

Data Analysis
for the
New York State Citizen Review
Panels

Produced for
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

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December 2, 2005

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Explanation of Document

This document presents a statewide analysis of data supplied by the State of New York Office of Children and Family Services to the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy for use by the New York State Citizen Review Panels. While the data available for analysis are limited, basic information is provided to respond to the following questions.

Who are the reporters of child abuse and maltreatment?

What are the results of the reports received?

How timely are decisions made?

Who are the alleged victims of child abuse and maltreatment by race?

To what extent do reports result in cases opening for services?

The data also provide answers to an important question asked of all states by the federal Administration for Children and Families:

What is the recurrence of maltreatment?

While it is hoped that more robust data will be available in the future, the current data will provide a foundation by which results in subsequent years can be measured as well as help to identify areas of improvement.

Generally, the data is presented on a statewide basis. When feasible, comparisons to national averages are made.¹ When there are interesting differences among the counties represented by the Citizen Review Panels, they are noted, with the data aggregated by the counties in the Eastern and

¹ The source for the national comparisons is *Child Maltreatment*, 2003, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, US Government Printing Office, 2005.

Western panel regions as well as for the five boroughs of New York. The county composition of the panel regions are:

Western Panel Region: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

Eastern Panel Region: Albany, Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Montgomery, Nassau, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Otsego, Oswego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, St. Lawrence, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington and Westchester.

New York City Panel Region: Kings County, Bronx, New York County, Queens and Richmond.

When there are interesting differences among the counties represented by counties of comparable size or groupings, they are presented as well. These counties are comparable in terms of: number of children open for preventive services in 2001; total number of CPS reports during 2001; number of children admitted to foster care during 2001; and number of CPS reports indicated during 2001. The groupings, which have been identified by the state, are:

Large Counties: Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk, Westchester.

Medium Counties: Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Chemung, Dutchess, Niagara, Oneida, Orange, Oswego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Steuben, Ulster.

Small Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Green, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Ontario, Orleans, Otsego, Putnam, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates.

NYC: Kings County, Bronx, New York County, Queens and Richmond.

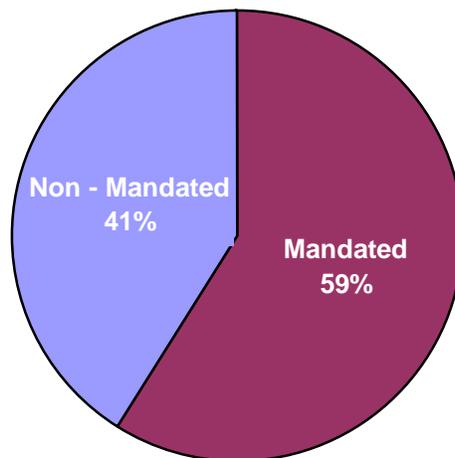
Reporters of Abuse and Maltreatment

New York State requires certain categories of professionals by law to be mandated reporters of suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment. These professionals include: child day care personnel; education staff; legal, law enforcement or criminal justice personnel; medical staff; mental health personnel; social services staff; and substitute care providers.

People who are not required to report but who do so frequently are: friends and neighbors; parents; other relatives; and anonymous or unknown reporters.

In 2004, 142,122 reports of abuse and neglect were filed with the State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment. This represents a decrease of more than four percent from the number filed in 2003 (148,763 reports).

Type of Reporter, 2004



- Over half of all reports filed in 2004 came from mandated reporters.
- Eighty percent of the reports filed by a mandated reporter came from social services, education and legal, law enforcement or criminal justice personnel.
- Nearly 80 percent of the reports filed by non-mandated reporters came from anonymous or unidentified reporters, parents and other. It would be useful to determine what proportion of these were from anonymous reporters and what proportion simply were not identified in the data system.

The following table compares the source of child abuse reports in the entire state and in specific panel regions with national averages². The categories of reporters making the most reports are included.

Panel	Social Services Personnel	Education Personnel	Anonymous or Unknown Reporters	Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel
NYC	17%	28 %	15%	10%
Eastern	21%	11%	16%	13%
Western	15%	12%	17%	12%
State	18%	17 %	16%	12%
National²	12%	16%	13%	16%

- New York State has more social services reporters, more anonymous or unknown reporters and fewer law enforcement reporters than the national averages.
- Education personnel constitute a far higher proportion of reporters in New York City than in the state as a whole or the national average. This information may be of interest in terms of who is trained to make reports and who is responsive to their reporting obligation but is not reason for cause or concern.

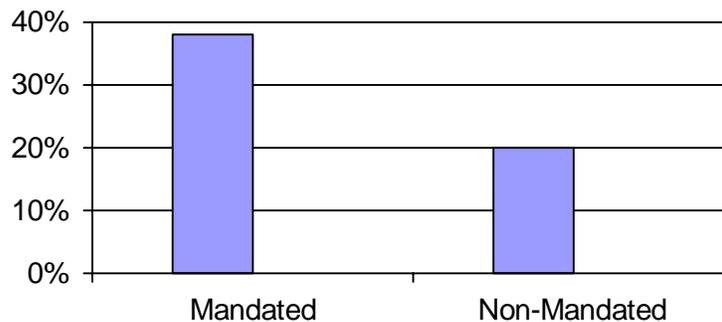
² Source: *Child Maltreatment, 2003*; Figure S-2 Reports by Source, 2003; US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau, US Government Printing Office, 2005.

Report Decisions

The Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment refers reports of abuse and maltreatment to Child Protective Service in the local departments of social services. In turn, the local unit is required to complete an investigation to determine whether credible evidence exists of the alleged abuse and maltreatment. Where credible evidence is found to exist, an "indicated" decision is rendered.

Statewide, 31 percent of the reports received during 2004 were indicated and 69 percent were unfounded. These are comparable to national averages where abuse or neglect is substantiated in about 30 percent of the reports.

**Indicated Reports by Reporter Type,
2004**



- Reports filed by mandated reporters were more likely to result in an indicated determination, nearly 40 percent, than those filed by non-mandated reporters. Reports received from legal, law enforcement or criminal justice personnel and social services personnel, all mandated reporters, have the highest rates of reports ending in such a decision, 54 percent and 38 percent, respectively.
- Reports received from non-mandated reporters were less likely to result in an indicated decision with only 20 percent of the reports resulting in such a decision. Within the non-mandated reporters are substitute care providers (i.e., unlicensed day care providers, babysitters). While relatively few reports were received from this group, almost 42 percent of the reports filed resulted in an indicated decision, making these people a credible reporting source.

Report Investigations

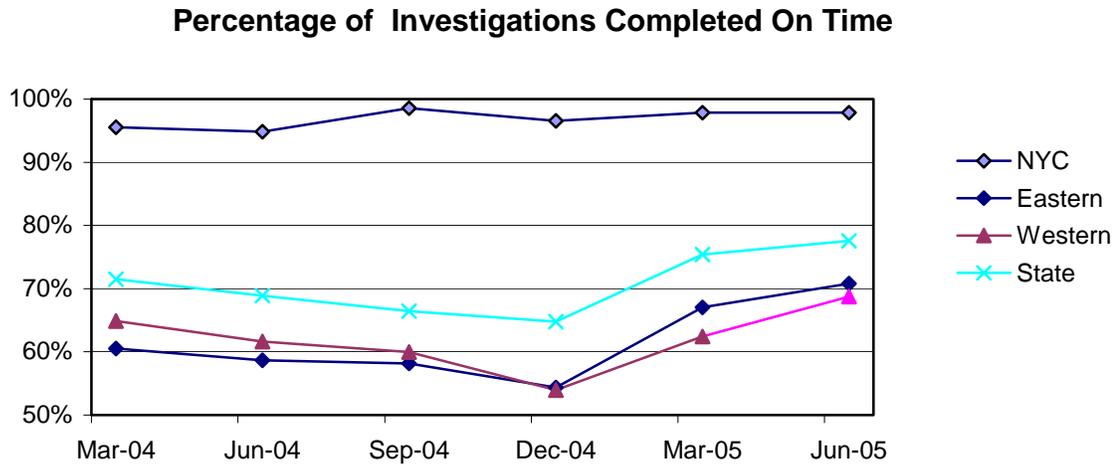
The Child Protective Service unit of the local department of social services is required to begin an investigation within 24 hours. The investigation is required to include an assessment of the safety of the child named in the report, as well as of other children who reside in the home. Factors such as the child's environment, his or her age and the capacity of the parents or caregivers to protect the child are considered in determining if the child is safe from immediate danger of moderate or serious harm. New York requires that the safety assessment be completed by Child Protective Services within seven days of receiving the report.

New York also requires that the entire investigation be completed within 60 days of the local department receiving the report from the Statewide Central Register; a completed investigation results in a decision that the report is "indicated" or "unfounded." The following table shows the percent of assessments and investigations completed on time.

Number and Percent of Safety Assessments and Investigations Completed On Time				
Date	Safety Assessments		Investigations	
	#	%	#	%
March 31, 04	25,335	86.4%	20,961	71.5%
June 30, 04	24,931	85.1%	20,174	68.9%
Sept. 30, 04	20,418	85.2%	15,919	66.4%
Dec. 31, 04	20,864	86.7%	15,580	64.8%
March 31, 05	23,007	89.7%	19,337	75.4%
June 30, 05	22,794	89.8%	19,695	77.6%

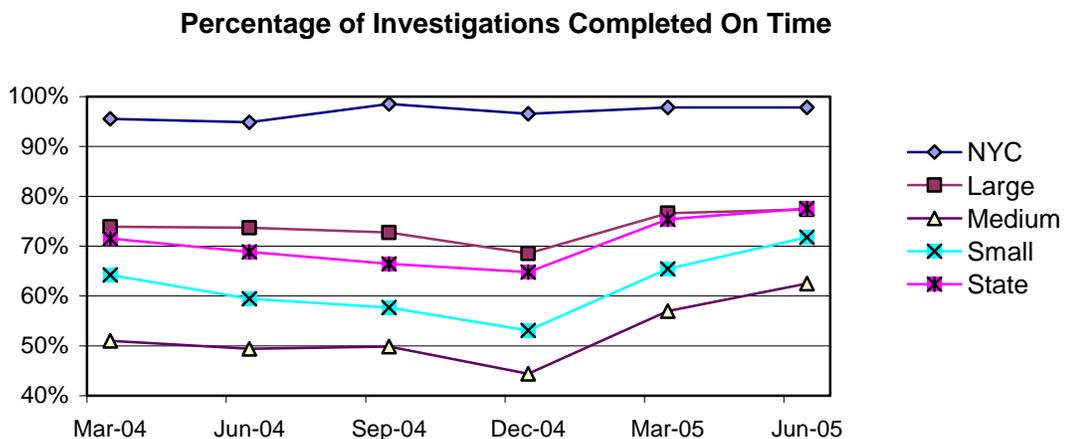
- After experiencing a decline in the percentage of safety assessments completed in a timely manner between March 2004 and September 2004, the percentage completed on time has since increased. As of the end of June 2005, safety assessments were completed within seven days of the report for nearly 90 percent of the reports.
- Investigation completions experienced a similar pattern of decline; however, it was not until March 2005 that the percentage completed in a timely manner began to rise. As of the end of June 2005, approximately 78 percent of the investigations were completed within 60 days of receiving the report of abuse and maltreatment. That still leaves a substantial proportion, more than one out of five, where the investigation is not completed on time.

By Panel Region



- There is a wide variation in performance among the panel regions regarding on-time completion of investigations. New York City has an excellent average, consistently at or above 95 percent, whereas agencies in the eastern and western panel regions score consistently lower.

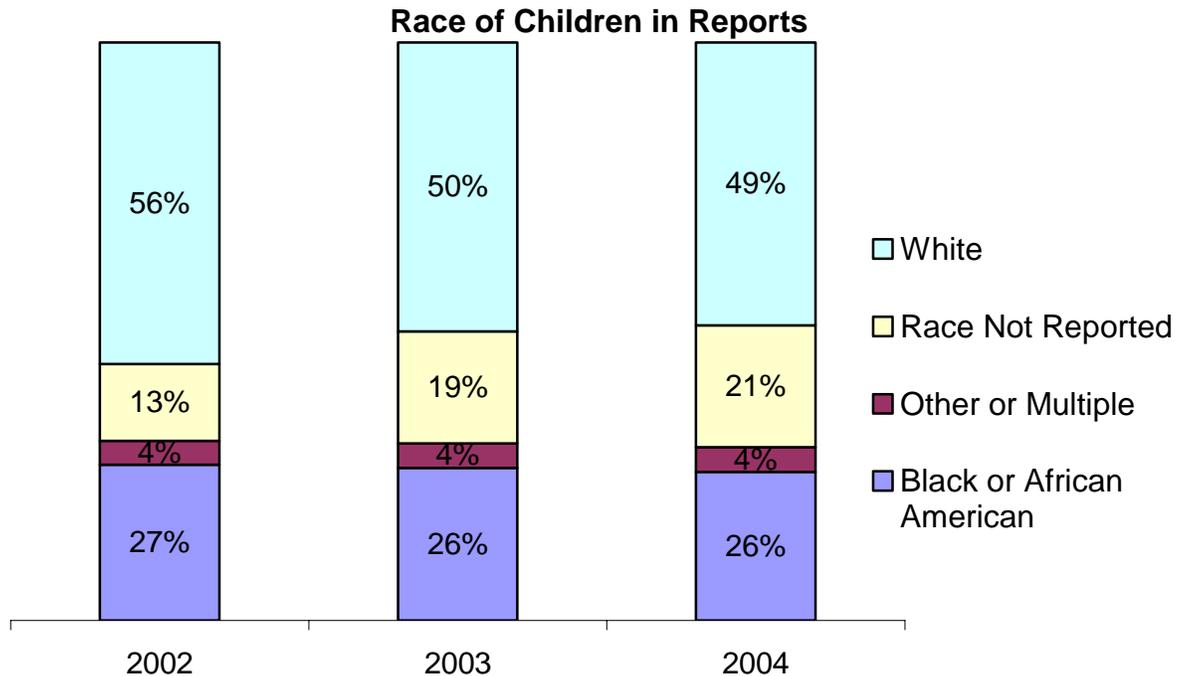
By Counties of Comparable Size



- Examining the same data by county size, one sees that New York City continues to be very high in on-time investigation completions; the medium size counties have the worst performance, although they have been improving over the past six months.

Race of Children in Abuse and Maltreatment Reports

While there are many ways to characterize the children who are victims of alleged abuse and neglect, one common way is to look at the child's race.

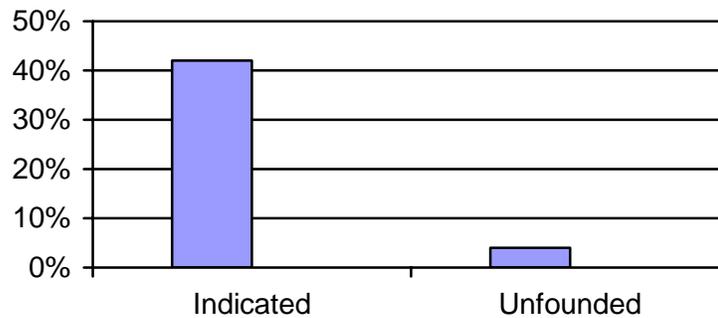


- While about 70 percent of the population of New York is White, only half of the reports of abuse and maltreatment involve White children; while 16 percent of the population is Black or African American, about 26 percent of the reports in 2004 involved Black or African American children. White children are underrepresented in reports and Black or African American children are over-represented.
- The percentage of White children alleged to be victims has decreased by six percentage points between 2002 and 2004; yet the percentage of children for whom their race is unknown or not reported has increased by eight percentage points. This rise in unknowns occurred during one of the implementation phases of Connections, the data collection system. This kind of data anomaly may be a function of the implementation, although it is puzzling why the percentage of White children in reports decreased but the percentage of Black or African American children did not.

Reports Resulting in Case Opening

As part of the maltreatment investigation, Child Protective Service assesses the need for services for the child and the parents or caregivers. Services may be provided to the family regardless of the investigation determination and may include, among others, day care services, counseling, respite care, substance abuse and foster care, for children who are removed from their home.

Reports Opened for Services by Decision, 2004



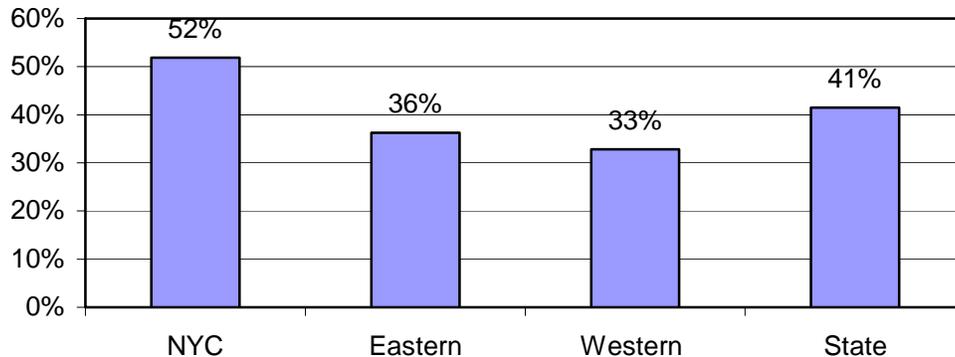
- It is not surprising that reports with an indicated decision are far more likely to result in the case being opened for services. Yet, only 41 percent of indicated reports were opened for services.

That means that in almost 60 percent of the reports where abuse or neglect was found the family received no follow up services from Child Protective Services. New York falls below national averages; in the rest of the country, 57 percent of substantiated cases receive follow up services compared to 41 percent in the New York. In the rest of the county, over one-quarter of the families with no substantiated abuse still receive follow up services compared to only 5 percent in New York.³

³ **Child Maltreatment**, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, US Government Printing Office, 2005, p. 70.

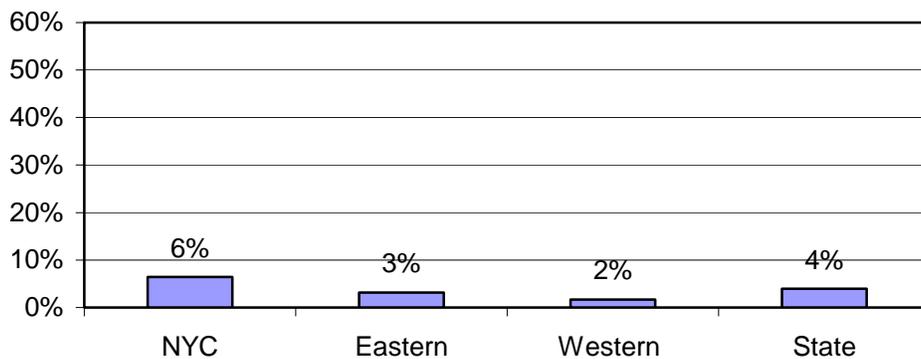
By Panel Region

Percent Indicated Open for Services



- A higher proportion of indicated reports are opened for services in NYC, 52 percent, compared to a low of 33 percent in the western panel region. The eastern panel region is almost as low as the western at 36 percent, but even New York City is below the national average.

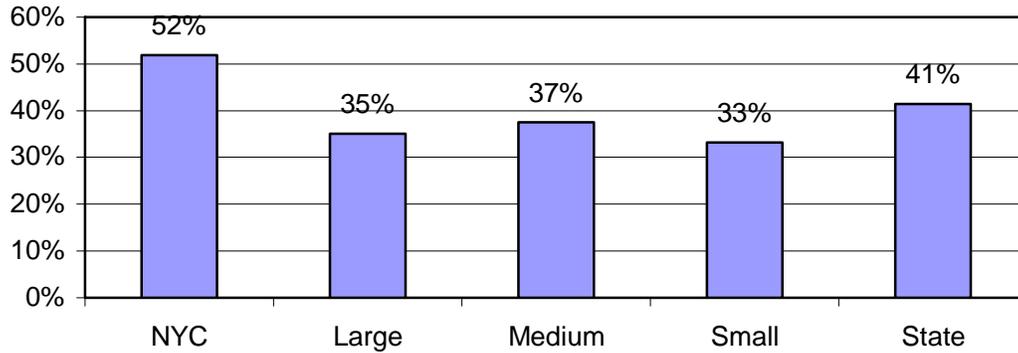
Percent Unfounded Open for Services



- A higher proportion of *unfounded* reports are opened for services in NYC, 6 percent, three times the rate in counties in the western panel region and twice that of the eastern panel region. However, all of these compare poorly to the 25 percent national average.

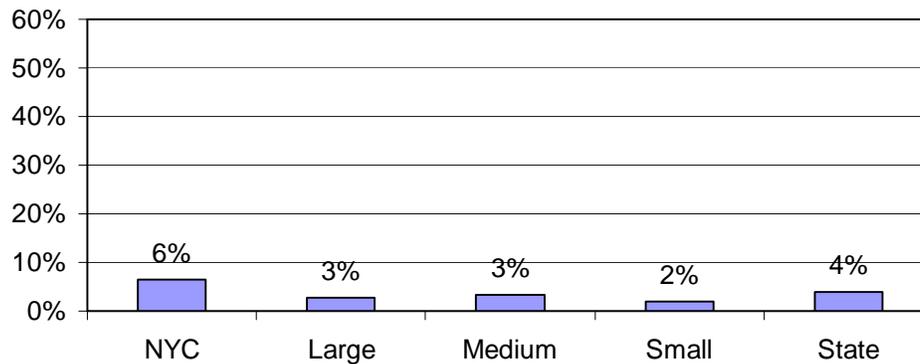
By Counties of Comparable Size

Percent Indicated Open for Services



- A higher proportion of indicated reports were opened for services in NYC. The large and small counties mirror the eastern and western panel regions.

Percent Unfounded Open for Services

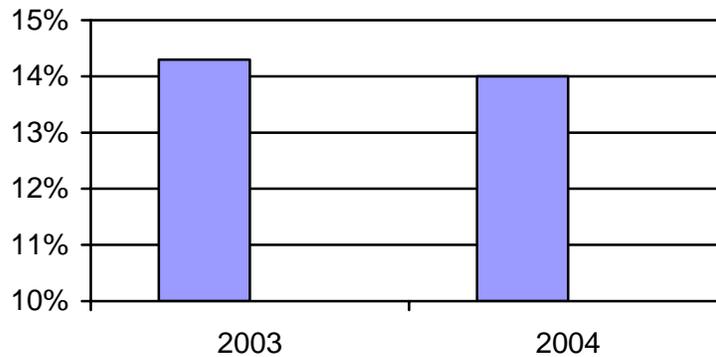


- Overall, the smaller counties are somewhat less likely to open a case for services, regardless of the investigation decision.

Recurrence of Abuse and Maltreatment

The federal Administration for Children and Families defines recurrence of abuse and maltreatment as a subsequent indicated report within six months of a prior indicated report of abuse and maltreatment for the same child. During the first round of Child and Family Services Reviews, the Administration used a national standard of 6.1 percent or less as defining satisfactory performance in relation to recurrence.

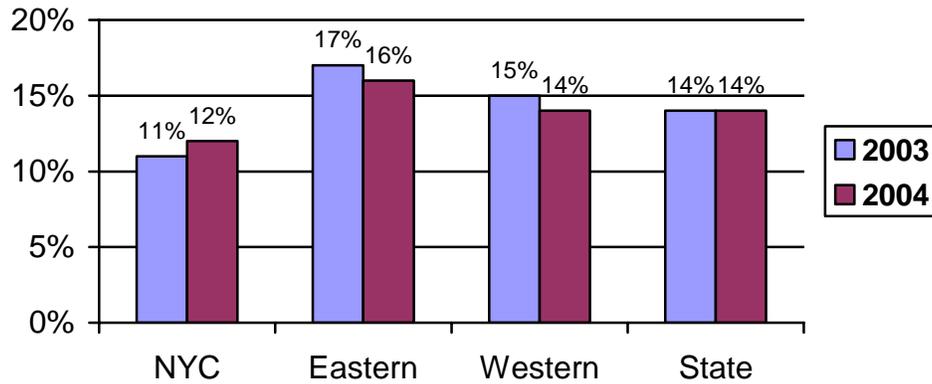
Rate of Repeat Maltreatment



- Between 2003 and 2004, the rate of recurrence of indicated reports of abuse and maltreatment resulted in a slight improvement, declining from 14.38 percent in 2003 to 14.07 percent in 2004.
- In spite of the improvement, the rate of recurrence for New York remains more than double the national standard (6.1 percent compared to 14 percent).
- There may be a correlation between the high rate of repeat maltreatment and the lack of follow-up services for children with indicated reports of child abuse.

By Panel Region

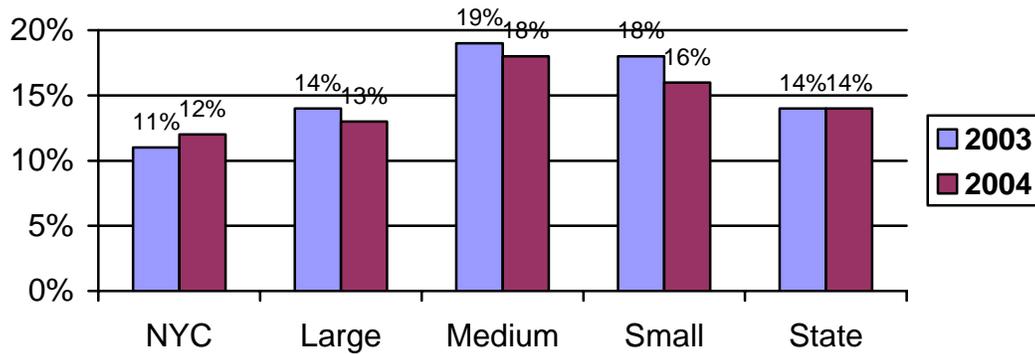
Rate of Repeat Maltreatment by Panel Region



- The eastern and western panel regions are fairly similar, although the eastern performance is worse on recurrence of abuse than elsewhere in the state.
- While NYC continues to have the lowest rate of repeat maltreatment compared to the other panel regions, the rate increased between 2003 and 2004, going from 11.10 percent to 12.20 percent and is still twice the national standard.

By Counties of Comparable Size

**Rate of Repeat Maltreatment by
Comparable Groups**



- The rates of recurrence of abuse are worse in the medium and small counties than in New York City and the large counties.
- There was a slight improvement between 2003 and 2004 in all jurisdictions on the rate or repeat maltreatment, with the exception of NYC (an increase in rate represents a decrease in performance).

Summary

These indicators illustrate a disturbing pattern. In the eastern and western panel regions, and particularly in the medium and small counties, there is very low compliance with completing child abuse and maltreatment investigations on time, that is, within 60 days. Generally three in ten cases are not concluded on time. Once the determination is made, about 30 percent are "indicated" which is consistent within national averages. However, a very small percentage of the indicated cases go on to receive services. On a statewide basis, about two in five families with indicated cases are open for services but in the eastern and western panel regions only about one in three are open for services. These figures compare unfavorably to a national average of 57 percent being open for services.

One might conclude that the lack of families open for services contributes to New York state's high reabuse rate. While the national standard is 6.1 percent (representing the top 25th percentile of states), New York state's rate is 14 percent. In the panel regions with the lowest percent receiving services, the reabuse rate is higher, although not in direct correlation. That is, the eastern panel region had 36 percent open for services and a reabuse rate of 16 percent whereas the western panel region had 33 percent open for services and a reabuse rate of 14 percent. However, both of these contrast considerably with New York City which has 52 percent open for services and a reabuse rate of 12 percent. New York City also has a very timely rate for completion of investigations. The medium and small counties should be the greatest focus of concern in terms of completing investigations, providing services to families, and keeping children safe from reabuse.