CYFs since January 2014.*

Reports of concern are the basis of all of our work with children who may be at risk of, or suffering from, abuse and neglect. As reports of concern are at the centre of what we do, all reports, briefings, aide memoires and advice sent to the office of Hon Anne Tolley, the Minister of Social Development, since September 2015 would potentially mention "reports of concern requiring further action". As such, your request is considered too broad and substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all documents within scope. This part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

In response to your question regarding whether there have been any changes to the way Child, Youth and Family lodge a notification, report of concern, report of concern

that required further action or criteria and specifications between 2012/13 and 2013/14, I can advise that there have been no changes to the recording process. Notifications consist of Police family violence referrals, which do not require a statutory response, and reports of concern. Whenever we receive a notification (including police family violence referrals) it is recorded.

Our intake process focuses on gathering sufficient information to make an initial decision of the level of risk to the child or young person in order to respond appropriately. The intake decision response tool provides guidelines on how to respond to reports of concern. This includes the response required (such as an assessment or investigation) and the urgency required to complete the response (such as 24 hours (critical), 48 hours (very urgent) and 7 working days (urgent)).

Detailed information on the intake decision response tool is available on the Child, Youth and Family Practice Centre website at [www.practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/policy/assessment-and-decision-making/resources/intake-decision-response-tool.html](http://www.practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/policy/assessment-and-decision-making/resources/intake-decision-response-tool.html)

In response to your third question, I enclose the following documents that were received by the office of Hon Anne Tolley, the Minister for Social Development, containing statistics and discussion of the number of notifications and reports of concern requiring further action:

- *Child, Youth and Family Quarterly Key Statistics Report – 1 July to 30 September 2013*, dated 28 January 2014 (covering report and statistics).
- *Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report: 1 July – 31 December 2013*, dated 28 March 2014 (covering report and statistics).
- *Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report 1 July 2013 - 31 March 2014*, dated 13 June 2014 (covering report and statistics).
- *Child, Youth and Family Quarterly Key Statistics Report: 1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014*, dated 24 April 2015 (covering report).
- *Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report: 1 July 2014 to 31 December (incorporating results for 1 July to 30 September 2014)*, dated 21 May 2015 (covering report and statistics).
- *Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report: 1 July 2014 to 31 March 2015*, dated 15 June 2015 (covering report and statistics).
- *Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics: 1 July to 30 September 2015*, dated 9 December 2015
- *Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics: 1 July to 31 December 2015*, dated 1 March 2016.
- *Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics: 1 July 2015 to 31 March 2016*, dated 31 May 2016.

Note that all of our key statistics are available on our website at: <http://www.cyf.govt.nz/about-us/key-statistics/>

The volume of notifications (including Police family violence referrals) we receive fluctuates for reasons beyond our control. It is influenced by the level of public awareness, media reports of child abuse, media campaigns such as the "It's not ok" campaign, and the referral behaviour of other agencies. The number of reports of concern requiring further action is driven by both the number of reports of concern received and the decisions made at intake.

There has been a decrease over several years in the number of reports of concern received. In addition to this, the decision intake response tool mentioned above has helped social workers to focus on the most vulnerable children and young people and to ensure children and young people are not being referred into the statutory system inappropriately.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Murray Edridge  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Child, Youth and Family**

# report



MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

Date: 28 January 2014 Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE  
To: Hon Paula Bennett, Minister for Social Development

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## Quarterly Key Statistics Report

- 1 This report provides Child, Youth and Family latest quarterly data for 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013 and compares this data to 1 July 2012 – 30 September 2012. It also provides and compares key national statistics on the work undertaken by Child, Youth and Family for the fiscal years 2009 – 2012.
- 2 The report contains the latest corrected official data and associated commentary on the following areas of Child, Youth and Family work:
  - notifications
  - investigations, assessment and findings
  - children and young people involved in family/whānau agreements and family group conferences
  - children in custody and out-of-home placements.
- 3 The data in this report is now available on the Child, Youth and Family website.
- 4 You will receive the next quarterly report with data for the period 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013 by 21 March 2014. This report will contain more detail on regional and operational area comparisons, as requested.

### Summary of data for the quarter 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013

- 5 For the quarter 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, when compared to 1 July 2012 – 30 September 2012, there were more:
  - counts of children and young people involved in care and protection family group conferences (2,395 compared to 2,155)
  - distinct children with a substantiated finding of physical abuse (969 compared to 861).
- 6 As at 30 September 2013, compared to 30 September 2012, there were more:
  - children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (5,001 compared to 4,938)
  - children and young people in out-of-home placements (3,906 compared to 3,869)
  - approved caregivers (3,410 compared to 3,313) of whom 1,626 were foster caregivers and 1,784 were family/whānau caregivers.
- 7 For the quarter 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, when compared to 1 July 2012 – 30 September 2012, there were less:
  - notifications including Police family violence referrals (36,100 compared to 37,535)
  - Police family violence referrals (14,317 compared to 14,382)
  - notifications requiring further action (FARs) (14,776 compared to 15,974) and a decrease in the proportion of notifications excluding Police family violence referrals that required further action (68% compared to 69%)



- distinct children and young people who had a notification requiring further action (13,797 compared to 14,802)
- substantiated findings of abuse (5,938 compared to 5,971)
- distinct children and young people with substantiated abuse findings (5,280 compared to 5,336)
- counts of young people involved in justice family group conferences (1,533 compared to 1,659).

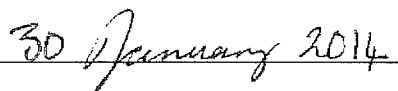
### Recommended actions

8 I recommend that you:

- 1 **note** the attached Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report for 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013
- 2 **note** the data in this report is available on the Child, Youth and Family website
- 3 **note** that by 21 March 2014, you will receive the next quarterly report for the period 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013 which will contain more detail on regional and operational area comparisons, as requested.



Bernadine Mackenzie  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Child, Youth and Family



Date

Hon Paula Bennett  
Minister for Social Development

Date

# **Child, Youth and Family**

## **Key Statistics**

### **Report to the**

### **Minister for Social Development**

**1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013**



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## 1. Introduction

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This report provides the latest official quarterly data for the period year 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013 and compares this data to 1 July 2012 – 30 September 2012. It also provides and compares key national statistics on the work undertaken by Child, Youth and Family for the fiscal years 2009 –2012.

All official data provided for the last quarter, for the same quarter last year, and for all financial years is corrected official data<sup>1</sup>.

A breakdown of the key statistics for each region and site is available on Child, Youth and Family's website [www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz). Unless otherwise stated, all figures are official data.

### Summary of Key Statistics

*For the quarter 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, when compared to 1 July 2012 – 30 September 2012, there were **more**:*

- counts of children and young people involved in care and protection family group conferences held (2,395 compared to 2,155)
- distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of physical abuse (969 compared to 861)

*As at 30 September 2013 compared to 30 September 2012, there were **more**:*

- children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (5,001 compared to 4,938)
- children and young people in out-of-home placements (3,906 compared to 3,869)
- approved caregivers (3,410 compared to 3,313)

*For the quarter 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, when compared to the same period in 2012, there were **less**:*

- notifications, including Police family violence referrals (36,100 compared to 37,535)

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<sup>1</sup> An anomaly affecting all official CYF data was identified last year and all official data reports were rebuilt, re-run, tested and corrected in November 2013.

- Police family violence referrals (14,317 compared to 14,382)
- distinct children and young people who had a notification (29,263 compared to 31,181)
- notifications requiring further action (FARs) (14,776 compared to 15,974) and a decrease in the proportion of notifications (excluding family violence referrals) that required further action (68% compared to 69%)
- distinct children and young people who had a notification requiring further action (13,797 compared to 14,802)
- substantiated findings of abuse (5,938 compared to 5,971) – includes findings of emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect
- distinct children and young people with substantiated abuse findings (5,280 compared to 5,336)
- young people involved in Youth Justice FGCs (1,533 compared to 1,659).



## 2. Notifications to Child, Youth and Family

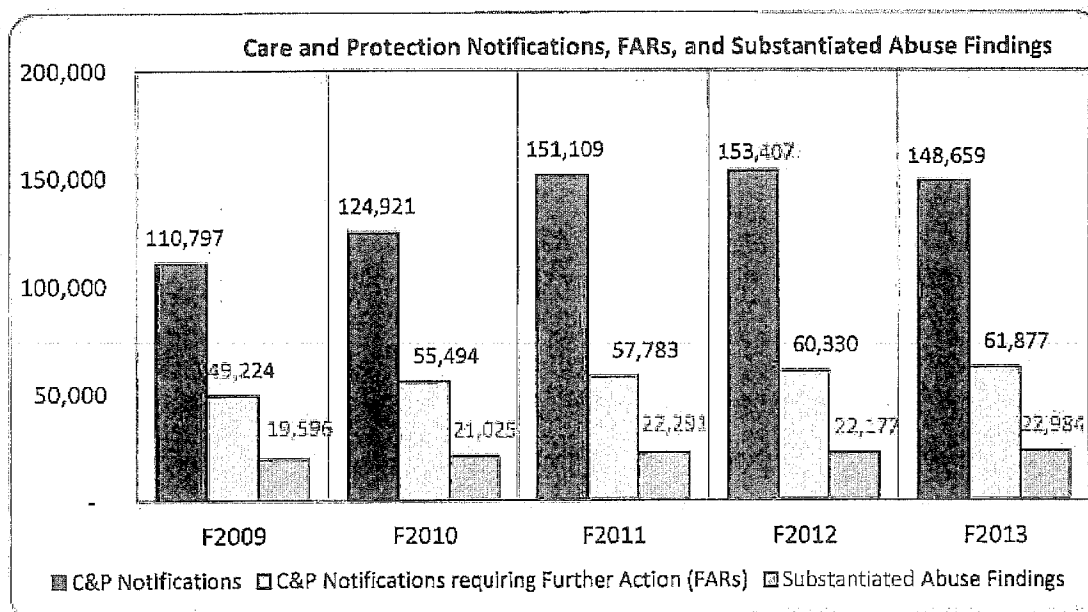
A care and protection notification is a concern that has been raised with Child, Youth and Family that a child or young person may be at risk. Notifications are received from members of the public, family or whānau, the Police, schools, health professionals or other government or community agencies. A notification does not mean that the child or young person will necessarily become a client of Child, Youth and Family.

### Notifications

Graph 2.1<sup>2</sup> shows that in fiscal year 2012/2013, Child, Youth and Family received 148,659 notifications, including Police family violence referrals. Of these, 61,877 (42 per cent) required further action to determine the type of response required and the social work services needed. In 2012, 153,407 notifications including Police family violence referrals were received and 60,330 (39 per cent) of these required further action. Since 2008/2009, notifications, including Police family violence referrals, increased by 34 per cent and the notifications requiring further action increased by 26 per cent.

In 2012/2013 there were 22,984 findings of substantiated abuse compared to 22,172 in 2011/2012. Substantiated findings have increased by 17 per cent since 2008/2009.

Graph 2.1: Number of Notifications, Further Action Required and Substantiated Abuse Findings for Fiscal Years 2009-2013



<sup>2</sup> Numbers in Graph 2.1 are not distinct children or young people.

Table 2.1 below provides a summary of care and protection notifications, including Police family violence referrals for the fiscal years 2009-2013. The number of distinct children and young people for each year is also provided.

In 2012/2013 94,099 children and young people had a notification compared to 74,340 in 2008/2009 (a 27 per cent increase).

A child or young person can have more than one notification within the time period therefore table 2.1 shows that the number of notifications received exceeds the number of children and young people.

### Police Family Violence Referrals

Police family violence referrals have been recorded separately from other Police notifications since July 2010 because they do not require Child, Youth and Family services. Police family violence referrals are all considered by local interagency groups (these groups include Police and Child, Youth and Family), who have assessed them as needing no action by Child, Youth and Family.

**Table 2.1: Number of Notifications and Children and Young People (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 30 September 2013)**

Number of Notifications and distinct children and young people	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	01 Jul – 30 Sept 2013
Care and Protection Notifications	110,797	124,921	93,956	90,729	90,893	21,783
Police Family Violence Referrals (no further action by CYF) <sup>3</sup>			57,153	62,678	57,766	14,317
Notifications including Police Family Violence Referrals	110,797	124,921	151,109	153,407	148,659	36,100
Number of distinct children and young people	74,340	80,218	94,561	95,670	94,099	29,263

### Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the quarter from 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013 when compared to the same period last year there were:

- 36,100 care and protection notifications, including Police family violence referrals, compared with 37,535 (a decrease of 1,435 or 4 per cent)

<sup>3</sup> Since July 2010, Police Family Violence referrals that require no further action by CYF have been recorded separately in CYRAS.

- 14,317 Police family violence referrals compared to 14,382 (a decrease of 65 or 0.4 per cent)
- 29,263 individual children and young people who had notifications (including Police family violence referrals) compared to 31,181, a 6.2 per cent decrease.

### Notifications by Notifying Group

Table 2.2 outlines the number of notifications received from different notifying groups.

Table 2.2: Notifications by notifier (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 30 September 2013)

Notifier Group	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July-30 Sep 2013
Court	678	838	805	615	569	144
Education	7,345	7,832	8,121	9,487	9,578	2,743
Police <sup>4</sup>	65,565	75,251	40,241	32,983	31,868	7,301
Family	9,019	9,814	10,399	10,265	10,472	2,326
Health	8,636	9,955	11,031	12,521	12,763	3,110
Others <sup>5</sup>	19,554	21,231	23,359	24,838	25,643	6,159
Notifications Received	110,797	124,921	93,956	90,729	90,893	21,783
Police Family Violence Referrals (no further action by CYF)			57,153	62,678	57,766	14,317
National Total	110,797	124,921	151,109	153,407	148,659	36,100

### *Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, when compared to the same period last year, there were:

- 21,783 total notifications (excluding Police family violence referrals) compared to 23,153 (a decrease of 1,370 or 5.9 per cent )
- 7,301 notifications from Police (excluding Police family violence referrals) compared to 7,850 (a 7 per cent decrease).

### Notifications Requiring Further Action (FARs)

When Child, Youth and Family receives a notification, a social worker determines if further action is required and what needs to happen to keep the child or young person safe. Not all of the notifications received by Child, Youth and Family will result in further action as it may become evident early in the process that there are no issues

<sup>4</sup> Includes Family Safety Teams.

<sup>5</sup> Includes other government agencies and NGOs.



warranting formal intervention. Cases requiring no further action by Child, Youth and Family may lead to other avenues of advice and support being made available to the family.

Table 2.3 shows the number and proportion of notifications (excluding Police family violence referrals), which required further action (FARs), by notifier group. It shows that, for each notifier group, the proportion of notifications that were actioned each financial year, in general, increased over time, indicating that the accuracy of each group at assessing the risk to children or young people is improving.

The proportion of Education FARs, for example, increased from 75 per cent in 2008/2009 to 77 per cent in 2012/2013. Police FARs increased significantly from 29 per cent in 2008/2009 to 67 per cent in 2012/2013. This significant increase is due to the separation of Police family violence referrals, which do not require action by CYF, from other police notifications.

Overall, both the number and the proportion of FARs, excluding Police family violence referrals, has increased over time from 49,244 (44 per cent of notifications) in 2008/2009 to 61,877 (68 per cent of notifications) 2012/2013.

**Table 2.3: FARs as a Proportion of Notifications (excluding Police family violence referrals), by Notifying Group (Fiscal Years 2009 - 2013 and year-to-date 1 July - 30 September 2013)**

Notifier	F2009		F2010		F2011		F2012		F2013		1 July - 30 September 2013	
Court	583	86%	744	89%	688	85%	513	83%	501	88%	125	87%
Education	5,525	75%	5,867	75%	6,056	75%	7,149	75%	7,411	77%	2,108	77%
Police	18,881	29%	21,943	29%	22,863	57%	21,314	65%	21,305	67%	4,701	64%
Family	5,358	59%	5,947	61%	5,974	57%	6,301	61%	6,463	62%	1,379	59%
Health	5,838	68%	6,656	67%	6,913	63%	8,106	65%	8,648	68%	2,085	67%
Others <sup>a</sup>	13,039	67%	14,337	68%	15,289	65%	16,947	68%	17,549	68%	4,378	73%
<b>National Total FARs</b>	<b>49,224</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>55,494</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>57,783</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>60,330</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>61,877</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>14,776</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Distinct children and young people</b>	<b>38,980</b>		<b>43,390</b>		<b>45,717</b>		<b>48,000</b>		<b>48,527</b>		<b>13,797</b>	

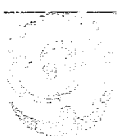
#### *Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2013, when compared to the same period in the previous year:

- there were 14,776 FARs compared to 15,974, a decrease of 7 per cent

<sup>a</sup> Includes other government agencies and NGOs.

- 68 per cent of all notifications received for that period (excluding Police family violence referrals) required further action compared to 69 per cent
- there was an decrease in the proportion of notifications that required further action from Health (67 per cent from 68 per cent), Court (87 per cent from 88 per cent), Police (64 per cent from 68 per cent) and Family (59 per cent from 62 per cent) . There is no percentage change in in the proportion of notifications that required further action from Education
- there were 13,797 distinct children and young people with a care and protection notification that required further action, compared to 14,802 (a 7 per cent decrease).



### 3. Investigations, Assessments and Findings

When a notification requiring further action is received, the first step is to ensure the safety of the child or young person. A Child and Family Assessment is appropriate when the notification involves an allegation that the care, safety or wellbeing of the child or young person may be at risk. In serious cases of abuse, we carry out a formal investigation with the Police under the Child Protection Protocol.

#### Findings of Abuse or Neglect

A finding of abuse or neglect occurs after an investigation or assessment has been completed and abuse has been substantiated. A child might have more than one finding of abuse therefore the number of findings is not an indication of the number of children or young people or the number of notifications substantiated (more than one notification might be received for one child).

Table 3.1 below, shows the number of findings by type. During 2013, there were more substantiated abuse findings (22,984) than for 2012 (22,172). Emotional abuse continued to account for the majority of abuse findings i.e. 12,777 or 56 per cent of all findings in 2013, compared to 12,454 or 56 per cent during 2012. Findings of physical abuse account for 14.5 per cent of overall findings.

Overall, since 2009 there has been a 17 per cent increase in substantiated abuse findings. Physical abuse findings increased by 17 per cent since 2008/2009, it increased slightly by 0.3 per cent from 2011/2012.

**Table 3.1: Substantiated Abuse Findings by Abuse Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 30 September 2013)**

Abuse Findings by Type	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July - 30 September 2013
Emotional	10,938	12,535	12,711	12,454	12,777	3,170
Physical	2,855	2,886	3,253	3,330	3,343	987
Sexual	1,126	1,201	1,514	1,418	1,459	411
Neglect	4,677	4,403	4,813	4,970	5,405	1,370
<b>Total Abuse Findings</b>	<b>19,596</b>	<b>21,025</b>	<b>22,291</b>	<b>22,172</b>	<b>22,984</b>	<b>5,938</b>

#### *Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2013, when compared to the same period last year there were:



- 3,170 findings of emotional abuse, compared to 3,299 (a decrease of 4 per cent)
- 987 findings of physical abuse compared to 882 (an increase of 12 per cent)
- 411 findings of sexual abuse, compared to 383 (an increase of 7 per cent)
- 1,370 findings of neglect, compared to 1,407 (a decrease of 2.6 per cent)

### Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Abuse Findings

Children and young people can have multiple, distinct findings within the time period and if so, will be counted for each distinct finding eg. a child with three distinct findings (emotional, physical and sexual abuse for example) is counted three times. Therefore in Table 3.2 below, the total number of distinct children and young people in the bottom line is less than the sum of each column because the bottom line counts distinct children or young people once in the financial year.

Table 3.2 shows that since 2008/2009 there has been a 19% increase in the number of individual children and young people with a finding of abuse or neglect (i.e. from 15,643 to 18,595).

**Table 3.2: Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Findings of Abuse, by Abuse Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 30 September 2013)**

Abuse Type	Number of distinct children and young people					1 July-30 September 2013
	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	
Emotional	9,987	11,290	11,305	11,165	11,386	3,052
Physical	2,745	2,769	3,110	3,195	3,181	969
Sexual	1,097	1,171	1,466	1,380	1,423	404
Neglect	4,415	4,059	4,427	4,614	4,957	1,343
Total distinct children and young people*	15,643	16,945	18,167	18,277	18,595	5,280

\*A child or young person could have more than one finding.

### Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2013, compared to the same period last year, there were:

- 5,280 distinct children and young people who had substantiated abuse findings, compared to 5,336 (a decrease of 1 per cent)

- 3,052 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of emotional abuse, compared to 3,213 (a decrease of 5 per cent)
- 969 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of physical abuse, compared to 861 (an increase of 12.5 per cent)
- 404 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of sexual abuse, compared to 380 (an increase of 6.3 per cent)
- 1,343 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of neglect, compared to 1,369 (a decrease of 1.9 per cent).



## 4. Family/Whānau Agreements and Family Group Conferences

### Family/Whānau Agreements

We work with families/whānau to keep children and young people safe through having a family/whānau meeting or convening a Family Group Conference (FGC).

When only a minimum level of intervention is required, a family/whānau meeting with extended family is held and an agreement is drawn up. A family/whānau agreement is a three month contract or written agreement between the family and Child, Youth and Family that sets goals for the well-being and ongoing safety of the child or young person.

Table 4.1 shows that, over the five year period, the number of children and young people with family/whānau agreements has fluctuated. Most children and young people had only one family/whānau agreement signed in one year.

**Table 4.1: Children and Young People with Care and Protection Family/Whānau Agreements (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 30 September 2013)**

Care and Protection Family/Whānau Agreements Signed	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July-30 September 2013
Total Children and Young People with a signed FWA	4,671	3,329	4,519	4,559	4,956	1,332
Distinct Children and Young People who had a Care and Protection FWA Signed	4,087	2,924	3,966	4,005	4,366	1,296

### *Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, when compared to the same period last year, there were 1,332 children and young people with family/whānau agreements (compared to 1,338) involving 1,296 individual children and young people, which is the same number for the same period last year.

### Care and Protection Family Group Conferences

An FGC will be convened if it is believed that a child or young person is in need of care and protection. An FGC allows family/whānau and extended family to come together with professionals to talk about the care and protection concerns we have for the child or young person. The attendees at the FGC make a plan that outlines how the child or young person can be kept safe and well cared for and how the family can get the support they need.

### *Reviewed and Reconvened Care and Protection FGCs*

Arrangements to review a plan are determined at the initial FGC. Review timeframes are informed by matters such as court orders and the circumstances of the child or young person which may require a more frequent review of the plan, such as when returning home or moving on from a residential stay. FGCs can be reviewed by the Family Court or informally in consultation with those monitoring the Plan but without the FGC being called together again (these types of review FGCs are not captured in Table 4.2, below).

There are times when a care and protection FGC can be reconvened. This would usually occur when a plan is not addressing the needs of the child or young person, or their circumstances have changed and the group needs to come back together to reconsider what support is required.

Table 4.2 below shows that between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013, the number of children and young people for whom care and protection FGCs were held increased by 12 per cent (from 7,667 to 8,583). These FGCs involved 5,810 distinct children and young people in 2008/2009 and 6,615 in 2012/2013 (an increase of 14 per cent).

Some children or young people will have more than one FGC in a 12 month period.

The average number of FGCs held per individual child or young person has remained steady at approximately 1.3 from 2008/2009 to 2012/2013. This means about a third of individual children and young people go on to have more than one FGC in any one year.

**Table 4.2: Children and Young People for whom Care and Protection Family Group Conferences were held, by Type (Fiscal Years 2009 - 2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 30 September 2013)**

Children and Young People involved in Care and Protection FGCs	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July-30 September 2013
New FGC	5,481	5,885	5,839	6,255	6,292	1,680
Reviewed FGC	1,333	1,479	1,607	1,784	1,596	519
Reconvened FGC	853	796	641	770	695	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,667</b>	<b>8,160</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,809</b>	<b>8,583</b>	<b>2,395</b>
Distinct Children and Young People	5,810	6,226	6,089	6,585	6,615	2,249

### *Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

Between 1 July 2013 and 30 September 2013, there were 2,395 children and young people involved in care and protection FGCs (compared to 2,155). This is an increase of 9 per cent when compared to the same quarter last year. The number of distinct

children and young people involved was 2,249 as some will have been involved in more than one FGC in the period. This compares with 2,063 distinct children and young people for the same period last year.

### Youth Justice Family Group Conferences

Most young offenders have a short and limited engagement with the youth justice system and are managed by way of Police alternative action. Young offenders are referred to Child, Youth and Family when:

- Police Youth Aid is intending to charge a young person and, in consultation with a Child, Youth and Family Youth Justice Coordinator, may make a referral for an "intention to charge" FGC
- young people are directed by the Youth Court to Child, Youth and Family for an FGC
- a child is deemed to be in need of care and protection because of their offending behaviour.

All young offenders referred and directed to Child, Youth and Family have an FGC.

The aim of a youth justice FGC is to ensure an appropriate and agreed action plan is developed to:

- hold the young person accountable for their offending
- prevent the likelihood of reoffending
- repair harm caused to victims, family and community
- improve the young offender's life outcomes
- address the underlying causes of offending behaviour.

To support young people to achieve their FGC plan, oversight is provided by the Youth Justice Coordinator or social worker, their family/whānau and the Youth Court.

Young offenders who have an intention to charge FGC have the opportunity to address their offending behaviour by attending a programme and/or utilising a range of community resources.

Of the young people who appear in Youth Court, approximately half complete their FGC plans without receiving court orders. More persistent offenders or those offenders committing more serious crimes need more complex interventions and often court orders are required. For those young people who have court orders, the outcomes are subject to a review by the Youth Court on completion of their court plans.



### *Reviewed and Reconvened Youth Justice FGCs*

Reviewed FGCs are held when the participants meet again to discuss the progress on or outcome of the plan (when considered necessary). An FGC might also be informally reviewed without the participants being brought together again. Given that many Youth Justice FGC plans are of short duration and do not necessarily deal with high-risk offenders, the need for a review or reconvene by FGC is greatly reduced. Many plans are monitored by family members and local organisations and the review is completed by the Youth Justice Co-ordinator in consultation with those monitoring the plan. Many plans that are before the Youth Court (and do not have a Youth Court order) are monitored by CYF and reviewed informally and the result advised to the Court.

If a Youth Justice FGC results in a court order then no review of the FGC decision is required as it passes over to the Youth Court jurisdiction for the implementation of the order. In this situation, the Court will respond to any failure to comply (although CYF actively works with the young person throughout the length of any court order and may request a reconvened FGC if considered necessary to address any compliance issues).

Reconvened FGCs are held when the FGC requires further information or assessments before making a plan, to monitor progress, when the agreed plan has broken down or when the child or young person commits further offences. An FGC may also be reconvened to reconsider the decisions, recommendations and plans at the request of the Youth Justice Coordinator.

Table 4.3 shows that in 2012/2013, new youth justice FGCs accounted for 85.5 per cent of all youth justice FGCs held. From 2008/2009, each young person had an average of 1.7 to 1.9 FGCs in any one year. The total count of young people in FGCs (ie where a young person is counted against every FGC they are involved in) and the number of distinct young people involved (ie counted on once in the period regardless of how many FGCs attended) has decreased by 28% and 36% respectively since 2008/2009.

**Table 4.3: Young People Involved in Youth Justice Family Group Conferences, by Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 30 September 2013)**

Young people involved in Youth Justice FGCs	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July – 30 September 2013
New FGC	7,439	7,139	6,670	6,265	5,353	1,293
Reviewed FGC	118	113	96	147	115	17
Reconvened FGC	1,172	1,037	718	872	791	223
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,729</b>	<b>8,289</b>	<b>7,484</b>	<b>7,284</b>	<b>6,259</b>	<b>1,533</b>
<b>Distinct Children and Young People</b>	<b>5,238</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>4,424</b>	<b>4,026</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>1,144</b>

*Last Quarter Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, there were 1,533 counts of young people involved in youth justice FGCs (compared to 1,659 for the same period last year). These FGCs involved 1,144 individual young people (compared to 1,299 for the same period last year). This is a 7 per cent decrease in the total count of young people involved in FGCs and 12 per cent decrease in the number of individual young people, when compared to the same period last year.

## 5. Children in Custody and Out-of-Home Placements

Children come into our care when it is no longer safe for them to live at home. Our first priority for all children and young people who come into care is that they are safe, secure and able to thrive.

If it is not safe for the child or young person to remain at home, they will be placed in an out-of-home placement either with an extended family member, or a caregiver, or with a community organisation.

### Children in the Custody of the Chief Executive

Each year, as at 30 June, the total number of children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive has reduced. At 30 June 2013 the total was 4,960 which is a 13 per cent reduction from the total as at 30 June 2009.

**Table 5.1: Number of Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive as at 30 June 2009-2013 and as at 30 September 2013<sup>7</sup>**

Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	As at 30 September 2013
Number of Children and Young People in Custody	5,689	5,446	5,020	4,979	4,960	5,001

#### *As at 30 September 2013*

As at 30 September 2013 there were 5,001 children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive compared to 4,938 as at 30 September 2012.

### Approved Caregivers

Child, Youth and Family has a care system which recognises the roles of both family/whānau and non-family/whānau caregivers. A non-family/whānau caregiver is usually someone who is not related to a child or young person. A family/whānau caregiver is related to a child or young person or has emotional ties to the child or young person. This includes step parents, whāngai family members, as well as people from within the child or young person's hapū, iwi and extended family.

Table 5.2 below shows that as at 30 June 2013, we had 3,434 approved caregivers compared to 3,406 approved caregivers at 30 June 2012 (a small increase of 28 caregivers). Compared to 30 June 2009, there has been a 24 per cent decrease (from 4,491 as at June 2009 to 3,434 as at June 2013).

<sup>7</sup> These figures provide a snapshot at a point in time rather than year-to-date. This is because the number of children entering and exiting out-of-home placements changes on a daily basis.

**Table 5.2: Number of Approved Caregivers as at 30 June 2009-2013 (operational data)**

Number of Approved Caregivers as at 30 June <sup>a</sup>	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July – 30 September 2013
Non-Family/ Whānau Caregivers	2,071	1,743	1,634	1,579	1,633	1,626
Family / Whānau Caregivers	2,420	1,963	1,863	1,827	1,801	1,784
<b>Total Approved Caregivers</b>	<b>4,491</b>	<b>3,706</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>3,406</b>	<b>3,434</b>	<b>3,410</b>

*As at 30 September 2013*

As at 30 September 2013, there were 3,410 approved caregivers (compared to 3,313 at 30 September 2012), of these 1,626 were non-family/whānau caregivers and 1,784 were family/whānau caregivers.

**Out-of-Home Placements**

As at 30 June 2013 there were 3,844 children and young people in out-of-home placements<sup>9</sup> compared to 3,884 children and young people at 30 June 2012. The majority (44 per cent) were placed with family/whānau caregivers and 34 per cent were placed with Child, Youth and Family non-family/whānau caregivers (refer Table 5.3 below).

**Table 5.3: Number of Children in Out of Home Placements, by Placement Type as at 30 June 2009-2013 and as at 30 September 2013**

Placement Type as at 30 June	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	As at 30 September 2013
Non-family / Whānau Caregivers	1,540	1,512	1,405	1,427	1,298	1,276
Family / Whānau Caregivers	1,896	1,746	1,610	1,639	1,698	1,747
Child and Family Support Services (Approved under s396 CYP&F Act)	659	630	546	518	521	540
CYF Family Home Placement	168	160	143	114	103	101
CYF Residential Placement	34	46	55	47	47	47
Other supported accommodation	111	144	126	139	177	195
<b>Number of distinct children and young people</b>	<b>4,408</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>3,885</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,906</b>

*As at 30 September 2013*

As at 30 September 2013 there were 3,906 children and young people in out-of-home placements compared to 3,869 as at 30 September 2012.

<sup>a</sup> Includes emergency approved caregivers

<sup>9</sup> Excludes placement types- Independent Living, Remain Home and Return Home

## Ethnicity

Tables 5.4 below provide a breakdown of the ethnic and age groups of children and young people in out-of-home placements as at 30 June 2013 and 30 September 2013.

Of the 3,844 children and young people in out-of-home placements at 30 June 2013, 55 per cent (2,113) identified as Māori and 34 per cent (1,324) identified as New Zealand Pākehā. These proportions remain stable at any point in time (eg at 30 September 2013, 56 per cent identified as Māori and 33 per cent identified as New Zealand Pākehā).

**Table 5.4 Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placements by Ethnicity as at 30 June 2013 and as at 30 September 2013**

Out-of-Home Placements by Ethnicity as at 30 June 2013		As at 30 September 2013
New Zealand Pākehā	1,324	1,295
Māori	2,113	2,182
Pacific	261	292
Asian	43	42
Other/multiple ethnicity	83	95
Total	3,844	3,906

## Age

Twenty-seven per cent (1,046) of children and young people in out-of-home placements as at 30 June 2013 were aged less than five years. Over half (52% or 2,005) were between five and 13 years of age. These proportions remain the same for out-of-home placements at 30 September 2013.

**Table 5.5 Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placements, by Age as at 30 June 2013**

Out-of-Home Placements by Age as at 30 June 2013		As at 30 September 2013
Age 0-1	421	445
Age 2-4	625	657
Age 5-9	1,041	1,046
Age 10-13	964	966
Age 14-16	783	787
Age 17+	10	5
Total Children and Young People	3,844	3,906

# report



child, youth  
and family

*A service of the Ministry of Social Development*

Date: 28 March 2014

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Paula Bennett, Minister for Social Development

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## Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report: 1 July - 31 December 2013

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides Child, Youth and Family's official data for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013 and compares this to the data for the same period for the previous year. Key national data for each fiscal year from 2008/2009 to 2012/2013 is also included.
- 2 The report contains the official data and associated commentary on the following areas of Child, Youth and Family work:
  - notifications
  - investigations, assessment and findings
  - family/whānau agreements and family group conferences
  - children and young people in custody and out-of-home placements.
- 3 You will receive the next statistics report for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014 in May 2014.

### Executive summary

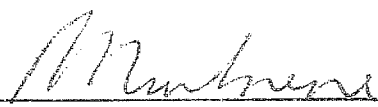
- 4 For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013, compared to the same period in 2012, there were **more**:
  - children and young people for whom care and protection family group conferences were held (4,730 compared to 4,429)
  - distinct children and young people involved in care and protection FGCs (4,015 compared to 3,917).
- 5 As at 31 December 2013 compared to 31 December 2012, there were **more**:
  - children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (4,961 compared to 4,913)
  - children and young people in out-of-home placements (3,949 compared to 3,783)
  - approved caregivers (3,482 compared to 3,438).
- 6 For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013, when compared to the same period in 2012, there were **less**:
  - notifications, including Police family violence referrals (74,583 compared to 76,902)
  - Police family violence referrals (29,493 compared to 30,543)
  - notifications excluding Police family violence referrals (45,090 compared to 46,359)
  - distinct children and young people who had a notification, including Police family violence referrals (54,033 compared to 56,805)

- notifications requiring further action (FARs) (28,821 compared to 31,621) and a decrease in the proportion of notifications (excluding family violence referrals) that required further action (64% compared to 68%)
- distinct children and young people who had a notification requiring further action (25,321 compared to 27,541)
- substantiated findings of abuse (10,679 compared to 12,107) – and a decrease in findings across all abuse types
- distinct children and young people with substantiated abuse findings (9,269 compared to 10,427)
- distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of physical abuse (1,692 compared to 1,791)
- young people for whom a youth justice FGC was held (3,018 compared to 3,334)
- distinct young people involved in youth justice FGCs (1,863 compared to 2,194).

### Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 note the attached Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report for 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013
- 2 note the data in this report is available on the Child, Youth and Family website
- 3 note that by 23 May 2014, you will receive the next Key Statistics Report for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014.

  
 Bernadine Mackenzie  
 Deputy Chief Executive  
 Child, Youth and Family

28 MARCH 2014  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Hon Paula Bennett  
 Minister for Social Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# **Child, Youth and Family**

## **Key Statistics**

### **Report to the**

### **Minister for Social Development**

**1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013**





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## 1. Introduction

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This report provides the latest official data for the period year 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013 and compares this data to 1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012. It also provides and compares key national statistics on the work undertaken by Child, Youth and Family for the fiscal years 2009 –2013.

All official data provided for the last quarter, for the same quarter last year, and for all financial years is corrected official data<sup>1</sup>.

A breakdown of the key statistics for each region and site is available on Child, Youth and Family's website [www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz). Unless otherwise stated, all figures are official data.

### Summary of Key Statistics

*For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013, compared to the same period in 2012, there were more:*

- children and young people for whom care and protection family group conferences were held (4,730 compared to 4,429)
- distinct children and young people involved in care and protection FGCs (4,015 compared to 3,917).

*As at 31 December 2013 compared to 31 December 2012, there were more:*

- children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (4,961 compared to 4,913)
- children and young people in out-of-home placements (3,949 compared to 3,783)
- approved caregivers (3,482 compared to 3,438).

*For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013, when compared to the same period in 2012, there were less:*

- notifications, including Police family violence referrals (74,583 compared to 76,902)

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<sup>1</sup> An anomaly affecting all official CYF data was identified last year and all official data reports were rebuilt, re-run, tested and corrected in November 2013.

- Police family violence referrals (29,493 compared to 30,543)
- notifications *excluding* Police family violence referrals (45,090 compared to 46,359)
- distinct children and young people who had a notification, including Police family violence referrals (54,033 compared to 56,805)
- notifications requiring further action (FARs) (28,821 compared to 31,621) and a decrease in the proportion of notifications (excluding family violence referrals) that required further action (64% compared to 68%)
- distinct children and young people who had a notification requiring further action (25,321 compared to 27,541)
- substantiated findings of abuse (10,679 compared to 12,107) – and a decrease in findings across all abuse types
- distinct children and young people with substantiated abuse findings (9,269 compared to 10,427)
- distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of physical abuse (1,692 compared to 1,791)
- young people for whom a youth justice FGC was held (3,018 compared to 3,334)
- distinct young people involved in youth justice FGCs (1,863 compared to 2,194).

## 2. Notifications to Child, Youth and Family

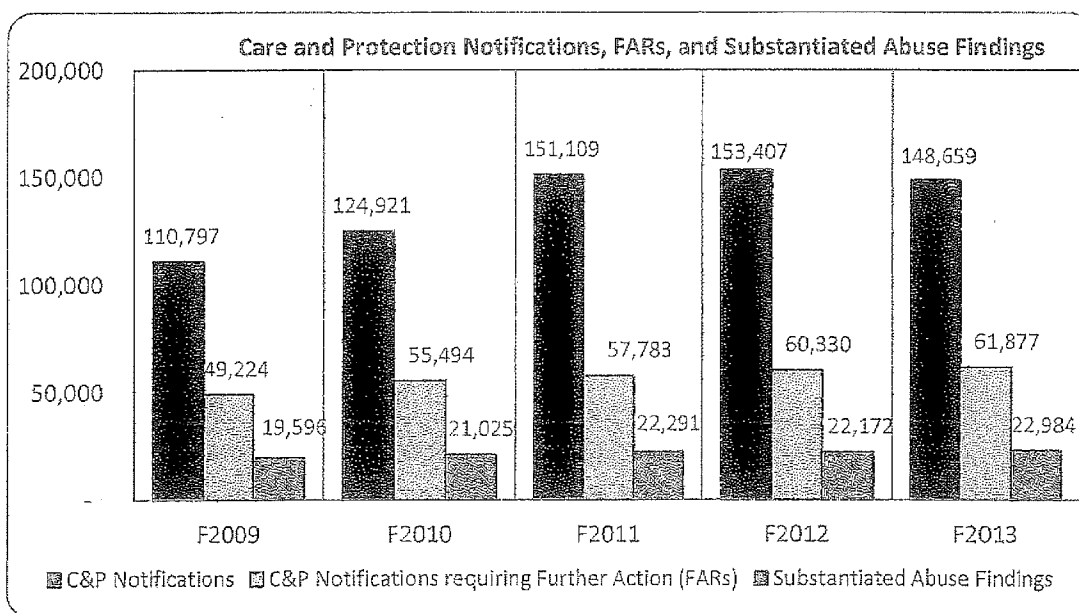
A care and protection notification is a concern that has been raised with Child, Youth and Family that a child or young person may be at risk. Notifications are received from members of the public, family or whānau, the Police, schools, health professionals or other government or community agencies. A notification does not mean that the child or young person will necessarily become a client of Child, Youth and Family.

### Notifications

Graph 2.1<sup>2</sup> shows that in fiscal year 2012/2013, Child, Youth and Family received 148,659 notifications, including Police family violence referrals. Of these, 61,877 (42%) required further action to determine the type of response required and the social work services needed. In 2012, 153,407 notifications including Police family violence referrals were received and 60,330 (39%) of these required further action. Since 2008/2009, notifications, including Police family violence referrals, increased by 34% and the notifications requiring further action increased by 26%.

In 2012/2013 there were 22,984 findings of substantiated abuse compared to 22,172 in 2011/2012. Substantiated findings have increased by 17 since 2008/2009.

Graph 2.1: Notifications, Notifications Requiring Further Action, and Substantiated Abuse Findings for Fiscal Years 2009-2013



<sup>2</sup> Numbers in Graph 2.1 are not distinct children or young people.

Table 2.1 below provides a summary of care and protection notifications, including Police family violence referrals for the fiscal years 2009-2013. The number of distinct children and young people for each year is also provided.

In 2012/2013, 94,099 children and young people had a notification compared to 74,340 in 2008/2009 (a 27% increase).

A child or young person can have more than one notification within the time period therefore table 2.1 shows that the number of notifications received exceeds the number of children and young people.

### Police Family Violence Referrals

Police family violence referrals have been recorded separately from other Police notifications since July 2010 because they do not require Child, Youth and Family services. Police family violence referrals are all considered by local interagency groups (these groups include Police and Child, Youth and Family), who have assessed them as needing no action by Child, Youth and Family.

Table 2.1: Number of Notifications and Distinct Children and Young People (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 31 December 2013)

Number of Notifications and distinct children and young people	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	01 Jul - 31 Dec 2013
Care and Protection Notifications	110,797	124,921	93,956	90,729	90,893	45,090
Police Family Violence Referrals (no further action by CYF) <sup>3</sup>			57,153	62,678	57,766	29,493
Notifications including Police Family Violence Referrals	110,797	124,921	151,109	153,407	148,659	74,583
Number of distinct children and young people	74,340	80,218	94,561	95,670	94,099	54,033

### 1 July – 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013 when compared to the same period last year there were:

- 74,583 care and protection notifications, (including Police family violence referrals), compared with 76,902 (a decrease of 2,319 or 3%)

<sup>3</sup> Since July 2010, Police Family Violence referrals that require no further action by CYF have been recorded separately in CYRAS.

- 29,493 Police family violence referrals compared to 30,543 (a decrease of 1,050 or 3%)
- 54,033 distinct children and young people who had notifications (including Police family violence referrals) compared to 56,805, a 5% decrease.

### Notifications by Notifier

Table 2.2 outlines the number of notifications received from different notifying groups.

Table 2.2: Notifications by Notifier (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and year-to-date 1 July – 31 December 2013)

Notifier Group	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July-31 Dec 2013
Court	678	838	805	615	569	297
Education	7,345	7,832	8,121	9,487	9,573	5,326
Police <sup>4</sup>	65,565	75,251	40,241	32,983	31,868	15,396
Family	9,019	9,814	10,399	10,285	10,472	4,762
Health	8,636	9,955	11,031	12,521	12,763	6,225
Others <sup>5</sup>	19,554	21,231	23,359	24,838	25,643	13,064
<b>Notifications Received</b>	<b>110,797</b>	<b>124,921</b>	<b>93,956</b>	<b>90,729</b>	<b>90,893</b>	<b>45,090</b>
Police Family Violence Referrals (no further action by CYF)			57,153	62,673	57,766	29,493
<b>National Total</b>	<b>110,797</b>	<b>124,921</b>	<b>151,109</b>	<b>153,407</b>	<b>148,659</b>	<b>74,583</b>

### 1 July – 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013, when compared to the same period last year, there were:

- 45,090 total notifications (excluding Police family violence referrals) compared to 46,359 (a decrease of 1,269 or 3%)
- 15,396 notifications from Police (excluding Police family violence referrals) compared to 15,788 (a 2% decrease).

### Notifications Requiring Further Action (FARs)

When Child, Youth and Family receives a notification, a social worker determines if further action is required and what needs to happen to keep the child or young person safe. Not all of the notifications received by Child, Youth and Family will result in further action as it may become evident early in the process that there are no issues

<sup>4</sup> Includes Family Safety Teams.

<sup>5</sup> Includes other government agencies and NGOs.

warranting formal intervention. Cases requiring no further action by Child, Youth and Family may lead to other avenues of advice and support being made available to the family.

Table 2.3 shows the number and proportion of notifications (excluding Police family violence referrals), which required further action (FARs), by notifier group. It shows that, for each notifier group, the proportion of notifications that were actioned each financial year, in general, increased over time, indicating that the accuracy of each group at assessing the risk to children or young people is improving.

The proportion of Education FARs, for example, increased from 75% in 2008/2009 to 77% in 2012/2013. Police FARs increased significantly from 29% in 2008/2009 to 67% in 2012/2013. This significant increase is due to the separation of Police family violence referrals, which do not require action by CYF, from other police notifications.

Overall, both the number and the proportion of FARs, excluding Police family violence referrals, has increased over time from 49,244 (44% of notifications) in 2008/2009 to 61,877 (68% of notifications) 2012/2013.

Table 2.3: FARs as a Proportion of Notifications, by Notifier (Fiscal Years 2009 - 2013 and year-to-date 1 July - 31 December 2013)

Notifier	F2009		F2010		F2011		F2012		F2013		1 July - 31 December 2013	
Court	583	86%	744	89%	688	85%	513	83%	501	88%	233	78%
Education	5,525	75%	5,867	75%	6,056	75%	7,149	75%	7,411	77%	3,883	73%
Police	18,881	29%	21,943	29%	22,863	57%	21,314	65%	21,305	67%	9,454	61%
Family	5,358	59%	5,947	61%	5,974	57%	6,301	61%	6,463	62%	2,731	57%
Health	5,838	68%	6,656	67%	6,913	63%	8,106	65%	8,648	68%	3,871	62%
Others <sup>6</sup>	13,039	67%	14,337	68%	15,289	65%	16,947	68%	17,549	68%	8,649	66%
National Total FARs <sup>7</sup>	49,224	44%	55,494	44%	57,783	62%	60,330	66%	61,877	68%	28,821	64%
Distinct children and young people	38,990		43,390		45,717		48,000		48,527		25,321	

#### 1 July - 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 - 31 December 2013, when compared to the same period in the previous year:

- there were 28,821 FARs compared to 31,621, a decrease of 9%

<sup>6</sup> Includes other government agencies and NGOs.

<sup>7</sup> Excludes Police family violence referrals.

- 64% of all notifications received for the period (excluding Police family violence referrals) required further action compared to 68% at the same time last year
- there was an decrease in the proportion of notifications that required further action from Health (62% from 68%), Court (78% from 88%), Police (61% from 67%), Family (57% from 61%) and Education (73% from 77%)
- there were 25,321 distinct children and young people with a care and protection notification that required further action, compared to 27,541 (an 8% decrease).



### 3. Investigations, Assessments and Findings

When a notification requiring further action is received, the first step is to ensure the safety of the child or young person. A Child and Family Assessment is appropriate when the notification involves an allegation that the care, safety or wellbeing of the child or young person may be at risk. In serious cases of abuse, we carry out a formal investigation with the Police under the Child Protection Protocol.

#### Findings of Abuse or Neglect

A finding of abuse or neglect occurs after an investigation or assessment has been completed and abuse has been substantiated. A child might have more than one finding of abuse therefore the number of findings is not an indication of the number of children or young people or the number of notifications substantiated (more than one notification might be received for one child).

Table 3.1 below, shows the number of findings by type. During 2013, there were more substantiated abuse findings (22,984) than for 2012 (22,172). Emotional abuse continued to account for the majority of abuse findings (56%) in 2013 as it was in 2012. Findings of physical abuse account for 14.5% of overall findings.

Overall, since 2009 there has been a 17% increase in substantiated abuse findings. Physical abuse findings increased by 17% since 2008/2009.

Table 3.1: Substantiated Abuse Findings by Abuse Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and 1 July – 31 December 2013)

Abuse Findings by Type	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July - 31 December 2013
Emotional	10,938	12,535	12,711	12,454	12,777	5,670
Physical	2,855	2,866	3,253	3,330	3,343	1,745
Sexual	1,126	1,201	1,514	1,418	1,459	723
Neglect	4,677	4,403	4,813	4,970	5,405	2,541
Total Abuse Findings	19,596	21,025	22,291	22,172	22,984	10,679

#### 1 July – 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 - 31 December 2013, when compared to the same period last year there were:

- 10,679 substantiated findings of abuse compared to 12,107
- 5,670 findings of emotional abuse, compared to 6,651 (a decrease of 15%)

- 1,745 findings of physical abuse compared to 1,863 (a decrease of 6%)
- 723 findings of sexual abuse, compared to 803 (a decrease of 10%)
- 2,541 findings of neglect, compared to 2,790 (a decrease of 9%).

### Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Abuse Findings

Children and young people can have multiple, distinct findings within the time period and if so, will be counted for each distinct finding eg. a child with three distinct findings (emotional, physical and sexual abuse for example) is counted three times. Therefore in Table 3.2 below, the total number of distinct children and young people in the bottom line is less than the sum of each column because the bottom line counts distinct children or young people once in the reporting period.

Table 3.2 shows that since 2008/2009 there has been a 19% increase in the number of individual children and young people with a finding of abuse or neglect (i.e. from 15,643 to 18,595).

**Table 3.2: Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Findings of Abuse, by Abuse Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and 1 July – 31 December 2013)**

Abuse Type	Number of distinct children and young people					1 July- 31 December 2013
	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	
Emotional	9,987	11,290	11,305	11,165	11,386	5,346
Physical	2,745	2,769	3,110	3,195	3,181	1,692
Sexual	1,097	1,171	1,466	1,380	1,423	712
Neglect	4,415	4,059	4,427	4,614	4,957	2,421
Total distinct children and young people*	15,643	16,945	18,167	18,277	18,595	9,269

\*A child or young person could have more than one finding.

### 1 July – 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 - 31 December 2013, compared to the same period last year, there were:

- 9,269 distinct children and young people who had substantiated abuse findings, compared to 10,427 (a decrease of 11%)
- 5,346 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of emotional abuse, compared to 6,255 (a decrease of 14%)

- 1,692 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of physical abuse, compared to 1,791 (a decrease of 5.5%)
- 712 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of sexual abuse, compared to 794 (a decrease of 10%)
- 2,421 distinct children and young people with a substantiated finding of neglect, compared to 2,665 (a decrease of 9%).

## 4. Family/Whānau Agreements and Family Group Conferences

### Family/Whānau Agreements

We work with families/whānau to keep children and young people safe through having a family/whānau meeting or convening a Family Group Conference (FGC).

When only a minimum level of intervention is required, a family/whānau meeting with extended family is held and an agreement is drawn up. A family/whānau agreement is a three month contract or written agreement between the family and Child, Youth and Family that sets goals for the well-being and ongoing safety of the child or young person.

Table 4.1 shows that, over the five year period, the number of children and young people with family/whānau agreements has fluctuated.

Table 4.1: Children and Young People with Care and Protection Family/Whānau Agreements (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and 1 July – 31 December 2013)

Care and Protection Family/ Whānau Agreements Signed	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July-31 December 2013
Total Children and Young People with a signed FWA	4,671	3,329	4,519	4,559	4,956	2,379
Distinct Children and Young People who had a Care and Protection FWA Signed	4,687	2,924	3,966	4,005	4,366	2,177

### 1 July – 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013, when compared to the same period last year, there were 2,379 children and young people for whom a family/whānau agreement was signed (compared to 2,622). These agreements involved 2,177 distinct children and young people, a 9% decrease compared to the same period last year (2,390). It is possible for a child to have more than one agreement in a period.

### Care and Protection Family Group Conferences

An FGC will be convened if it is believed that a child or young person is in need of care and protection. An FGC allows family/whānau and extended family to come together with professionals to talk about the care and protection concerns we have for the child or young person. The attendees at the FGC make a plan that outlines how the child or young person can be kept safe and well cared for and how the family can get the support they need.

### *Reviewed and Reconvened Care and Protection FGCs*

Arrangements to review a plan are determined at the initial FGC. Review timeframes are informed by matters such as court orders and the circumstances of the child or young person which may require a more frequent review of the plan, such as when returning home or moving on from a residential stay. FGCs can be reviewed by the Family Court or informally in consultation with those monitoring the Plan but without the FGC being called together again (these types of review FGCs are not captured in Table 4.2, below).

There are times when a care and protection FGC can be reconvened. This would usually occur when a plan is not addressing the needs of the child or young person, or their circumstances have changed and the group needs to come back together to reconsider what support is required.

Table 4.2 below shows that between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013, the number of children and young people for whom care and protection FGCs were held increased by 12% (from 7,667 to 8,583). These FGCs involved 5,810 distinct children and young people in 2008/2009 and 6,615 in 2012/2013 (an increase of 14%).

Some children or young people will have more than one FGC in a 12 month period.

The average number of FGCs held per individual child or young person has remained steady at approximately 1.3 from 2008/2009 to 2012/2013.

**Table 4.2: Children and Young People for whom Care and Protection Family Group Conferences were held, by Type (Fiscal Years 2009 - 2013 and 1 July - 31 December 2013)**

Children and Young People involved in Care and Protection FGCs	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July-31 December 2013
New FGC	5,481	5,885	5,839	6,255	6,292	3,304
Reviewed FGC	1,333	1,479	1,607	1,784	1,596	1,045
Reconvened FGC	853	796	641	770	695	381
Total <sup>a</sup>	7,667	8,160	8,087	8,809	8,583	4,730
Distinct Children and Young People <sup>b</sup>	5,810	6,226	6,089	6,585	6,615	4,015

### *1 July - 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

Individual children and young people can have more than one FGC in a reporting period.

<sup>a</sup> The total number of the children or young people for whom an FGC is held counts the child or young person against every FGC they are involved in during the reporting period.

<sup>b</sup> The number of distinct children or young people counts the child or young person only once in the period regardless of how many FGCs attended.

Between 1 July 2013 and 31 December 2013, care and protection FGCs were held for 4,730 children and young (compared to 4,429). This is an increase of 7% when compared to the same period last year.

The number of distinct children and young people involved was 4,015. This compares with 3,917 distinct children and young people for the same period last year.

### **Youth Justice Family Group Conferences**

Most young offenders have a short and limited engagement with the youth justice system and are managed by way of Police alternative action. Young offenders are referred to Child, Youth and Family when:

- Police Youth Aid is intending to charge a young person and, in consultation with a Child, Youth and Family Youth Justice Coordinator, may make a referral for an "intention to charge" FGC
- young people are directed by the Youth Court to Child, Youth and Family for an FGC
- a child is deemed to be in need of care and protection because of their offending behaviour.

All young offenders referred and directed to Child, Youth and Family have an FGC.

The aim of a youth justice FGC is to ensure an appropriate and agreed action plan is developed to:

- hold the young person accountable for their offending
- prevent the likelihood of reoffending
- repair harm caused to victims, family and community
- improve the young offender's life outcomes
- address the underlying causes of offending behaviour.

To support young people to achieve their FGC plan, oversight is provided by the Youth Justice Coordinator or social worker, their family/whānau and the Youth Court.

Young offenders who have an intention to charge FGC have the opportunity to address their offending behaviour by attending a programme and/or utilising a range of community resources.

Of the young people who appear in Youth Court, approximately half complete their FGC plans without receiving court orders. More persistent offenders or those offenders committing more serious crimes need more complex interventions and often court orders are required. For those young people who have court orders, the outcomes are subject to a review by the Youth Court on completion of their court plans.



### *Reviewed and Reconvened Youth Justice FGCs*

Reviewed FGCs are held when the participants meet again to discuss the progress on or outcome of the plan (when considered necessary). An FGC might also be informally reviewed without the participants being brought together again. Given that many Youth Justice FGC plans are of short duration and do not necessarily deal with high-risk offenders, the need for a review or reconvene by FGC is greatly reduced. Many plans are monitored by family members and local organisations and the review is completed by the Youth Justice Co-ordinator in consultation with those monitoring the plan. Many plans that are before the Youth Court (and do not have a Youth Court order) are monitored by CYF and reviewed informally and the result advised to the Court.

If a Youth Justice FGC results in a court order then no review of the FGC decision is required as it passes over to the Youth Court jurisdiction for the implementation of the order. In this situation, the Court will respond to any failure to comply (although CYF actively works with the young person throughout the length of any court order and may request a reconvened FGC if considered necessary to address any compliance issues).

Reconvened FGCs are held when the FGC requires further information or assessments before making a plan, to monitor progress, when the agreed plan has broken down or when the child or young person commits further offences. An FGC may also be reconvened to reconsider the decisions, recommendations and plans at the request of the Youth Justice Coordinator.

Table 4.3 shows that in 2012/2013, new youth justice FGCs accounted for 85.5% of all youth justice FGCs held. From 2008/2009, each young person had an average of 1.7 to 1.9 FGCs in any one year. The total number of young people for whom FGCs were held and the number of distinct young people during the reporting period has decreased by 28% and 36% respectively since 2008/2009.

**Table 4.3: Young People Involved in Youth Justice Family Group Conferences, by Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and 1 July – 31 December 2013)**

Young people involved in Youth Justice FGCs	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July - 31 December 2013
New FGC	7,439	7,139	6,670	6,265	5,353	2,555
Reviewed FGC	118	113	96	147	115	39
Reconvened FGC	1,172	1,037	718	872	791	424
Total <sup>10</sup>	8,729	8,289	7,484	7,284	6,259	3,018
Distinct Children and Young People <sup>11</sup>	5,238	4,880	4,424	4,026	3,335	1,863

*1 July – 31 December 2013 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 December 2013, there were 3,018 young people for whom youth justice FGCs were held (compared to 3,334 for the same period last year). These FGCs involved 1,863 distinct young people (compared to 2,194 for the same period last year). This is a 7% decrease in the total count of young people involved in FGCs and 15% decrease in the number of distinct young people, when compared to the same period last year.

<sup>10</sup> The total number of the children or young people for whom an FGC is held counts the child or young person against every FGC they are involved in during the reporting period.

<sup>11</sup> The number of distinct children or young people counts the child or young person only once in the period regardless of how many FGCs attended.



## 5. Children in Custody and Out-of-Home Placements

Children come into our care when it is no longer safe for them to live at home. Our first priority for all children and young people who come into care is that they are safe, secure and able to thrive.

If it is not safe for the child or young person to remain at home, they will be placed in an out-of-home placement either with an extended family member, or a caregiver, or with a community organisation.

### Children in the Custody of the Chief Executive

Each year, as at 30 June, the total number of children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive has reduced. At 30 June 2013 the total was 4,960 which is a 13% reduction from the total as at 30 June 2009.

Table 5.1: Number of Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive as at 30 June 2009-2013 and as at 31 December 2013<sup>12</sup>

Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	As at 31 December 2013
Number of Children and Young People in Custody	5,689	5,446	5,020	4,979	4,960	4,961

#### As at 31 December 2013

As at 31 December 2013 there were 4,961 children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive compared to 4,913 as at 31 December 2012.

### Approved Caregivers

Child, Youth and Family has a care system which recognises the roles of both family/whānau and non-family/whānau caregivers. A non-family/whānau caregiver is usually someone who is not related to a child or young person. A family/whānau caregiver is related to a child or young person or has emotional ties to the child or young person. This includes step parents, whāngai family members, as well as people from within the child or young person's hapū, iwi and extended family.

Table 5.2 below shows that as at 30 June 2013, we had 3,434 approved caregivers compared to 3,406 approved caregivers at 30 June 2012 (a small increase of 28

<sup>12</sup> These figures provide a snapshot at a point in time rather than year-to-date. This is because the number of children entering and exiting out-of-home placements changes on a daily basis.

caregivers). Compared to 30 June 2009, there has been a 24% decrease (from 4,491 as at June 2009 to 3,434 as at June 2013).

**Table 5.2: Number of Approved Caregivers as at 30 June 2009-2013 and as at 31 December 2013 (operational data)**

Number of Approved Caregivers as at 30 June <sup>13</sup>	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	1 July – 31 December 2013
Non-Family/ Whānau Caregivers	2,071	1,743	1,634	1,579	1,633	1,615
Family / Whānau Caregivers	2,420	1,963	1,863	1,827	1,801	1,867
Total Approved Caregivers	4,491	3,706	3,497	3,406	3,434	3,482

#### *As at 31 December 2013*

As at 31 December 2013, there were 3,482 approved caregivers (compared to 3,438 at 31 December 2012), of these 1,615 were non-family/whānau caregivers and 1,867 were family/whānau caregivers.

#### **Out-of-Home Placements**

As at 30 June 2013 there were 3,844 children and young people in out-of-home placements<sup>14</sup> compared to 3,884 children and young people at 30 June 2012. The majority (44%) were placed with family/whānau caregivers and 34% were placed with Child, Youth and Family non-family/whānau caregivers (refer Table 5.3 below).

**Table 5.3: Number of Children in Out of Home Placements, by Placement Type as at 30 June 2009-2013 and as at 31 December 2013**

Placement Type as at 30 June	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	As at 31 December 2013
Non-family / Whānau Caregivers	1,540	1,512	1,405	1,427	1,298	1,206
Family / Whānau Caregivers	1,896	1,746	1,610	1,639	1,698	1,869
Child and Family Support Services (Approved under s396 CYP&F Act)	659	630	546	518	521	535
CYF Family Home Placement	168	160	143	114	103	88
CYF Residential Placement	34	46	55	47	47	44
Other supported accommodation	111	144	126	139	177	207
Number of distinct children and young people	4,408	4,238	3,885	3,884	3,844	3,949

<sup>13</sup> Includes emergency approved caregivers

<sup>14</sup> Excludes placement types- Independent Living, Remain Home and Return Home

*As at 31 December 2013*

As at 31 December 2013 there were 3,949 children and young people in out-of-home placements compared to 3,783 as at 31 December 2012.

### *Ethnicity*

Tables 5.4 below provide a breakdown of the ethnic and age groups of children and young people in out-of-home placements as at 30 June 2013 and 31 December 2013.

Of the 3,844 children and young people in out-of-home placements at 30 June 2013, 55% (2,113) identified as Māori and 34% (1,324) identified as New Zealand Pākehā. These proportions remain stable at any point in time (eg at 31 December 2013, 54.5% identified as Māori and 34% identified as New Zealand Pākehā):

**Table 5.4 Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placements by Ethnicity as at 30 June 2013 and as at 31 December 2013**

Out-of-Home Placements by Ethnicity as at 30 June 2013		As at 31 December 2013
New Zealand Pākehā	1,324	1,329
Māori	2,113	2,152
Pacific	281	314
Asian	43	50
Other/multiple ethnicity	83	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,949</b>

### *Age*

Twenty-seven per cent (1,046) of children and young people in out-of-home placements as at 30 June 2013 were aged less than five years. Over half (52% or 2,005) were between five and 13 years of age. These proportions remain the same for out-of-home placements at 31 December 2013.

**Table 5.5 Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placements, by Age as at 30 June 2013**

Out-of-Home Placements by Age as at 30 June 2013		As at 31 December 2013
Age 0-1	421	465
Age 2-4	625	679
Age 5-9	1,041	1,049
Age 10-13	964	972
Age 14-16	783	781
Age 17+	10	3
<b>Total Children and Young People</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,949</b>

# report



child, youth  
and family

*A service of the Ministry of Social Development*

Date: 13 June 2014

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Paula Bennett, Minister for Social Development

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## Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report to the Minister for Social Development: 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides Child, Youth and Family's official data for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014 and compares this data to the same period last year.
- 2 The report contains the official data and associated commentary on the following areas of Child, Youth and Family work:
  - notifications
  - investigations, assessment and findings
  - family/whānau agreements and family group conferences
  - children and young people in custody and out-of-home placements.

### Key findings

- 3 For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, compared to the same period last year, there were **more**:
  - children and young people for whom care and protection FGCs were held (5% increase) – 6,627 compared to 6,338
  - distinct children and young people involved in care and protection FGCs (0.1% increase) – 5,208 compared to 5,162.
- 4 As at 31 March 2014 compared to 31 March 2013, there were **more**:
  - children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (3% increase) – 5,075 compared to 4,907
  - children and young people in out-of-home placements (5% increase) – 4,043 compared to 3,836
  - approved caregivers (1% increase) – 3,474 compared to 3,427.
- 5 For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, when compared to the same period last year, there were **less**:
  - care and protection notifications, (including Police family violence referrals) (3% decrease) – 73,379 compared to 76,884
  - Police family violence referrals (2% decrease) – 42,974 compared to 44,019
  - distinct children and young people who had notifications (including Police family violence referrals) (5% decrease) – 73,379 compared to 76,884
  - notifications requiring further action (FARs) (11% decrease) – 42,014 compared to 46,971

- distinct children and young people with a notification requiring further action (9% decrease) – 35,222 compared to 38,669
- total substantiated findings of abuse (13% decrease) – 14,976 compared to 17,291
- distinct children and young people who had a substantiated finding of abuse (12% decrease) – 12,739 compared to 14,434.

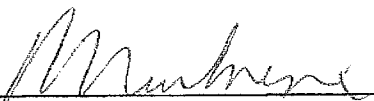
### Recommended actions

- 6 We are reviewing the layout and content of future key statistics reports and will consult with your office to confirm the final format prior to delivery of the next report due in August. You will receive the next statistics report for the period 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014 in August 2014.

### Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** the attached Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report for 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014
- 2 **note** the data in this report is available on the Child, Youth and Family website
- 3 **note** that, in consultation with your office, we will review the layout and content of future key statistics reports
- 4 **note** that you will receive the next Key Statistics Report for the period 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014 by 28 August.

  
 Bernadine Mackenzie  
 Deputy Chief Executive

16 JUNE 2014  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Hon Paula Bennett  
 Minister for Social Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**Child, Youth and Family**

**Key Statistics**

**Report to the**

**Minister for Social Development**

**1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014**

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## 1. Introduction

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This report provides and compares key national statistics on the work undertaken by Child, Youth and Family for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014. Comparisons are made with the equivalent time last year. This is more meaningful than a comparison from quarter to quarter as it controls for seasonal effects.

A breakdown of the key statistics for each region and site is available on Child, Youth and Family's website [www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz). Unless otherwise stated, all figures are official data.

### Summary of Key Statistics

*For the **period** 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, compared to the same period last year, there were **more**:*

- children and young people for whom care and protection FGCs were held (5% increase)
- distinct children and young people involved in care and protection FGCs (0.1% increase).

***As at** 31 March 2014 compared to 31 March 2013, there were **more**:*

- children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (3% increase)
- children and young people in out-of-home placements (5% increase)
- approved caregivers (1% increase).

*For the **period** 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, when compared to the same period last year, there were **less**:*

- care and protection notifications, (including Police family violence referrals) (3% decrease)
- Police family violence referrals (2% decrease)
- distinct children and young people who had notifications (including Police family violence referrals) (5% decrease)
- notifications requiring further action (FARs) (11% decrease)



- distinct children and young people with a notification requiring further action (9% decrease)
- total substantiated findings of abuse (13% decrease)
- distinct children and young people who had a substantiated finding of abuse (12% decrease).



## 2. Notifications, FARs, Findings

### Notifications

A care and protection notification is a concern that has been raised with Child, Youth and Family that a child or young person may be at risk. Notifications are received from members of the public, family or whānau, the Police, schools, health professionals or other government or community agencies. A notification does not mean that the child or young person will necessarily become a client of Child, Youth and Family.

#### *1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014 when compared to the same period last year there was:

- a 3% decrease in care and protection notifications, (including Police family violence referrals)
- a 2% decrease in Police family violence referrals
- a 5% decrease in distinct children and young people who had notifications (including Police family violence referrals).

**Table 2.1: Number of notifications and distinct clients 1 July – 31 March**

Number of Notifications and distinct children and young people	01 Jul - 31 March 2013	01 Jul - 31 March 2014
Care and Protection Notifications	69,156	67,202
Police Family Violence Referrals (no further action by CYF) <sup>1</sup>	44,019	42,974
Notifications including Police Family Violence Referrals	113,175	110,176 <sup>2</sup>
Number of distinct children and young people	76,884	73,379

Care and protection notifications (including police family violence referrals) - quarterly change

From:

July 2013 – September = 36,100

September 2013 – December = 38,483

December 2013 – March 2014 = 35,593

Care and protection notifications declined from the December 2013 quarter (see box to the left). The March 2014 quarter was less than for the last two quarters.

<sup>1</sup> Since July 2010, Police Family Violence referrals that require no further action by CYF have been recorded separately in CYRAS.

<sup>2</sup> A breakdown of this data by region and operational area is available in the Appendix.

## Notifications by Notifier

### *1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

Excluding Police family violence referrals, for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, when compared to the same period last year, there was a:

- 0.5% increase in notifications from other government agencies and NGOs
- 3% decrease in notifications from Police
- 6% decrease in notifications from Health
- 10% decrease in notifications from Family
- 1% decrease in notifications from Education.

**Table 2.2: Number of notifications by notifier group 1 July – 31 March**

Notifier Group	01 Jul - 31 March 2013	01 Jul - 31 March 2014
Others <sup>3</sup>	19,567	19,678
Police <sup>4</sup>	24,305	23,770
Health	9,672	9,085
Family	8,181	7,349
Education	6,987	6,914
Court	444	406
<b>Total Notifications excluding Police Family Violence Referrals</b>	<b>69,156</b>	<b>67,202</b>

## Notifications Requiring Further Action (FARs)

### *1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

While the number of FARs has increased by 26% since F2009, for the period 1 July 2013 - 31 March 2014, when compared to the same period in the previous year there was:

- an 11% decrease in total FARs
- a decrease in the proportion of notifications that required further action from
  - Court (87% to 80%)
  - Education (77% to 73%)
  - Health (68% to 62%)
  - Police (67% to 59%)
- a 9% decrease in the number of distinct children and young people with a care and protection notification that required further action.

<sup>3</sup> Includes other government agencies and NGOs.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Family Safety Teams.

**Table 2.3: FARs as a Proportion of Notifications (excluding Police family violence referrals), by Notifying Group 1 July – 31 March**

Notifier	01 Jul - 31 March 2013		01 Jul - 31 March 2014	
	Number of FARs	As a % of notifications from notifier	Number of FARs	As a % of notifications from notifier
Court	388	87%	326	80%
Education	5,381	77%	5,027	73%
Police	16,302	67%	14,063	59%
Family	5,034	62%	4,218	57%
Health	6,539	68%	5,618	62%
Others <sup>5</sup>	13,327	68%	12,762	65%
<b>National Total FARs<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>46,971</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>42,014</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Distinct children and young people<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>38,669</b>		<b>35,222</b>	

#### FARS quarterly change

From:

July 2013 – September = 14,776

September 2013 – December = 14,045

December 2013 – March 2014 = 13,193

FARs declined from the December 2013 quarter (see box to the left). The March 2014 quarter was less than for the last two quarters.

## Findings of Abuse or Neglect

A finding of abuse or neglect occurs after an investigation or assessment has been completed and abuse has been substantiated. A child might have more than one finding of abuse therefore the number of findings is not an indication of the number of children or young people or the number of notifications substantiated (as more than one notification might be received for one child).

### 1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 - 31 March 2014, when compared to the same period last year there was a:

- 13% decrease in total substantiated findings of abuse
- 16% decrease in findings of emotional abuse
- 13% decrease in findings of neglect
- 10% decrease in findings of sexual abuse
- 4% decrease in findings of physical abuse.

<sup>5</sup> Includes other government agencies and NGOs.

<sup>6</sup> Excludes Police family violence referrals. For a breakdown by region and operational area, refer to the Appendix.

<sup>7</sup> A breakdown on this data by region and operational area is provided in the Appendix.

**Table 2.4: Substantiated Abuse Findings by Type 1 July – 31 March**

Abuse Findings by Type	1 July - 31 March 2013	1 July - 31 March 2014
Emotional	9,564	7,992
Physical	2,560	2,460
Sexual	1,125	1,014
Neglect	4,042	3,510
<b>Total Abuse Findings</b>	<b>17,291</b>	<b>14,976</b>

**Substantiated findings quarterly change**

From:

July 2013 – September = 5,938

September 2013 – December = 4,741

December 2013 – March 2014 = 4,297

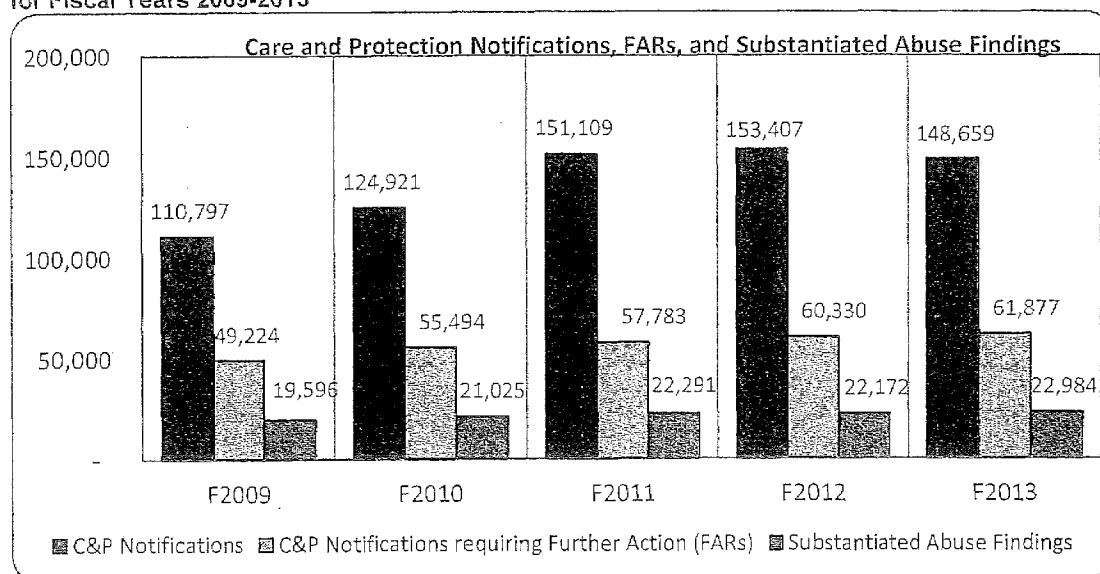
Findings declined from the December 2013 quarter (see box to the left). The March 2014 quarter was less than for the last two quarters.

### Notifications, FARs and Substantiated Findings Over Time

In fiscal year 2012/2013, Child, Youth and Family received 148,659 notifications, including Police family violence referrals. Of these, 61,877 (42%) required further action to determine the type of response required and the social work services needed. In 2012, 153,407 notifications including Police family violence referrals were received and 60,330 (39%) of these required further action. Since 2008/2009, notifications, including Police family violence referrals, increased by 34% and the notifications requiring further action increased by 26%.

In 2012/2013 there were 22,984 findings of substantiated abuse compared to 22,172 in 2011/2012. Substantiated findings have increased by 17% since 2008/2009.

**Graph 2.1 Notifications, Notifications Requiring Further Action, and Substantiated Abuse Findings for Fiscal Years 2009-2013**



## Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Abuse Findings

Children and young people can have multiple, distinct findings within the time period and if so, will be counted for each distinct finding eg. a child with three distinct findings (emotional, physical and sexual abuse for example) is counted three times.

### 1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year

For the period 1 July 2013 - 31 March 2014, compared to the same period last year, there was a:

- 12% decrease in the number of distinct children and young people who had substantiated abuse findings
- 13% decrease in the number of children and young people with a substantiated finding of neglect
- 3% decrease in the number of children and young people with a substantiated finding of physical abuse
- 16% decrease in the number of children and young people with a substantiated finding of emotional abuse
- 10% decrease in the number of children and young people with a substantiated finding of sexual abuse.

Table 2.5: Number of Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Findings of Abuse, by Abuse Type 1 July – 31 March

Abuse Type	1 July- 31 March 2013	1 July- 31 March 2014
Emotional	8,753	7,391
Neglect	3,790	3,302
Physical	2,445	2,372
Sexual	1,101	993
<b>Total distinct children and young people<sup>B</sup></b>	<b>14,434</b>	<b>12,739</b>

\*A child or young person could have more than one finding.

#### Distinct children with findings quarterly change

From:

July 2013 – September = 4,762

September 2013 – December = 4,082

December 2013 – March 2014 = 3,895

The number of distinct children and young people with substantiated findings declined from the December 2013 quarter (see box to the left). The March 2014 quarter was less than for the last two quarters.

<sup>B</sup> A breakdown of this data by region and operational area is available in the Appendix.

### 3. Family/Whānau Agreements and Family Group Conferences

#### Family/Whānau Agreements

A family/ whānau agreement is a three month written agreement between the family and Child, Youth and Family that sets goals for the well-being and ongoing safety of the child or young person.

##### *1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, when compared to the same period last year, there were 3,319 children and young people for whom a family/whānau agreement was signed (compared to 3,756). These agreements involved 2,956 distinct children and young people, a 12% decrease compared to the same period last year. It is possible for a child to have more than one agreement in a period.

**Table 3.1: Family/Whānau Agreements 1 July – 31 March**

Care and Protection Family/ Whānau Agreements Signed	1 July-31 March 2013	1 July-31 March 2014
Total Children and Young People with a signed FWA	3,756	3,319
Distinct Children and Young People who had a FWA Signed	3,378	2,965

#### Care and Protection Family Group Conferences

An FGC will be convened if it is believed that a child or young person is in need of care and protection. An FGC allows family/whānau and extended family to come together with professionals to talk about the care and protection concerns we have for the child or young person. The attendees at the FGC make a plan that outlines how the child or young person can be kept safe and well cared for and how the family can get the support they need.

##### *1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

Individual children and young people can have more than one FGC in a reporting period.

Between 1 July 2013 and 31 March 2014, there were 6,627 children and young people for whom care and protection FGCs were held (compared to 6,338). This is an increase of 5% when compared to the same period last year.

The number of distinct children and young people involved was 5,208. This compares with 5,162 distinct children and young people for the same period last year.

**Table 3.2: Children and Young People for whom Care and Protection Family Group Conferences were held, by Type**

Care and Protection FGCs	1 July-31 March 2013	1 July-31 March 2014
New FGC	4,642	4,571
Reviewed FGC	1,192	1,463
Reconvened FGC	504	593
<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>6,338</b>	<b>6,627</b>
<b>Distinct Children and Young People<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>5,162</b>	<b>5,208</b>

**Care and Protection FGCs quarterly change**

From:

July 2013 – September = 2,395

September 2013 – December = 2,335

December 2013 – March 2014 = 1,897

The number of care and protection FGCs held for children and young people declined from the December 2013 quarter (see box to the left). The March 2014 quarter was less than for the last two quarters.

### Youth Justice Family Group Conferences

Most young offenders have a short and limited engagement with the youth justice system and are managed by way of Police alternative action. Young offenders are referred to Child, Youth and Family when:

- Police Youth Aid is intending to charge a young person and, in consultation with a Child, Youth and Family Youth Justice Coordinator, may make a referral for an "intention to charge" FGC
- young people are directed by the Youth Court to Child, Youth and Family for an FGC
- a child is deemed to be in need of care and protection because of their offending behaviour.

All young offenders referred and directed to Child, Youth and Family have an FGC.

#### *1 July – 31 March 2014 Statistics Compared to the Same Period Last Year*

For the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, there were 4,291 young people for whom youth justice FGCs were held (compared to 4,752 for the same period last year). These FGCs involved 2,318 distinct young people (compared to 2,774 for the same period last year). This is a 10% decrease in the total count of young people involved in FGCs and 16% decrease in the number of distinct young people when compared to the same period last year.

<sup>9</sup> The total number of the children or young people for whom an FGC is held counts the child or young person against every FGC they are involved in during the reporting period.

<sup>10</sup> The number of distinct children or young people counts the child or young person only once in the period regardless of how many FGCs attended.



**Table 3.3: Young People for whom Youth Justice Family Group Conferences were held, by Type**

Youth Justice FGCs	1 July - 31 March 2013	1 July - 31 March 2014
New FGC	4,076	3,630
Reviewed FGC	81	56
Reconvened FGC	595	605
<b>Total<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>4,752</b>	<b>4,291</b>
<b>Distinct Children and Young People<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>2,318</b>

Youth Justice FGCs quarterly change

From:

July 2013 – September = 1,533

September 2013 – December = 1,485

December 2013 – March 2014 = 1,273

The number of youth justice FGCs held for children and young people declined from the December 2013 quarter (see box to the left). The March 2014 quarter was less than for the last two quarters.

### Family Group Conferences Over Time

Between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013, the number of children and young people for whom care and protection FGCs were held increased by 12% (from 7,667 to 8,583). These FGCs involved 5,810 distinct children and young people in 2008/2009 and 6,615 in 2012/2013 (an increase of 14%).

**Table 3.4: Children and Young People for Whom Care and Protection Family Group Conferences Were Held (Fiscal Years 2009 - 2013)**

Care and Protection FGCs	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013
New FGC	5,481	5,885	5,839	6,255	6,292
Reviewed FGC	1,333	1,479	1,607	1,784	1,596
Reconvened FGC	853	796	641	770	695
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,667</b>	<b>8,160</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,809</b>	<b>8,583</b>
<b>Distinct Children and Young People</b>	<b>5,810</b>	<b>6,226</b>	<b>6,089</b>	<b>6,585</b>	<b>6,615</b>

Between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013, the number of young people for whom youth justice FGCs were held decreased by 28% (from 8,729 to 6,259). These FGCs involved 5,238 distinct children and young people in 2008/2009 and 3,335 in 2012/2013 (a decrease of 36%).

<sup>11</sup> The total number of the children or young people for whom an FGC is held counts the child or young person against every FGC they are involved in during the reporting period.

<sup>12</sup> The number of distinct children or young people counts the child or young person only once in the period regardless of how many FGCs attended.

**Table 3.5: Young People for Whom Youth Justice Family Group Conferences Were Held (Fiscal Years 2009-2013)**

<b>Youth Justice FGCs</b>	<b>F2009</b>	<b>F2010</b>	<b>F2011</b>	<b>F2012</b>	<b>F2013</b>
New FGC	7,439	7,139	6,670	6,265	5,353
Reviewed FGC	118	113	96	147	115
Reconvened FGC	1,172	1,037	718	872	791
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,729</b>	<b>8,289</b>	<b>7,484</b>	<b>7,284</b>	<b>6,259</b>
<b>Distinct Children and Young People</b>	<b>5,238</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>4,424</b>	<b>4,026</b>	<b>3,335</b>



## 4. Children in Custody and Out-of-Home Placements

### Children in the Custody of the Chief Executive

Children come into our care when it is no longer safe for them to live at home. If it is not safe for the child or young person to remain at home, they will be placed in an out-of-home placement either with an extended family member, or a caregiver, or with a community organisation.

*As at 31 March 2014*

As at 31 March 2014 there were 5,075 children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive compared to 4,907 as at 31 March 2013 (an 3% increase).

Table 4.1: Number of Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive as at 31 March<sup>13</sup>

Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014
Number of Children and Young People in Custody	4,907	5,075

### Children in the Custody of the Chief Executive Over Time

Each year, as at 30 June, the total number of children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive has reduced. At 30 June 2013 the total was 4,960 which is a 13% reduction from the total as at 30 June 2009.

Table 4.2: Number of Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive as at 30 June 2009-2013<sup>14</sup>

Children and Young People in the Custody of the Chief Executive	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of Children and Young People in Custody	5,689	5,446	5,020	4,979	4,960

### Out-of-Home Placements<sup>15</sup>

*As at 31 March 2014*

As at 31 March 2014 there were 4,043 children and young people in out-of-home placements compared to 3,836 as at 31 March 2013. Forty-six per cent were placed with family/whānau caregivers and 31% were placed with Child, Youth and Family non-family/whānau caregivers. The proportions remain stable at any point in time.

<sup>13</sup> These figures provide a snapshot at a point in time rather than year-to-date. This is because the number of children entering and exiting out-of-home placements changes on a daily basis.

<sup>14</sup> These figures provide a snapshot at a point in time rather than year-to-date. This is because the number of children entering and exiting out-of-home placements changes on a daily basis.

<sup>15</sup> Excludes placement types- Independent Living, Remain Home and Return Home

**Table 4.3: Number of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Placements as at 31 March<sup>15</sup>**

Placement Type	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014
Family / Whānau Caregivers <sup>17</sup>	1,660	1,879
Non-family / Whānau Caregivers <sup>18</sup>	1,344	1,270
Child and Family Support Services (Approved under s396 CYP&F Act)	519	548
CYF Family Home Placement	97	118
CYF Residential Placement	54	32
Other supported accommodation	162	196
<b>Number of distinct children and young people</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,043</b>

**Out-of-home placements quarterly change**

As at:

30 September 2013 = 3,906

31 December 2013 = 3,949

31 March 2014 = 4,043

The number children and young people in out-of-home placements as at 31 March 2014 was more than at 31 December and 30 September (see box to the left).

**Children in Out of Home Placements: *Ethnicity*<sup>19</sup>**

As at 31 March 2014 there were 4,043 children and young people in out-of-home placements compared to 3,836 as at 31 March 2013. As at March 2014:

- 55% identified as Māori
- 33% identified as New Zealand Pākehā
- 8% identified as Pacific
- 1% identified as Asian
- 3% identified as other or had no primary ethnicity identified.

These proportions remain stable at any point in time.

<sup>16</sup> These figures provide a snapshot at a point in time rather than year-to-date. This is because the number of children entering and exiting out-of-home placements changes on a daily basis.

<sup>17</sup> A family/whānau caregiver is related to a child or young person or has emotional ties to the child or young person. This includes step parents, whāngai family members, as well as people from within the child or young person's hapū, iwi and extended family.

<sup>18</sup> A non-family/whānau caregiver is usually someone who is not related to a child or young person.

<sup>19</sup> More than one ethnic group can be recorded in CYRAS for each client however, for the purposes of this report, data extraction was based on the primary ethnicity identified by the client or the client's family.

**Table 4.4: Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placements, by Primary Ethnicity, as at 31 March**

Primary Ethnicity	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014
Māori	2,070	2,222
New Zealand Pākehā	1,365	1,342
Pacific	283	324
Asian	47	51
European	29	30
Other ethnicity or no primary ethnicity identified	42	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,043</b>

#### *Children in Out of Home Placements: Age*

Twenty-nine per cent (1,171) of children and young people in out-of-home placements as at 31 March 2014 were aged less than five years. Over half (51% or 2,068) were between five and 13 years of age. These proportions remain stable at any point in time.

**Table 4.5: Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placements, by Age, as at 31 March**

Age	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014
Age 0-1	417	476
Age 2-4	609	695
Age 5-9	1,042	1,085
Age 10-13	959	983
Age 14-16	782	797
Age 17+	27	7
<b>Total Children and Young People</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,043</b>

#### **Children in Out-of-home Placements Over Time**

As at 30 June 2013 there were 3,844 children and young people in out-of-home placements compared to 3,884 children and young people at 30 June 2012. The majority (44%) were placed with family/whānau caregivers and 34% were placed with Child, Youth and Family non-family/whānau caregivers. These proportions remain stable over time.

**Table 4.6: Number of Children in Out of Home Placements, by Placement Type, as at 30 June 2009-2013**

Placement Type	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013
Non-family / Whānau Caregivers	1,540	1,512	1,405	1,427	1,298
Family / Whānau Caregivers	1,896	1,746	1,610	1,639	1,698
Child and Family Support Services (Approved under s396 CYP&F Act)	659	630	546	518	521
CYF Family Home Placement	168	160	143	114	103
CYF Residential Placement	34	46	55	47	47
Other supported accommodation	111	144	126	139	177
<b>Number of distinct children and young people</b>	<b>4,408</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>3,885</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>3,844</b>



## Approved Caregivers<sup>20</sup>

As at 31 March 2014, we had 3,474 approved caregivers (2,242 with current placements) compared to 3,427 approved caregivers at 31 March 2013 (an increase of 1%). Of these, 1,601 were non-family/whānau caregivers (900 with current placements) and 1,873 were family/whānau caregivers (1,342 with current placements).

Table 4.7: Approved Caregivers at 31 March

Caregivers	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014
Non-Family/ Whānau Caregivers	1,602	1,601
Family / Whānau Caregivers	1,825	1,873
<b>Total Approved Caregivers</b>	<b>3,427</b>	<b>3,474</b>

## Approved Caregivers Over Time

The number of approved caregivers as at 30 June 2013 decreased by 24% (from 4,491 to 3,434) compared to 30 June 2009.

Table 4.8: Number of Approved Caregivers as at 30 June 2009-2013 (operational data)

Caregivers	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013
Non-Family/ Whānau Caregivers	2,071	1,743	1,634	1,579	1,633
Family / Whānau Caregivers	2,420	1,963	1,863	1,827	1,801
<b>Total Approved Caregivers</b>	<b>4,491</b>	<b>3,706</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>3,406</b>	<b>3,434</b>

<sup>20</sup> Includes emergency approved caregivers.

## Appendix – National and Regional Data and Data by Financial Years

This Appendix provides Child, Youth and Family data at a national and regional level and by financial years.

### Notifications

Table 1 below provides a summary of care and protection notifications, including Police family violence referrals for each region for the period 1 July – 31 March.

**Table 1: Care and Protection Notifications (including Police Family Violence Referrals) by Region and Operational Area (1 July – 31 March)**

CYF Region	Operational Area	01 Jul - 31 March 2013	01 Jul - 31 March 2014
Tai Tokerau	Tai Tokerau	6,155	6,203
Auckland	Waitemata	15,735	13,852
	Counties Manukau	19,187	16,816
Midlands	Waikato	11,741	12,440
	Bay of Plenty	11,792	11,843
Central	Western	6,179	6,120
	Eastern	8,628	9,511
	Lower North	6,258	6,139
	Greater Wellington	7,909	7,818
Southern	Upper South	4,266	4,288
	Canterbury	9,878	10,336
	Otago/ Southland	4,944	4,465
Not allocated to a site		503	345
<b>Total Notifications</b>		<b>113,175</b>	<b>110,176</b>

A child or young person can have more than one notification within the time period therefore Table 2 below shows that the number of notifications received exceeds the number of distinct children and young people. Total notifications have increased by 34% since F2009 while the total number of distinct children and young people has increased by 26.5%.

Table 2: Notifications (including Police family violence referrals) and Distinct Children and Young People (Fiscal Years 2009-2013)

Number of Notifications and distinct children and young people	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013
Care and Protection Notifications	110,797	124,921	93,956	90,729	90,893
Police Family Violence Referrals (no further action by CYF) <sup>21</sup>			57,153	62,678	57,766
<b>Total notifications</b>	<b>110,797</b>	<b>124,921</b>	<b>151,109</b>	<b>153,407</b>	<b>148,659</b>
<b>Number of distinct children and young people</b>	<b>74,340</b>	<b>80,218</b>	<b>94,561</b>	<b>95,670</b>	<b>94,099</b>

### Notifications Requiring Further Action (FARs)

When Child, Youth and Family receives a notification, a social worker determines if further action is required and what needs to happen to keep the child or young person safe. Not all of the notifications received by Child, Youth and Family will result in further action. Cases requiring no further action by Child, Youth and Family may lead to other avenues of advice and support being made available to the family. FARs excludes Police Family Violence Referrals.

FARs has increased by 26% over the period F2009 – F2013. Clients can have more than one notification requiring further action therefore the total number of FARs in table 3 below is more than the number of distinct clients in the bottom row.

Table 3: FARs by Region and Operational Area (1 July – 31 March)

CYF Region	Operational Area	01 Jul - 31 March 2013	01 Jul - 31 March 2014
Tai Tokerau	Tai Tokerau	3,229	2,607
Auckland	Waitemata	6,636	5,640
	Counties Manukau	8,959	7,195
Midlands	Waikato	4,124	3,830
	Bay of Plenty	4,611	4,271
Central	Western	2,326	2,068
	Eastern	2,753	2,810
	Lower North	2,147	2,304
	Greater Wellington	3,132	2,948
Southern	Upper South	1,965	1,778
	Canterbury	4,874	4,493
	Otago/ Southland	2,209	2,060
Not allocated to a site		6	10
<b>Total FARs</b>		<b>46,971</b>	<b>42,014</b>
<b>Total Distinct Children and Young People</b>		<b>38,669</b>	<b>35,222</b>

From F2009 to F2013, the number of FARs concerning Māori children and young people has increased by 23%. For children and young people identified as New

<sup>21</sup> Since July 2010, Police Family Violence referrals that require no further action by CYF have been recorded separately in CYRAS.



Zealand Pākehā or Pacific, the number of FARs has increased by 12.5% and 19.5% respectively (refer Table 4, below).

**Table 4: FARs by Primary Ethnicity (F2009-20013)**

Primary Ethnicity	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013
Māori	23,220	25,676	26,527	27,352	28,620
New Zealand Pākehā	15,569	17,645	18,131	18,659	17,521
Pacific	5,857	6,912	6,623	6,435	7,002
Asian	1,008	1,100	1,097	1,184	1,269
European	394	458	479	538	441
Other <sup>22</sup> ethnicity or no primary ethnicity identified	3,176	3,703	4,926	6162	7,024
<b>Total FARs</b>	<b>49,224</b>	<b>55,494</b>	<b>57,783</b>	<b>60,330</b>	<b>61,877</b>
<b>Total distinct children and young people</b>	<b>38,990</b>	<b>43,390</b>	<b>45,717</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>48,527</b>

## Findings

If a child or young person has more than one abuse finding within the time period he or she will be counted for each distinct finding (eg. a child with findings of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse will be counted three times).

The total distinct children with findings is derived by counting a child or young person only once in a reporting period. From F2009 the total number of findings has increased by 17% and the number of distinct children has increased by 19%.

**Table 5: Substantiated Abuse Findings by Abuse Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013)**

Abuse Findings by Type	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013
Emotional	10,938	12,535	12,711	12,454	12,777
Physical	2,855	2,886	3,253	3,330	3,343
Sexual	1,126	1,201	1,514	1,418	1,459
Neglect	4,677	4,403	4,813	4,970	5,405
<b>Total Abuse Findings<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>19,596</b>	<b>21,025</b>	<b>22,291</b>	<b>22,172</b>	<b>22,984</b>

**Table 6: Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Findings of Abuse, by Abuse Type (Fiscal Years 2009-2013 and 1 July)**

Abuse Findings by Type	Number of distinct children and young people				
	F2009	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013
Emotional	9,987	11,290	11,305	11,165	11,386
Physical	2,745	2,769	3,110	3,195	3,181
Sexual	1,097	1,171	1,466	1,380	1,423
Neglect	4,415	4,059	4,427	4,614	4,957
<b>Total distinct children and young people*</b>	<b>15,643</b>	<b>16,945</b>	<b>18,167</b>	<b>18,277</b>	<b>18,595</b>

\*A child or young person could have more than one finding.

<sup>22</sup> "Other" refers to ethnic groups that were identified but which are not one of the categories reported in the table above.

<sup>23</sup> A notification can have more than one finding of abuse therefore the number of findings is not an indication of the number of notifications that were substantiated or the number of distinct clients.

**Table 7: Distinct Children and Young People with Substantiated Findings of Abuse, by Region and Operational Area (1 July – 31 March)**

CYF Region	Operational Area	01 Jul - 31 March 2013	01 Jul - 31 March 2014
Tai Tokerau	Tai Tokerau	907	724
Auckland	Waitemata	2,027	1,723
	Counties Manukau	3,429	2,606
Midlands	Waikato	1,289	1,174
	Bay of Plenty	1,854	1,822
Central	Western	596	668
	Eastern	792	750
	Lower North	530	540
	Greater Wellington	876	790
Southern	Upper South	489	422
	Canterbury	1,080	970
	Otago/ Southland	565	550
Not allocated to a site		0	0
<b>Total Distinct Children and Young People</b>		<b>14,434</b>	<b>12,739</b>



# Report



child, youth  
and family

*A service of the Ministry of Social Development*

**Date:** 24 April 2015

**Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**To:** Hon Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development

## **Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report: 1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014**

### **Purpose of the report**

- 1 This report provides Child, Youth and Family's official data for the six month period 1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014 and compares this data to the same period in 2013. It also provides a mock-up monthly report for possible future reporting.

### **Background**

- 2 On 19 November 2014, your office received the key statistics report for the financial year 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014. You indicated that you would like to meet with officials regarding the future regular reporting from Child, Youth and Family (REP/14/11/827 refers).

### **Current report**

- 3 This report contains the official data and associated commentary for the six months from 1 July – 31 December 2014 on the following areas of Child, Youth and Family work:
  - notifications
  - investigations, assessment and findings
  - family/whānau agreements and family group conferences
  - children and young people in custody and out-of-home placements.

### **Highlights**

- 4 From 1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014 compared to the same period in 2013, there has been a small (4 per cent) decrease in the total number of reports of concern received but a significant (19 per cent) decrease in the number of reports of concern assessed as requiring further action (FARs). This is in line with the organisation's focus on better decision-making at the intake phase. An analysis of the reports of concern that are assessed as requiring no further action shows that the proportion of these that are re-notified within three months is unchanged (comparing July-December 2013 and with July-December 2014). We will continue to monitor the re-notification rates.
- 5 The 2014 Workload and Casework Review indicated that too many children were being pushed into the statutory system inappropriately and social workers were undertaking too many unnecessary assessments. Since 2014, social workers have increased their focus and resources on the most vulnerable children and young people and this has been assisted by the introduction of a revised Decision Intake Response Tool.
- 6 Along with the 19 per cent decrease in FARs, there has been a significant decrease in findings of emotional abuse (26 per cent decrease) and neglect (27 per cent

decrease). These types of findings are more likely where the report of concern was the result of a family violence incident or longstanding complex family issues (where there are no immediate safety concerns for children). The comprehensive assessment tool, Tuituia, requires us to work more closely with partner organisations to assist families with chronic needs and this, together with the decrease in FARs, is likely to have led to the decrease in the number of emotional abuse and neglect findings.

- 7 Also of note is the change in Police referral behaviour. Compared to July – December 2013, Police family violence reports of concern decreased 30 per cent whereas Police family violence referrals, which we record but which do not require a response by Child, Youth and Family, increased 24 per cent. This suggests that Police are applying a higher threshold for making family violence related reports of concern to Child, Youth and Family. It is too early to tell if the introduction (on 1 November 2013) of the new Police child risk factors tool could be influencing these trends.

## Key Findings

- 8 For the period 1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014, compared to the same period in 2013, there were **more**:
- notifications (including Police family violence referrals) (7 per cent increase)
  - Police family violence referrals (24 per cent increase).
- 9 As at 31 December 2014 compared to 31 December 2013, there were **more**:
- children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (3 per cent increase)
  - children and young people in out of home placements (4 per cent increase).
- 10 For the period 1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014, when compared to the same period the previous year, there were **less**:
- care and protection reports of concern (4 per cent decrease)
  - distinct children and young people identified in reports of concern (5 per cent decrease)
  - care and protection reports of concern which required further action (19 per cent decrease)
  - distinct children and young people identified in care and protection reports of concern requiring further action (18 per cent decrease)
  - substantiated findings of abuse or neglect (20 per cent decrease)
  - distinct children and young people with findings of abuse or neglect (19 per cent decrease)
  - children and young people involved in care and protection Family Group Conferences (14 per cent decrease)
  - young people involved in Youth Justice Family Group Conferences (7 per cent decrease).

## Proposed future reporting

- 11 As noted above, you indicated that you would like to meet with officials to discuss future regular reporting from Child, Youth and Family. We propose to provide:
- regular quarterly key statistics reports with detailed commentary and key findings
  - a new monthly A3 report, with care and protection and youth justice activity, compared to the same period in the previous year.
- 12 We look forward to the opportunity to discuss your future reporting requirements.

## Recommended actions

13 It is recommended that you:

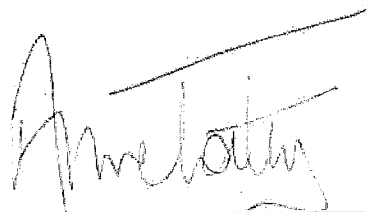
- 1 **note** the attached Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics Report for 1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014, which highlights a significant reduction (19 per cent) in reports of concern requiring further action  
Noted
- 2 **note** that the data in this report will be released on the Child, Youth and Family website in May  
Noted
- 3 **note** that we propose to provide the next quarterly Key Statistics Report for the period 1 January 2015 – 31 March 2015 by the end of May  
Noted
- 4 **note** the attached mock-up of a proposed monthly report with key care and protection and youth justice activities for discussion  
Noted
- 5 **agree** to meet with officials to discuss your future reporting requirements.  
Agree/Disagree



Bernadine Mackenzie  
Deputy Chief Executive

24 APRIL 2015

Date



Hon Anne Tolley  
Minister for Social Development

10-5-15

Date