**Foster Care Discharges - Children/Youth Discharged from Foster Care**

**number and percent children/youth in foster care (2019)**

**Why This Matters:**

Reunification of the child with his or her family is the preferred permanency option whenever that can be safely achieved (National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, 2004). In those cases where reunification is not appropriate, adoption is viewed as the ideal permanent legal option for children because it provides the greatest degree of permanence. Adoption, however, may not be a realistic or appropriate option. Alternative permanency placements may not provide the same level of permanency available through adoption but frequently facilitate continuity of family ties, which may be in the child's best interests.

Children are discharged from foster care when the court is satisfied that a permanency plan is sufficient to ensure the child's safety and well-being. The rate of children discharged from foster care is calculated by dividing the number of children discharged in a given calendar year by the total number of children who were in foster care at any time during the calendar year.

**Data Provider:**

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

**Data Source:**

NYS Office of Children and Family Services; Child Care Review Service
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