

Child Welfare Caseload Trends



**OCTOBER
2024**

**C. Joy Stewart • Dean F. Duncan, III • Steve Guest • Katy Malley • Wanda Reives
Annie Francis • Gianna Seminara**

**Creating Indicators and Improving Outcomes:
Analytic Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First,
Food and Nutrition Services in North Carolina**

UNC-CH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK • CHAPEL HILL, NC • OCTOBER 2024

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Main Points

- Child welfare caseloads continued to be lower than before the Covid-19 pandemic but appear to be leveling off by late 2023 to mid-2024 for most caseload types.
- Before the pandemic, the number of children assessed for maltreatment per month averaged 12,000 per month compared to the mid-2024 average of 10,800 per month. However, 2024 numbers will likely increase as data are updated over time.
- Foster care entries were trending downward in 2022 but held steady through the end of 2023 and mid-2024. Foster care entries and exits were trending downward in 2022 but held steady through the end of 2023.
- Exits from care also experienced a decline in 2022 which continued through 2024.

This report explores changes and trends in the child welfare caseload in North Carolina and is produced on a quarterly or semiannual basis depending on availability of updated data. This report covers the time period of the Covid-19 pandemic, which we define as beginning on March 16, 2020 when the governor ordered the statewide closure of North Carolina public schools. This analysis is based on data extracted from state child welfare databases in April 2024. These extracts are used to construct and maintain a longitudinal file that tracks the experiences of children and youth who have been involved with the child welfare system in North Carolina. The analysis explores changes in the number of children reported as victims of maltreatment, the number of those reports which are substantiated, and the number of children entering and exiting foster care. Long-term trends are also discussed. In the final section of the report, we examined trends in child welfare worker positions, turnover rate, and worker availability.

Figure One illustrates the changes in the number of children assessed for maltreatment¹ over time (specific monthly numbers can be found in Appendix A, Table One). As the figure indicates, while numbers fluctuate monthly, the number of children assessed monthly

¹ The number of children tracked in Figures One through Four of this report do not provide a unique count of children per year. There are a few instances in which a child may be counted more than once in the analyses for this report. For example, a child may have more than one report investigated within a calendar year. Also, there are some instances where two separate investigations about an individual child are concluded within the same calendar month. However, instances where there are separate allegations of maltreatment for an individual child with the same case decision date are collapsed into a single report. Also, state policies require that when a report of maltreatment is received, all children living in the home must be assessed as a possible victim of maltreatment. As a result, the number of children reported as victims of maltreatment could fluctuate based upon the sizes of families involved, even as the number of reports remains steady.

remained above 12,000 in 2016-2017 until a decline to about 12,000 in 2018 which is illustrated by the twelve-month average trend line. The twelve-month average went above 12,000 again by the end of 2019. At the beginning of 2020, the number per month was similar to previous years until a decline in March 2020 and a precipitous drop to 8,153 in April 2020 which is apparently due to the pandemic. The number of children assessed per month increased to 12,423 in October 2020. The number declined significantly again through the end of 2020 with a twelve-month average of about 10,800. In 2021, the average increased to just under 11,300 then declined slightly to about 11,200 by the end of 2022. The average for 2023 remained at about 11,200 and through May 2024 declined to about 10,800. The number of children assessed for 2024 will likely increase as the data are updated.

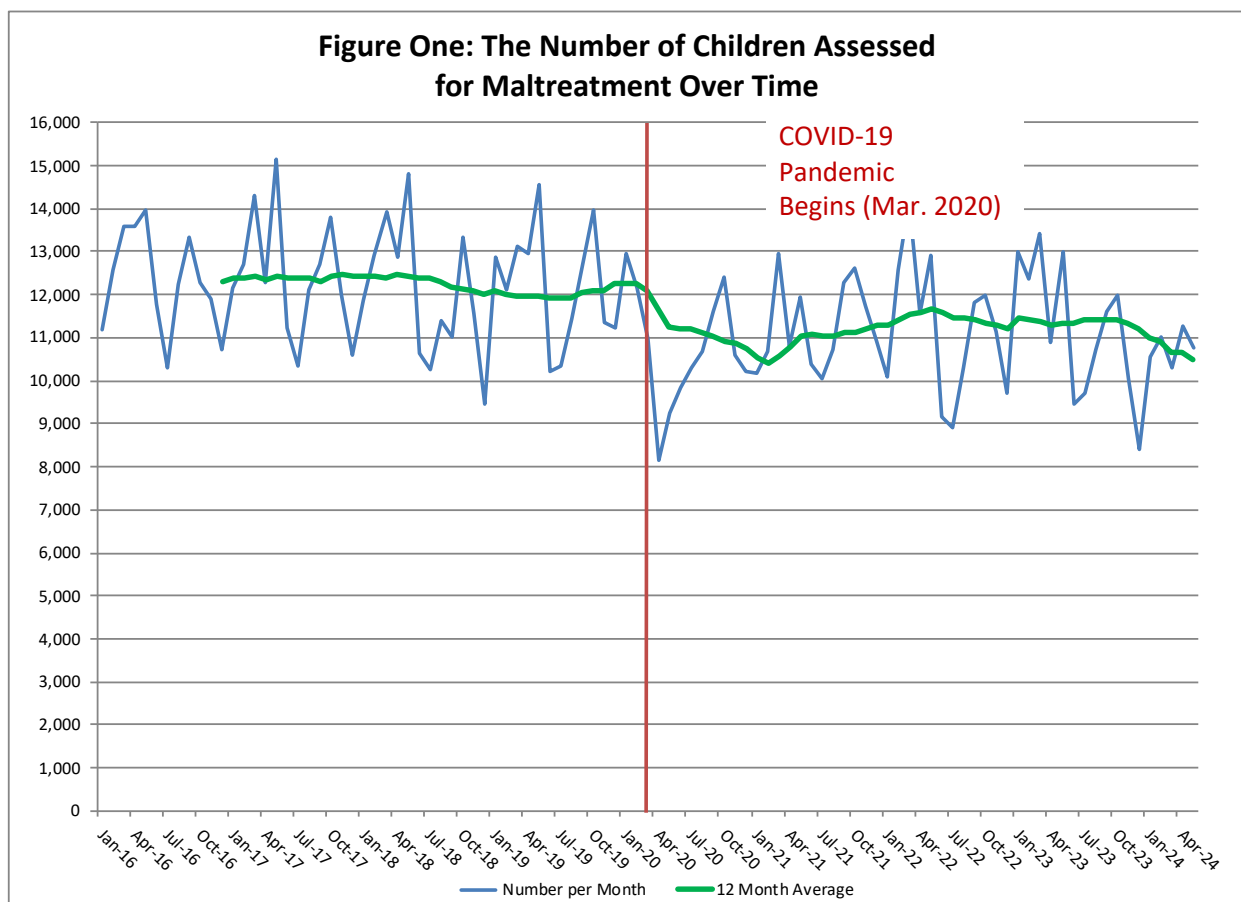


Figure Two shows the pattern of the number of children assessed each month by year from January through December for 2019 to 2023 and January through May for 2024. This figure is helpful in showing seasonal variation and further illustrates the effects of the pandemic. Much of the usual seasonal variation appears tied to the school calendar. As the figure indicates, the number of children assessed generally peaks in March or May, then falls in June and July

reflecting declining reports from educational personnel during summer months. The number of children increases in August as school starts and then rises through October. The number of children assessed then declines through December reflecting periods of holidays and school breaks. The pattern for 2020 was different from previous years with severe declines in March and April 2020. While the pattern for 2021 to 2023 is more like earlier years than 2020, the number of children assessed remains lower overall than 2019. As stated earlier, the number of children assessed for 2024 will likely increase as the data are updated and thus the pattern will be more similar to previous years.



Figure Three illustrates the number of children whose maltreatment reports were substantiated. Specific monthly numbers can be found in Appendix A, Table Two. A report is considered substantiated if there is a finding of abuse, neglect, abuse and neglect, dependency, or child protective services needed. These findings indicate that child protective services confirmed that a child was maltreated and/or that further services are needed to address concerns. It does not include instances where the finding was services provided, child protective services no longer needed. Again, these reports are not based on a unique

count of children per year. Given that they are related, much of the trends in the number of substantiations reflect those of the assessments, although they are not entirely dependent as substantiations are based on case decisions related to the allegations made in reports. The average number per month remained at about 2,000 until early 2018 when a decline began and ended the year at about 1,850 before rising again to 1,950 by the end of 2019. Like the number of assessments, the number of substantiations decreased at the onset of the pandemic, although the drop was not as severe, and was actually more pronounced in December 2018. Still the average of about 1,800 for 2020 is lower than the pre-pandemic level. The average for 2021 was like 2020 until a downward trend occurred in 2022 with an average of around 1,700. The average for 2023 saw a slight increase to just above 1,700. The trend for 2024 is lower, however, it is likely to increase over time with updated data.

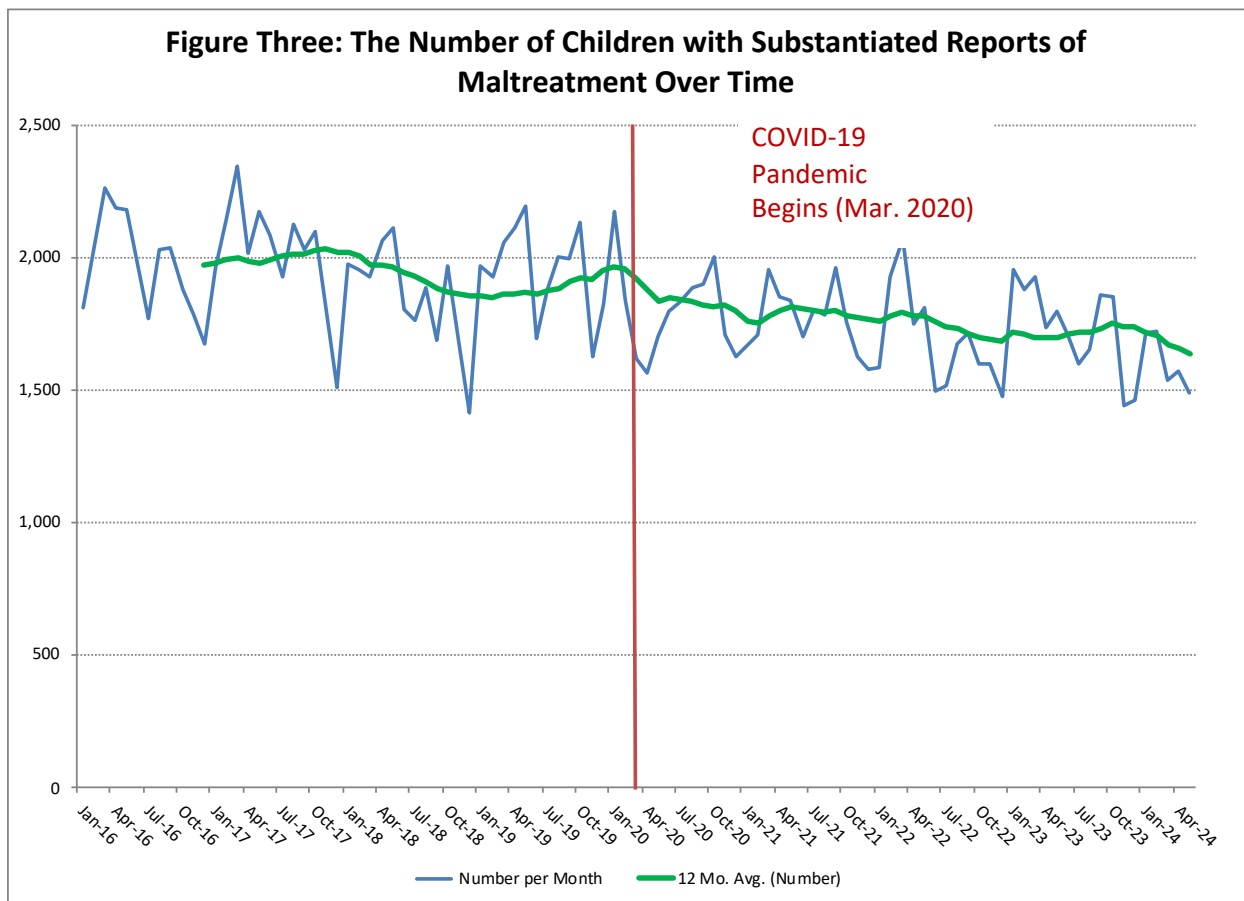


Figure Four illustrates the number of children by assessment finding type over time (see Appendix A, Table Three for specific monthly numbers). Unlike Figure Three, this figure includes all finding types and not just those that are “substantiated” (abuse, neglect, abuse and neglect, dependency, and child protective services needed). While monthly numbers

fluctuate and with the exception of the early pandemic, the percentage of substantiated reports consistently makes up about 15-16% of findings while all others are about 84-85% (services provided, services recommended, services not recommended, and unsubstantiated). Recently, NCDHHS changed its policy related to finding types by discontinuing the use of the “services recommended” finding. As shown in Figure Four, services recommended findings do not appear in the data after June 2023. This change led to the increased use of other finding types, such as “services not recommended” and “services provided”. In particular, “services not recommended” has increased from about 43% of all findings to now about 59% while “services provided” has increased from about 4.5% to 8%.

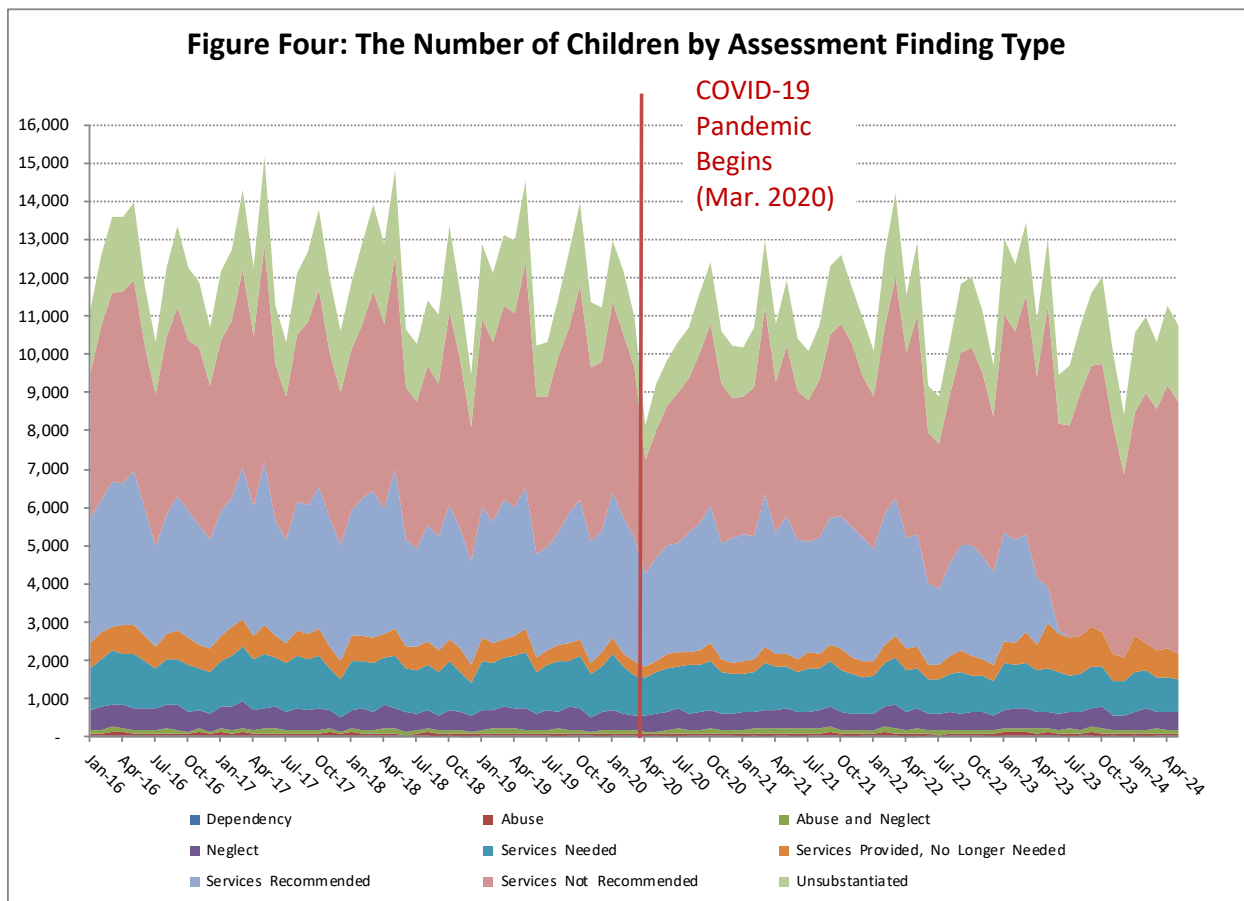


Figure Five reports the number of children entering foster care for the first time, the total entries (including re-entries into care), and the twelve-month average for total entries. Children enter foster care when child protective services determines that the risk of harm to a child is too great in order to safely remain in the home and obtain a court order to assume custody of the child. Specific monthly numbers can be found in Appendix A, Table Four. Over time, about 81% to 88% of children entering care each month are coming into care for the first time. According to the figure, the twelve-month average shows that there were about 514

children entering care per month in 2016 which increased slightly to about 523 in 2017. The number decreased to about 483 in 2018 and slightly again to 482 in 2019. As we saw in other caseload figures, both the initial and total number of entries decreased significantly after the onset of the pandemic, in particular in April 2020 with a low for initial entries of 271 and 325 for total entries, which were lows not seen in the past twenty years. The number of entries began to rise again in May 2020, however, the average for 2020 at 448 was below the pre-pandemic level. This downward trend continued into 2021 and 2022 with averages of 443 and 429 entries, respectively. The average held steady at 430 for 2023 and mid-2024 entries data shows a slight downward trend.

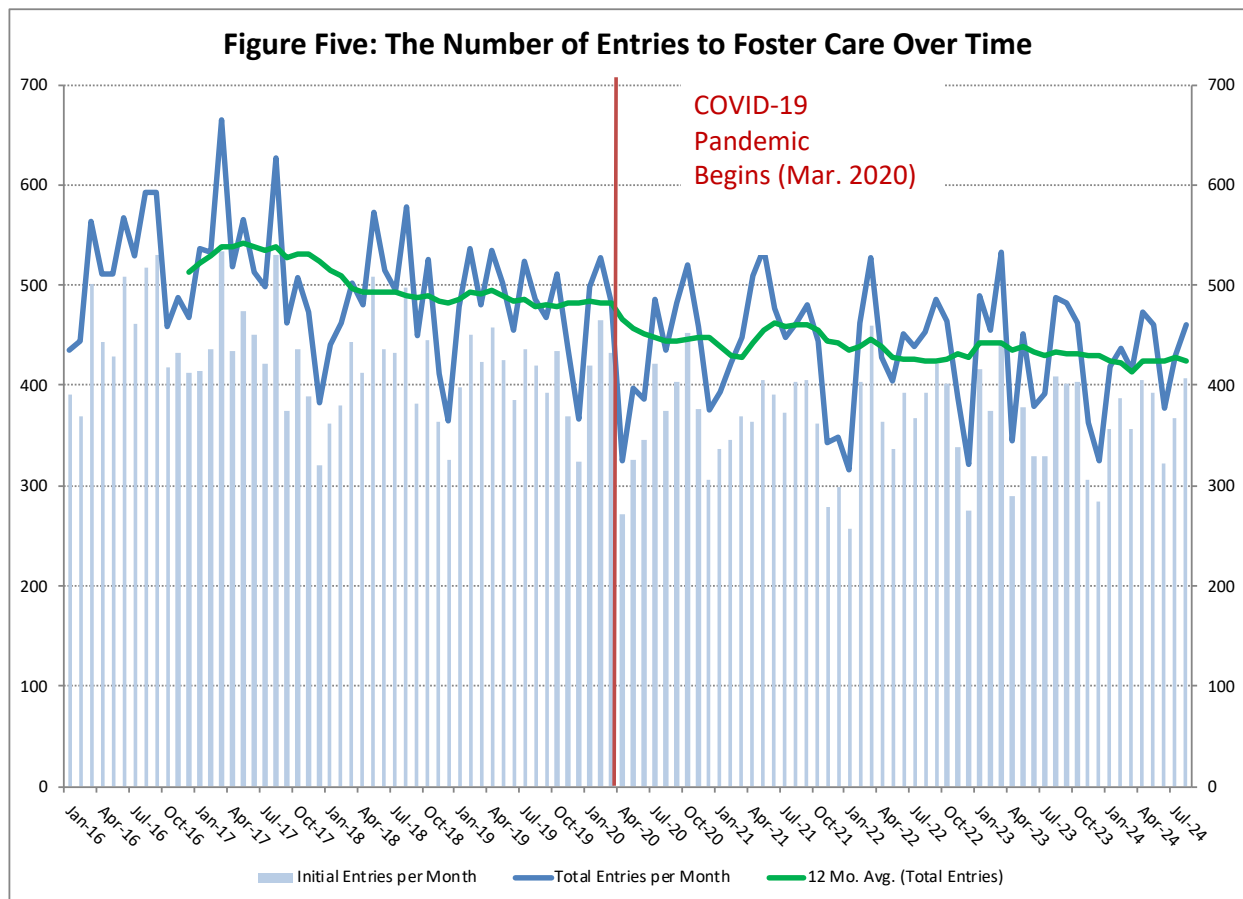
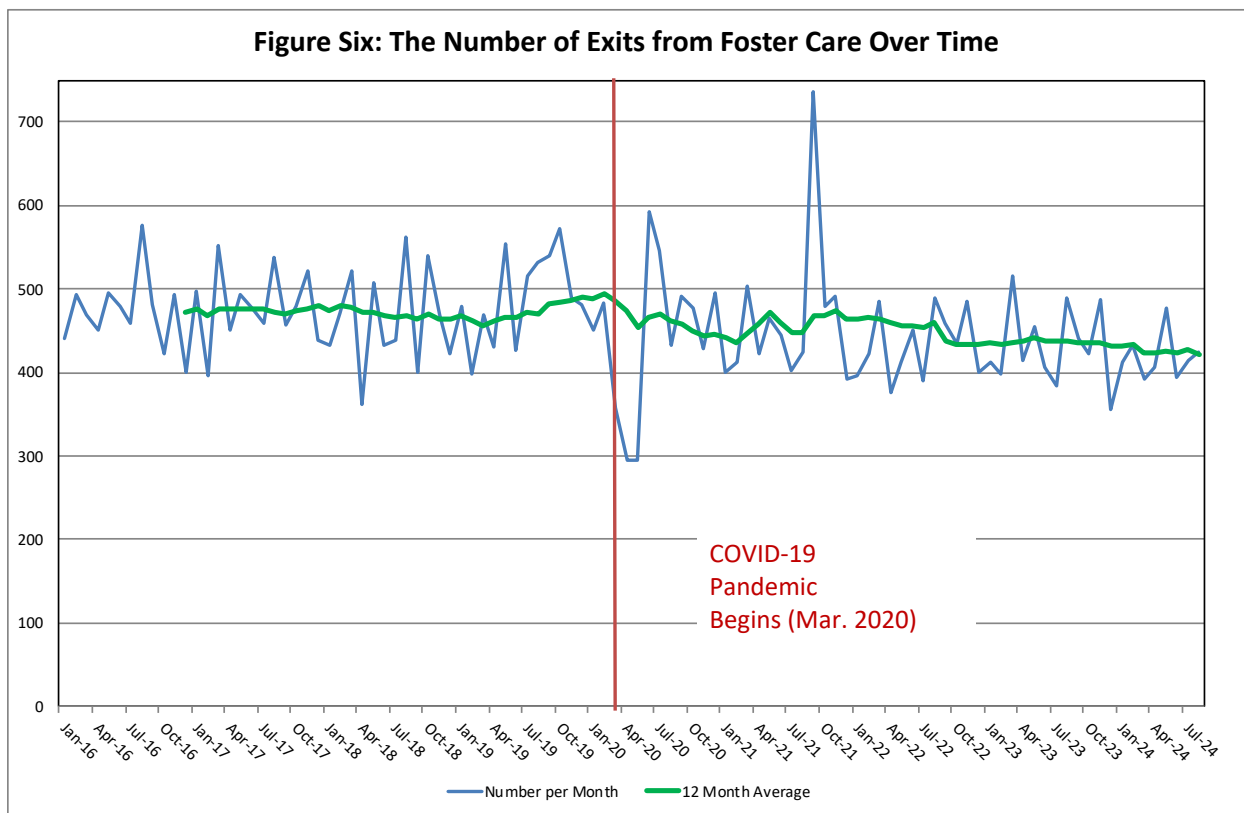


Figure Six shows the number of children exiting foster care each month as well as the twelve-month average (see Appendix A, Table Five for specific monthly numbers). Most children leave foster care when permanency is achieved, such as reunification with parents, custody or guardianship with a relative/caretaker, or adoption. They may also leave through emancipation or aging out of care at 18 or other less common reasons (for example, death, running away, or court revoking placement authority). As Figure Six indicates, the number of

children exiting foster care fluctuates considerably from month to month. The annual average for 2016 was about 472 children which increased somewhat to about 480 in 2017. The average then declined to 464 in 2018 before increasing again to 491 in 2019. Figure Six shows that, at the onset of the pandemic, exits began declining in March 2020 to 357 and then dropped significantly to 296 in April 2020 and 294 in May 2020, which were lows not seen in the past twenty years. Exits went back up sharply to 592 in June 2020 and remained high at 545 in July 2020. The average for 2020 was 445 which was below the pre-pandemic level. The average for 2021 was continuing at this level until an unusually high number of exits of 736 in September 2021. These exits were related to the ending of a federal pandemic program that temporarily suspended age, education, and employment requirements for youth to remain in care beyond age 18. Given these types of exits, the average for 2021 increased to about 465. A downward trend began in January 2022 with an average through the end of 2022 of about 434 and continued through 2023 with an average of 432. The average through August 2024 has lowered to 419 per month.



Summary

In summary, child welfare caseloads, including maltreatment reports, substantiations, non-substantiated findings, entries, and exits from foster care have continued to be lower than before the Covid-19 pandemic, but may be leveling off or declining more slowly by late 2023 and mid-2024. Before the pandemic, the number of children assessed for maltreatment per month averaged 12,000 per month compared to the mid-2024 average of about 10,800 per month. However, the number of children assessed per month in 2024 is likely to increase as data are updated over time. Foster care entries were trending downward in 2022 but held steady through 2023 and mid-2024. Exits from care also experienced a decline in 2022 which continued through 2024.

This research is funded through a contract with the North Carolina Division of Social Services. The views expressed are those of the authors. Any errors due to the interpretation of the analysis of the data are the authors' alone.

Additional information on the child welfare program at the state or county level is available through the Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food and Nutrition Services web site, <http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>.

A PDF version of this report can be found at http://sasweb.unc.edu/cgi-bin/broker?_service=default&_program=dgweb.help.sas&county=North%20Carolina&label=&entry=1&help=papers_cw&entry=1&anchor=

This report was designed by Rea Aarnio of the UNC-CH School of Social Work.

Appendix A

TABLE ONE: The Number of Children Assessed for Maltreatment

Month	Number of Children Assessed	Month	Number of Children Assessed
Jan-16	11,171	Feb-19	12,111
Feb-16	12,593	Mar-19	13,134
Mar-16	13,581	Apr-19	12,973
Apr-16	13,598	May-19	14,555
May-16	13,953	Jun-19	10,234
Jun-16	11,774	Jul-19	10,327
Jul-16	10,304	Aug-19	11,433
Aug-16	12,244	Sep-19	12,694
Sep-16	13,328	Oct-19	13,973
Oct-16	12,266	Nov-19	11,349
Nov-16	11,895	Dec-19	11,239
Dec-16	10,706	Jan-20	12,967
Jan-17	12,160	Feb-20	12,159
Feb-17	12,722	Mar-20	10,992
Mar-17	14,301	Apr-20	8,153
Apr-17	12,279	May-20	9,230
May-17	15,138	Jun-20	9,839
Jun-17	11,244	Jul-20	10,321
Jul-17	10,328	Aug-20	10,674
Aug-17	12,118	Sep-20	11,601
Sep-17	12,701	Oct-20	12,423
Oct-17	13,797	Nov-20	10,586
Nov-17	11,966	Dec-20	10,216
Dec-17	10,594	Jan-21	10,180
Jan-18	11,881	Feb-21	10,692
Feb-18	12,912	Mar-21	12,950
Mar-18	13,916	Apr-21	10,804
Apr-18	12,875	May-21	11,951
May-18	14,809	Jun-21	10,400
Jun-18	10,649	Jul-21	10,061
Jul-18	10,263	Aug-21	10,733
Aug-18	11,417	Sep-21	12,295
Sep-18	11,004	Oct-21	12,603
Oct-18	13,328	Nov-21	11,733
Nov-18	11,583	Dec-21	10,932
Dec-18	9,447	Jan-22	10,096
Jan-19	12,886	Feb-22	12,572

Month	Number of Children Assessed
Mar-22	14,193
Apr-22	11,556
May-22	12,914
Jun-22	9,183
Jul-22	8,912
Aug-22	10,316
Sep-22	11,821
Oct-22	12,001
Nov-22	11,133
Dec-22	9,694
Jan-23	13,013
Feb-23	12,376
Mar-23	13,434
Apr-23	10,886

Month	Number of Children Assessed
May-23	12,997
Jun-23	9,452
Jul-23	9,715
Aug-23	10,732
Sep-23	11,592
Oct-23	12,005
Nov-23	10,029
Dec-23	8,407
Jan-24	10,534
Feb-24	10,999
Mar-24	10,307
Apr-24	11,268
May-24	10,761

TABLE TWO: The Number of Children Substantiated (including Services Needed)

Month	Number of Children with a Substantiated Report	Month	Number of Children with a Substantiated Report
Jan-16	1,812	Apr-19	2,110
Feb-16	2,032	May-19	2,192
Mar-16	2,260	Jun-19	1,696
Apr-16	2,188	Jul-19	1,877
May-16	2,180	Aug-19	1,999
Jun-16	1,975	Sep-19	1,994
Jul-16	1,769	Oct-19	2,129
Aug-16	2,026	Nov-19	1,625
Sep-16	2,034	Dec-19	1,822
Oct-16	1,876	Jan-20	2,169
Nov-16	1,781	Feb-20	1,839
Dec-16	1,672	Mar-20	1,616
Jan-17	1,958	Apr-20	1,564
Feb-17	2,142	May-20	1,698
Mar-17	2,341	Jun-20	1,797
Apr-17	2,018	Jul-20	1,827
May-17	2,169	Aug-20	1,883
Jun-17	2,080	Sep-20	1,895
Jul-17	1,927	Oct-20	1,998
Aug-17	2,123	Nov-20	1,704
Sep-17	2,026	Dec-20	1,628
Oct-17	2,097	Jan-21	1,669
Nov-17	1,806	Feb-21	1,705
Dec-17	1,510	Mar-21	1,952
Jan-18	1,972	Apr-21	1,849
Feb-18	1,956	May-21	1,837
Mar-18	1,923	Jun-21	1,702
Apr-18	2,060	Jul-21	1,802
May-18	2,110	Aug-21	1,785
Jun-18	1,801	Sep-21	1,958
Jul-18	1,760	Oct-21	1,756
Aug-18	1,886	Nov-21	1,624
Sep-18	1,683	Dec-21	1,575
Oct-18	1,970	Jan-22	1,582
Nov-18	1,683	Feb-22	1,928
Dec-18	1,412	Mar-22	2,070
Jan-19	1,969	Apr-22	1,747
Feb-19	1,927	May-22	1,812
Mar-19	2,055	Jun-22	1,494

Month	Number of Children with a Substantiated Report
Jul-22	1,516
Aug-22	1,670
Sep-22	1,711
Oct-22	1,597
Nov-22	1,594
Dec-22	1,474
Jan-23	1,951
Feb-23	1,877
Mar-23	1,923
Apr-23	1,737
May-23	1,798
Jun-23	1,708

Month	Number of Children with a Substantiated Report
Jul-23	1,600
Aug-23	1,650
Sep-23	1,854
Oct-23	1,853
Nov-23	1,437
Dec-23	1,462
Jan-24	1,716
Feb-24	1,720
Mar-24	1,533
Apr-24	1,572
May-24	1,488

TABLE THREE: The Number of Children by Assessment Finding Type²

Month	Dependency	Abuse	Abuse and Neglect	Neglect	Services Needed	Services Provided, No Longer Needed	Services Recommended	Services Not Recommended	Un-substantiated
Jan-16	32	73	95	496	1,116	617	3,270	3,827	1,645
Feb-16	29	63	98	597	1,245	685	3,491	4,547	1,838
Mar-16	32	87	137	604	1,400	638	3,794	4,886	2,003
Apr-16	21	86	114	607	1,360	723	3,696	5,042	1,949
May-16	30	63	102	572	1,413	724	4,047	4,955	2,047
Jun-16	37	66	96	531	1,245	646	3,339	4,282	1,532
Jul-16	20	68	78	564	1,039	592	2,582	3,986	1,375
Aug-16	17	85	104	617	1,203	664	3,129	4,626	1,799
Sep-16	25	50	126	628	1,205	751	3,518	4,891	2,134
Oct-16	17	54	73	495	1,237	718	3,320	4,445	1,907
Nov-16	26	82	94	488	1,091	620	3,131	4,640	1,723
Dec-16	14	52	60	468	1,078	632	2,855	4,005	1,542
Jan-17	35	76	112	588	1,147	669	3,262	4,478	1,793
Feb-17	19	66	94	633	1,330	727	3,355	4,640	1,858
Mar-17	33	81	126	673	1,428	719	3,966	5,209	2,066
Apr-17	29	77	78	509	1,325	622	3,379	4,434	1,826
May-17	26	73	110	560	1,400	764	4,238	5,670	2,297
Jun-17	24	77	118	562	1,299	543	2,986	4,141	1,494
Jul-17	25	62	103	442	1,295	504	2,706	3,772	1,419
Aug-17	26	75	97	540	1,385	646	3,362	4,363	1,624
Sep-17	16	76	97	512	1,325	659	3,389	4,745	1,882
Oct-17	18	71	103	532	1,373	745	3,698	5,165	2,092
Nov-17	14	93	111	493	1,095	551	3,387	4,311	1,911
Dec-17	21	40	74	374	1,001	488	3,025	3,945	1,626
Jan-18	21	93	127	463	1,268	663	3,286	4,183	1,777
Feb-18	14	80	103	560	1,199	675	3,606	4,545	2,130
Mar-18	20	74	86	492	1,251	649	3,865	5,225	2,254
Apr-18	14	89	101	620	1,236	609	3,297	4,823	2,086
May-18	18	83	132	534	1,343	736	4,154	5,588	2,221
Jun-18	15	36	89	489	1,172	550	2,812	3,987	1,499
Jul-18	17	67	91	440	1,145	576	2,564	3,837	1,526
Aug-18	17	96	96	487	1,190	601	3,063	4,144	1,723
Sep-18	8	71	95	400	1,109	575	3,007	3,961	1,778
Oct-18	23	61	106	523	1,257	575	3,521	5,065	2,197
Nov-18	10	58	100	487	1,028	604	3,145	4,434	1,717
Dec-18	9	55	76	403	869	465	2,728	3,495	1,347

²The count of children is not unique as some may have multiple reports assessed at the same time.

Month	Dependency	Abuse	Abuse and Neglect	Neglect	Services Needed	Services Provided, No Longer Needed	Services Recommended	Services Not Recommended	Un-substantiated
Jan-19	20	59	113	510	1,267	608	3,405	4,955	1,949
Feb-19	21	59	155	476	1,216	545	3,158	4,667	1,814
Mar-19	21	57	131	566	1,280	508	3,621	5,080	1,870
Apr-19	26	71	111	527	1,375	538	3,363	5,086	1,876
May-19	12	82	107	552	1,439	632	3,714	5,862	2,155
Jun-19	20	68	108	393	1,107	389	2,691	4,138	1,320
Jul-19	14	66	88	513	1,196	377	2,691	3,958	1,424
Aug-19	11	85	109	435	1,359	415	2,933	4,601	1,485
Sep-19	23	64	112	590	1,205	437	3,422	4,827	2,014
Oct-19	15	55	130	548	1,381	431	3,639	5,580	2,194
Nov-19	20	55	79	355	1,116	312	3,161	4,569	1,682
Dec-19	11	63	88	496	1,164	386	3,184	4,383	1,464
Jan-20	18	73	110	504	1,464	404	3,799	4,998	1,597
Feb-20	19	59	88	448	1,225	335	3,531	4,807	1,647
Mar-20	16	54	96	411	1,039	358	3,208	4,464	1,346
Apr-20	11	54	71	402	1,026	266	2,438	2,953	932
May-20	17	65	67	448	1,101	285	2,709	3,295	1,243
Jun-20	6	66	99	486	1,140	358	2,832	3,648	1,204
Jul-20	11	71	159	485	1,101	390	2,840	3,917	1,347
Aug-20	18	53	94	450	1,268	327	3,150	3,994	1,320
Sep-20	14	54	128	443	1,256	380	3,287	4,453	1,586
Oct-20	20	61	122	499	1,296	434	3,609	4,739	1,643
Nov-20	18	61	98	423	1,104	313	3,019	4,196	1,354
Dec-20	22	71	93	399	1,043	281	3,300	3,660	1,347
Jan-21	8	64	92	470	1,035	322	3,281	3,613	1,295
Feb-21	17	81	114	426	1,067	309	3,238	3,898	1,542
Mar-21	11	86	113	471	1,271	392	4,001	4,871	1,734
Apr-21	16	89	117	458	1,169	333	3,174	3,940	1,508
May-21	17	88	120	508	1,104	351	3,590	4,465	1,708
Jun-21	10	71	129	427	1,065	320	3,118	3,882	1,378
Jul-21	12	74	126	448	1,142	393	2,909	3,676	1,281
Aug-21	17	63	124	499	1,082	399	3,010	4,106	1,433
Sep-21	25	87	138	530	1,178	451	3,335	4,780	1,771
Oct-21	17	55	108	453	1,123	549	3,485	5,001	1,812
Nov-21	9	72	96	428	1,019	435	3,425	4,763	1,486
Dec-21	12	65	118	413	967	391	3,212	4,234	1,520
Jan-22	16	75	102	419	970	399	2,949	3,942	1,224
Feb-22	25	99	128	561	1,115	464	3,403	4,905	1,872
Mar-22	17	64	133	650	1,206	590	3,579	5,805	2,149
Apr-22	11	78	112	458	1,088	548	2,909	4,831	1,521

Month	Dependency	Abuse	Abuse and Neglect	Neglect	Services Needed	Services Provided, No Longer Needed	Services Recommended	Services Not Recommended	Un-substantiated
May-22	10	70	133	541	1,058	553	2,911	5,734	1,904
Jun-22	16	53	95	419	911	401	2,129	3,907	1,252
Jul-22	5	47	105	455	904	374	1,967	3,800	1,255
Aug-22	14	68	100	463	1,025	470	2,401	4,382	1,393
Sep-22	25	77	77	438	1,094	568	2,746	4,998	1,798
Oct-22	19	46	104	465	963	531	2,899	5,147	1,827
Nov-22	19	53	103	476	943	444	2,686	4,780	1,629
Dec-22	9	68	89	382	926	426	2,383	4,111	1,300
Jan-23	46	67	98	469	1,271	560	2,812	5,728	1,962
Feb-23	32	94	110	508	1,133	569	2,695	5,456	1,779
Mar-23	23	91	133	511	1,165	795	2,568	6,274	1,874
Apr-23	14	79	128	451	1,065	676	1,750	5,248	1,475
May-23	29	79	104	441	1,145	1,175	970	7,298	1,756
Jun-23	18	81	97	407	1,105	975	81	5,404	1,284
Jul-23	11	87	118	448	936	983		5,577	1,555
Aug-23	12	74	112	475	977	973		6,365	1,744
Sep-23	21	101	138	471	1,123	1,026		6,813	1,899
Oct-23	11	84	111	569	1,078	904		6,988	2,260
Nov-23	17	58	94	391	877	745		5,937	1,910
Dec-23	9	85	90	381	897	627		4,773	1,545
Jan-24	12	78	69	511	1,046	912		5,851	2,055
Feb-24	9	70	109	565	967	733		6,532	2,014
Mar-24	23	73	110	441	886	746		6,308	1,720
Apr-24	22	51	95	478	926	720		6,872	2,104
May-24	26	46	117	486	813	665		6,603	2,005

TABLE FOUR: The Number of Children Entering Foster Care

Month	Initial Entries	Total Entries	Month	Initial Entries	Total Entries
Jan-16	391	435	May-19	426	502
Feb-16	369	445	Jun-19	385	455
Mar-16	502	564	Jul-19	436	523
Apr-16	443	511	Aug-19	419	485
May-16	428	511	Sep-19	393	468
Jun-16	509	567	Oct-19	435	512
Jul-16	461	530	Nov-19	369	437
Aug-16	517	593	Dec-19	324	367
Sep-16	531	592	Jan-20	420	499
Oct-16	418	459	Feb-20	465	528
Nov-16	433	488	Mar-20	433	482
Dec-16	413	467	Apr-20	271	325
Jan-17	414	536	May-20	325	398
Feb-17	437	532	Jun-20	345	387
Mar-17	533	664	Jul-20	421	485
Apr-17	435	519	Aug-20	374	435
May-17	475	565	Sep-20	404	483
Jun-17	450	513	Oct-20	452	520
Jul-17	421	498	Nov-20	377	459
Aug-17	531	627	Dec-20	306	375
Sep-17	374	462	Jan-21	336	394
Oct-17	437	507	Feb-21	345	423
Nov-17	390	473	Mar-21	370	448
Dec-17	320	383	Apr-21	364	509
Jan-18	362	440	May-21	406	536
Feb-18	380	462	Jun-21	391	476
Mar-18	443	503	Jul-21	373	447
Apr-18	412	480	Aug-21	403	463
May-18	509	572	Sep-21	405	480
Jun-18	436	515	Oct-21	362	445
Jul-18	432	494	Nov-21	279	343
Aug-18	497	578	Dec-21	299	348
Sep-18	382	449	Jan-22	258	315
Oct-18	446	526	Feb-22	404	463
Nov-18	363	412	Mar-22	460	528
Dec-18	325	365	Apr-22	363	428
Jan-19	399	478	May-22	337	404
Feb-19	450	536	Jun-22	393	451
Mar-19	424	480	Jul-22	367	438
Apr-19	457	535	Aug-22	393	454

Month	Initial Entries	Total Entries
Sep-22	421	486
Oct-22	401	465
Nov-22	339	389
Dec-22	276	321
Jan-23	416	489
Feb-23	375	455
Mar-23	442	532
Apr-23	289	344
May-23	378	451
Jun-23	330	380
Jul-23	329	392
Aug-23	409	488

Month	Initial Entries	Total Entries
Sep-23	401	482
Oct-23	403	462
Nov-23	306	362
Dec-23	284	325
Jan-24	357	419
Feb-24	387	437
Mar-24	357	415
Apr-24	405	474
May-24	393	460
Jun-24	322	377
Jul-24	367	430
Aug-24	407	460

TABLE FIVE: The Number of Children Exiting Foster Care

Month	Number of Children Existing Foster Care	Month	Number of Children Existing Foster Care
Jan-16	440	May-19	554
Feb-16	493	Jun-19	426
Mar-16	468	Jul-19	515
Apr-16	450	Aug-19	532
May-16	496	Sep-19	539
Jun-16	480	Oct-19	573
Jul-16	458	Nov-19	490
Aug-16	577	Dec-19	481
Sep-16	481	Jan-20	451
Oct-16	423	Feb-20	483
Nov-16	494	Mar-20	357
Dec-16	401	Apr-20	296
Jan-17	497	May-20	294
Feb-17	397	Jun-20	592
Mar-17	551	Jul-20	545
Apr-17	451	Aug-20	432
May-17	494	Sep-20	492
Jun-17	477	Oct-20	478
Jul-17	458	Nov-20	428
Aug-17	537	Dec-20	496
Sep-17	456	Jan-21	400
Oct-17	480	Feb-21	412
Nov-17	522	Mar-21	504
Dec-17	439	Apr-21	423
Jan-18	433	May-21	464
Feb-18	472	Jun-21	445
Mar-18	522	Jul-21	403
Apr-18	362	Aug-21	425
May-18	507	Sep-21	736
Jun-18	433	Oct-21	479
Jul-18	438	Nov-21	491
Aug-18	562	Dec-21	392
Sep-18	401	Jan-22	397
Oct-18	540	Feb-22	423
Nov-18	469	Mar-22	485
Dec-18	423	Apr-22	375
Jan-19	479	May-22	412
Feb-19	398	Jun-22	450
Mar-19	469	Jul-22	390
Apr-19	430	Aug-22	490

Month	Number of Children Existing Foster Care
Sep-22	459
Oct-22	434
Nov-22	486
Dec-22	401
Jan-23	413
Feb-23	398
Mar-23	515
Apr-23	415
May-23	455
Jun-23	406
Jul-23	385
Aug-23	489

Month	Number of Children Existing Foster Care
Sep-23	441
Oct-23	422
Nov-23	487
Dec-23	355
Jan-24	412
Feb-24	432
Mar-24	392
Apr-24	406
May-24	477
Jun-24	395
Jul-24	414
Aug-24	425