Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation Phone Conference/Webinar Agenda

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

12PM/11CT

Note: This is a 90-Minute Meeting!

Discussion
1. Welcome and Announcements – Everyone is invited! This is a 90-Minute Meeting with special guests this month.
2. Check the listings on the website to ensure your program information is up to date and correct for the quarterly report. If you need to add or change anything email Lyndi Bradley at lbradley2@fsu.edu
3. If you have not sent to us your Program Narrative, the report will be sent to DCF without it. Don't miss this final opportunity. Report gets sent to DCF this Friday!
4. Professional Development from Generation Mindful: Creating Safe Spaces for More Meaningful Connections During Visitations. Karen met this group at the Seattle conference last month. They are our guests this phone conference.
5. Free Resources from GenM
6. Medical Marijuana Standards in Florida – questions from directors about parental marijuana use.
7. Review of Case and Statistical Analysis Annual Report
8. New visitation video available online! https://vimeo.com/646086240

Generation Mindful Professional Development

Topic : Creating Safe Spaces for More Meaningful Connections During Visitations
Presenters : Selina Armstrong & Suzanne Tucker

- Participants will learn 5 key principles for creating safe visitation spaces and the brain-based science behind these principles.
- Participants will learn about and explore ways that these 5 principles can be incorporated into their current programs.
- Participants will learn about protective factors that help foster resilience and identify ways that SVN programs can assist families in increasing these protective factors.

Bios

Selina Armstrong is a trauma informed practitioner with 20 years experience working with families in the areas of education, development and advocacy. Her most recent work focused on developing programs to increase protective factors that promote resilience in children affected by domestic violence. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Education and Child Development and a Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution. She is currently working as the Program Development Specialist with Generation Mindful (GENM). Her work includes a weekly segment which explores parenting topics, content creation, and curriculum review.

Suzanne Tucker, mom of four, has been a physical therapist and parent educator for over 27 years. She founded Generation Mindful when she noticed that parents and educators were loving the science of positive discipline, but struggling to use the science practically in everyday life. In response, Suzanne created tangible, evidence based tools and toys that make connection a habit in homes and schools

Free Resources from General Mindful

Handouts
PeaceMakers Puppets:
https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1138/3648/files/peacemakers_puppets_2016.pdf?v=1600724155

"Mistakes help me learn and grow" Coloring Sheet:
https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1138/3648/files/B_mistakes-coloring-sheet.pdf?v=1600724118

"Love Lives" Coloring Sheet:
https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1138/3648/files/Love-Lives-In_Blk-White.pdf?v=1600724139

Videos
Red Bear Meditation: https://genmindful.com/pages/peacemakers-path-red-bear-meditation

Storytime: https://vimeo.com/401943687

Medical Marijuana in Florida

Questions to Discuss:

1. **What is the impact of medical marijuana on supervised visitation?**
   We have had multiple visits impacted by medical marijuana. Programs generally ask to see the parent's medical marijuana card. We have had younger parents and older parents with medical marijuana prescriptions.

2. **Have visitors and custodians attended visits under the influence?**
   Yes. The issue for SV is parental behavior. Are they under the influence? Did they drive to the visit? Are they falling asleep during the visit?

3. **What are the considerations for children, other families, and staff?**
   We want parents to be healthy. Many people are treating anxiety, depression, and other mood disorders. We want other families in group visits to avoid being impacted by other families' medical choices. We want the children to be safe. All of these issues must be balanced.
   Be transparent with parents – be sure they know the rules and work with them to create a successful visit.

Florida Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative, also known as Amendment 2 was approved in 2016.

- Protects qualifying patients, caregivers, physicians, and medical marijuana dispensaries and their staff from prosecutions or civil sanctions under Florida law.
- In 2017, Senate Bill 8A was passed; Medical Use of Marijuana Act- which implemented rules for making medical marijuana available to Florida residents.
- Florida only considers cannabis products purchased by a certified patient through a licensed dispensary to be 'medical marijuana.'

Definitions

- *Medical marijuana:* refers to "All parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low-THC cannabis, which are dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient."

- *Medical marijuana treatment center:* State-licensed medical marijuana centers designed to "ensure reasonable statewide accessibility and availability as necessary for qualified patients registered in the medical marijuana use registry and who are issued a physician certification."

Eligibility for Medical Marijuana
- Senate Bill 8A defines a *qualified patient* as "A resident of this state [Florida] who has been added to the medical marijuana use registry by a qualified physician to receive marijuana or a marijuana delivery device for a medical use and who has a qualified patient identification card."

- To qualify for medical marijuana in Florida, a patient must:
  1) Be diagnosed by a certified physician with a qualifying condition
     - If the patient is under 18, two physicians are required for the certification process.
  2) Have a permanent or temporary residency in the state of Florida

Following conditions that qualify for medical marijuana treatment in Florida:
- ALS
- Cancer
- Crohn's Disease
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Parkinson's Disease
- PTSD

In addition to the qualifying conditions above, Senate Bill 8A allows for treatment of other "diagnosable, debilitating conditions of like, kind, or class" (such as anxiety, depression, and migraines), as well as terminal conditions (diagnosed by a physician other than the physician issuing certification) and chronic nonmalignant pain (defined as pain caused by a qualifying medical condition that persists beyond the usual course of that condition).
- Once a doctor certifies a medical marijuana patient, basic identifying information is entered into the state of Florida Department of Medical Marijuana Use Registry, and a patient number is issued. (Weiner, 2018)

- Within a few days of the appointment, the Florida Department of Health sends the patient information on creating an online account and submitting an online

application, which confirms Florida residency. The patient must fill out the application along with a $75 check or money order and passport photo.

- The ONLY valid medical marijuana card in Florida is issued by the Department of Health.

Common Questions Regarding Medical Marijuana in Florida
Q: Can Florida police access the medical marijuana use registry?
A: Yes, but only if you state you're a medical marijuana patient in defense of an investigation claim (e.g., a police officer finds your medical marijuana products and you claim possession is legal because you're a medical marijuana patient).

Q: Do Florida medical marijuana patients qualify for concealed weapons permits?
A: Yes

Q: Can patients drive with medical marijuana in the vehicle?
A: Yes, but products must be contained in their original packaging. In-vehicle use is strictly prohibited. Patients cannot drive with medical marijuana across state lines.

Q: When can police search your car?
A: Police can search your car when there is a probable cause to believe that the vehicle contains contraband or evidence of a crime. They may search in any area or part where contraband or evidence may be found.

Q: Where can't medical marijuana patients use cannabis?
A: According to Senate Bill 8A, medical marijuana use and/or administration is strictly prohibited in the following places:
- On any form of public transportation*
- In any public place*
- In the patient's place of employment
- In a state correctional institution
- On the grounds of a preschool, primary school, or secondary school
- On a school bus
- In a vehicle
- In an aircraft
- On a motorboat*

Low-THC cannabis use is permitted in categories followed by an asterisk (*) (Walters, 2021)

References

Walters, J. (2021, October 1). *Every florida medical marijuana law you need to know*. CannaMD. Retrieved November 1, 2021, from https://www.cannamd.com/every-florida-medical-marijuana-law-you-need-to-know/

Weiner, M. (2018, June 14). *Getting a Florida Medical marijuana card – the process*. Miami's Community News. Retrieved November 1, 2021, from https://communitynewspapers.com/featured/getting-a-florida-medical-marijuana-card-the-process/

National Adoption Month

National Adoption Month in November raises awareness and increases outreach concerning the need for permanent families across the United States. Every year, there is a growing need for children of all ages to find secure and safe families. All month long, National Adoption Month events provide tools and resources to help individuals and families understand the process and learn more about adoption.

While the month sets out to raise awareness, it also recognizes those dedicated to impacting adoptive children and families in positive ways. From each family to organizations that make adoption possible, the month-long celebration acknowledges the commitment and rewards combined with an adoptive family.

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalAdoptionMonth

Visit local adoption agencies or events. Learn more about adoption opportunities in your state. Share your adoption stories. Support adopted couples in their journey to start a family. It is often both a joyous and stressful time with many ups and downs.

Visit www.childwarefare.gov for more information.

Explore these **7 Historical Figures Who Were Adopted**.

The Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation Annual Report:
The Supervised Visitation Database Case and Client Statistical Analysis

November, 2021

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Case and Client Statistical Analysis Results

October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

Cases: 1,844   Clients: 7,022   Services: 31,682

In this report we present the results of the annual Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation's Database Case and Client Analysis. This report covers October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, the 12 months since the last report. A total of 34 supervised visitation programs in Florida contributed information to the database during this time span. Programs are not required to participate in the data analysis; thus, this report does not reflect all program data in Florida. However, it remains a helpful snapshot of supervised visitation activities for thousands of Floridians.

In this dataset, for the year from 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021, the total number of documented cases sent to supervised visitation programs was 1,844, the number of clients served was 7,022 (3,129 children, 1,998 visitors, 1,895 custodians/others), and the number of services provided was 31,682**.** This is the number of completed or terminated services only, and does not include intake sessions, scheduled but cancelled services or no-shows that programs prepared for but did not complete.

New last year was an added variable denoting whether the visitor or custodian for each case is participating in the Florida Child Support Program. The new variable was approved and added in January 2020. All programs were asked to retroactively add this data to their cases, as well as collect this information during intake going forward. Because some cases were already closed and the client information unobtainable, the response to this variable was lower than what would have normally accumulated over a full year. Now that this question has been added to intake forms, we have obtained significantly more data - the 2020 report had only 38 entries while the 2021 report shows 181 entries. We expect this to continue to rise as sites revise their intakes to reflect this item.

Also, unusual this year was the full return to in-person visits following a year of thousands of virtual visits. While most returned to in-person, many sites continued to allow the virtual option for clients. This was due to several factors include ongoing Covid issues with some clients, the transportation issues of some clients that made virtual visits easier, and the ability for many parents to keep the scheduled visit if it was virtual as opposed to in-person.

The amount of missing data has *continued to decline* over the last five years, probably due to Clearinghouse training on the database, periodic reminders to programs to enter

all data correctly, and requirements within the database to enter specific information before being allowed to move forward.

Percent vs. Valid Percent - The Percent shown in each table is the percent of the total number of cases showing one particular answer, factoring in any cases for which the data is missing or is zero. The Valid Percent is the percent of the total number of cases showing one particular answer but *not including* any cases with blank cells or missing data. If there are no missing data for a particular variable, then the Percent and Valid Percent will be identical.

Referral Source

In the database, there are seven options for the variable Referral Source. This is a mandatory variable, in that database users cannot continue until this information is inserted. For the most part, the trends have remained steady as Dependency Court continues to be the most common referral source. Domestic Violence Injunctions account for the next largest source of referrals. This year there was a significant increase in DV referrals, up from 9% to 16%. This might reflect the increase in domestic violence cases seen during the pandemic.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Dependency Case	1425	78	78
DV Injunction	293	16	16
Dissolution of Marriage	62	3	3
Never Married/Paternity	43	3	3
Criminal Case	7	.1	.1
Self-Referred	12	.1	.1
Other	2	.1	.1
TOTAL	1,844	100	100

Reason for Referral (Condensed)

For each case, multiple reasons can be cited for the referral to supervised visitation. However, the database user is required to enter one primary reason for the referral first. The percentage of DV and Child Abuse/Neglect cases referrals remained roughly from the previous year. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of Substance Abuse Cases but an increase in the overall number.

Year	% of Cases
2015	33
2016	32
2017	34
2018	35
2019	38
2020	43
2021	41

It is possible that more programs are identifying that one factor behind child abuse/neglect may be substance abuse. In addition, substance abuse increased markedly during the 2020 quarantine periods. **Remember that this is the *Primary***

***Reason for Referral* and may reflect only the main issue of the case as noted in the Referral document.**

<u>Reason for Referral (Condensed)</u>

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Child Abuse / Neglect	382	21	21
Domestic Violence	529	29	29
Parental Substance Abuse	730	41	41
Parental Mental Health	130	7	7
Parental Criminal Activity	9	.01	.01
Other Parental Misconduct	48	2	2
Other	16	.01	.01
TOTAL	1,844	100	100

Additional Allegations

The table below lists the allegations noted **in addition to the primary allegation** or reason for referral. As many items as needed may be checked for each case. While 41% of cases this year were referred to supervised visitation primarily for Parental Substance Abuse, 27% of the remaining cases listed Parental Substance Abuse as an additional allegation, making it one of the most common issues facing clients. In addition, while 7% of cases had Parental Mental Health as a primary reason for referral, 20% of cases listed it as an additional issue. Mental Health, often related to Substance Abuse, is clearly on the rise as a comorbid issue in supervised visitation cases.

	Frequency	% of all Cases
Child Abuse / Neglect	390	21
Domestic Violence	260	14
Parental Substance Abuse	510	27
Parental Mental Health	376	20
Parental Criminal Activity	30	2
Other Parental Misconduct	280	15
Fear of Abduction	(116)	
Environmental Concerns	(56)	
Undermining Custodial Parent	(52)	
Failure to Protect	(56)	
Other	36	1
TOTAL	1,882	100

Primary Service Requested

This chart identifies the primary service for which the client was referred. The most common reason for referral remains Supervised Visitation followed by Parent Education services which may include parenting classes, one-on-one parental education and training, or parent services. Most clients also receive parent education and assistance as a secondary service. The number of Monitored Exchange cases dropped significantly over last year, perhaps due to Covid quarantines and guidelines.

	Frequency	% of all Cases
Supervised Visitation	1424	78
Monitored Exchange	55	3
Parent Education	205	12
Therapeutic Supervision	112	5
Additional Services Only	12	1
Supervised Phone Visit	36	1
TOTAL	1,844	100

Description of Services

The chart below identifies the distribution of service types provided to clients. The most common service remains Supervised Visitation and this year, as expected, the number of in-person visits shot up as the number of Phone and Internet visits dropped significantly. This represents the return to relative normalcy of supervised visits (with precautions) following initial pandemic.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
(In person) Supervised Visitation	21,680	68	68
Monitored Exchange	1,227	4	4
Supervised Phone/Internet Visit	7,105	22	22
Therapeutic Supervision	1,656	6	6
Intake/Additional Service	14	.00001	.00001
TOTAL	31,682	100	100

Person Providing Service

Paid staff members continue to be the main provider of services in Florida's supervised visitation programs, followed by interns, and last, volunteers. After several years of intern/volunteer use rising, use of interns and volunteers fell 4% last year, probably due to Covid-19. The number of interns has increased somewhat this year as schools are back to normal operations.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Paid Staff	30,570	96	98
Intern	613	2	2
Volunteer	48	.01	.01
Total	31,231	98	100
Missing	451	2	
TOTAL	31,682	100	

Child's Gender

The next three charts contain demographic information on the child clients of Florida's Supervised Visitation programs. This year, cases contained anywhere from 1 to 8 children. As in previous years, the number of boys and girls remains roughly even.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Male	1,531	48.9	48.9
Female	1,598	51.1	51.1
Unknown	0	.00	.00
TOTAL	3,129	100	100

Child's Race

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, approximately 78% of the U.S. self-reports as white, 13.4% as Black, and 18.5% as Hispanic (some people choose more than one race.) In comparison, Blacks appear to be generally over-represented while whites and

Hispanics are underrepresented as supervised visitation center clients. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in Black children and those identifying as of two or more races.

Child's Race

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
White	1,675	54	54
Hispanic	335	10	10
Black	835	27	27
Asian/Pacific Islander	10	.1	..1
American Indian/Alaska Native	21	.1	.1
Two or More Races	249	8	8
Unknown	0	.00	.00
Total	3,125	99.9	100
Missing	4	.1	
TOTAL	3,129	100	

Child's Age

More than 78% of children at visits are under age 10, which is up from 76% in 2019-2020. Still, most children in Florida's Supervised Visitation programs are age 6 and under (59%).

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
0 - 3	1,141	36.5	37
4 - 6	699	22	22
7 – 9	577	18.5	19
10 – 12	448	14	14
13 – 15	125	4	4
16+	99	3	3
Total	3,089	98	100
Missing	40	1	
TOTAL	3,129	100	

Parent's Marital Status

According to the collected data, a larger percentage of parents receiving Supervised Visitation services were never married to each other, and this percentage continues to hold steady at around 67- 69% for the last four years including 2020. Of note, this year the percentage of **separated** parents doubled.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Unmarried	2,076	66.5	67
Married	250	8	8
Separated	580	18.5	19
Divorced	191	6	6
Total	3,097	99	100
Unknown	32	1	
TOTAL	3,129	100	

Visitor's Gender

The following data represents information on the *primary* visitor in the case. The Visitor is normally someone who does not have custody of the child, but the person with whom the child will have supervised visits. So that all parental visitors can be counted, the Clearinghouse encourages programs to have a separate case for each non-custodial parent that is visiting children. However, cases with two parents visiting but not separated, accounts for the additional 154 visitors.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Male	6965	34.8	34.8
Female	1,302	65.2	65.2
Unknown	1	.00	.00
TOTAL	1,998	100	100

In the last decade, men and women were almost equally represented as visitors participating in supervised visits. Since 2014 the percentage of women has increased steadily to 60% in 2018, 62% in 2019, and now 65% in 2020 and 2021. **There were 394**

additional non-parental visitors served by the programs for a total of 2,392 visitors served. Of the additional 394 visitors, 182 were women and 212 were men. Additional visitors may include another parent, stepparents, siblings, and grandparents, among others. However, if both parents are non-custodial visitors, we urge sites to establish a separate case for each.

Visitor Race

The majority of primary visitors continues to be white. In 2021, Black visitors continue to outpace Hispanic visitors. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, approximately 78% of the U.S. self-reports as white, 13.4% as black, and 18% as Hispanic (some people choose more than one race.) As visitors, Blacks are somewhat overrepresented compared to their general population. Hispanics are somewhat underrepresented as are Whites.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
White	1,156	57.8	57.9
Hispanic	269	13.5	13.6
Black	480	24.5	24.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	16	.8	.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	20	1	1
Two or More Races	49	2	2
Other	0	0	0
Total	1990	99.6	100
Unknown	8	.4	
TOTAL	1,998	100	

Visitor Relationship to Child

By far, the most common primary visitor was a parent to the child client (97-98%). As in all previous years (except for 2011) mothers showed higher representation as visitors than fathers. Women are the most common head of single parent households and therefore, more susceptible to poverty and the issues that accompany it. As was the case in years previously, women are the most common visitor in Dependency cases and fathers are the most common visitors in cases referred via Domestic Violence referrals.

Visitor Relationship to Child

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)	1,288	64.5	64.6
Father (biological, adoptive, or step)	667	33.2	33.3
Grandparent	29	1.5	1.4
Sibling	4	.2	.2
Other Family Member	4	.2	.2
Non-Relative Caregiver	4	.2	.2
Total	1,996	99.8	100
Unknown	2	.2	
TOTAL	1,998	100	

The following chart represents the 394 additional visitors to the primary visitors. Approximately 78% are parents. Some cases show both parents as non-custodial visitors, and the Clearinghouse encourages database users to separate those cases into two different cases, one for each parent. Most additional visitors that are parents, are stepparents visiting with the actual parent.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)	179	45.5	46
Father (biological, adoptive, or step)	130	33.5	34
Grandparent	43	10.5	11
Sibling	12	3	3
Other Family Member	19	4.8	4.8
Non-Relative Caregiver	0	0	0
Other	5	1.2	1.2
Total	388	98.5	100
Missing	6	1.5	
TOTAL	394	100	

Visitor Annual Income

As in previous years, the majority of visitors are below the poverty level – approximately 77% below $20,000 and perhaps as much as 88% if the family poverty line is used (includes less than $29,000.) The number of visitors in the lowest category has remained constant from 2017- 2020.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Less than $10,000	1,105	55.5	55.7
$10,000 - $19,999	392	19.7	19.7
$20,000 - $29,999	258	13.9	13.9
$30,000 - $39,999	156	7.3	7.3
$40,000 and above	67	3.4	3.4
Total	1988	99.8	100
Unknown	10	.2	
TOTAL	1,998	100	

Custodian Gender

The following four sections represent information on the *primary* custodian in the case.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Male	345	18.2	81.6
Female	1,530	80.6	18.4
Unknown	20	1.2	
TOTAL	1,895	100	100

Clearly women were, by far, the most common custodian, the person having legal custody of the child client. This may be in part because most Foster Parents are listed as females. Additional custodians (51) may include a custodian's spouse, stepparents, siblings, and grandparents, among others. As many primary custodians are women, the higher number of men listed as additional caregivers represents their spouses.

Custodian Race

The majority of the primary custodians continue to be white. However, this year, the number of custodians identifying as white increased somewhat from 55% to 61%. In addition, the number identifying as two or more races increased about 2%. The racial breakdown of the additional 120 custodians was almost identical as that below.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
White	1,182	62.8	64.0
Hispanic	271	14.6	14.7
Black	356	18.3	19.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	.001	.005
American Indian/Alaska Native	12	.6	.5
Two or More Races	24	1.2	1.5
Total	1,847	97.5	100
Unknown	48	2.5	
TOTAL	1,895	100	

Custodian Relationship to Child

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)	291	15.3	15.3
Father (biological, adoptive, or step)	246	13.0	13.0
Grandparent	251	13.4	13.5
Sibling	4	.2	.2
Other Family Member	124	6.5	6.5
Non-Custodial Relative	150	7.9	7.9
Foster Parent	744	39.3	39.3
Group Home	51	2.7	2.7
Other	22	1.1	1.1
Unknown	12	.6	.6
TOTAL	1,895	100	100

Previously, the most common custodian was a parent to the child client but parents as custodians has been steadily dropping as Foster Parents as the Custodian has steadily

risen. This year, Foster Parent (39.3%) supersedes Parent as the most popular caregiver (28.3%) once again. Following foster parents, parents and then grandparents were the most common custodians.
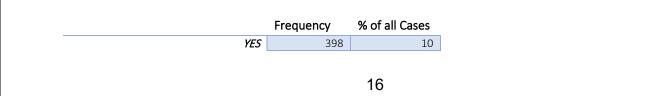
Custodian Income

Because many programs and case managers do not have access to this information, there is often some missing data on custodian income. However, this reporting year, database users made a strong effort to acquire this information as required. The number of custodians across incomes is similar. It appears that almost 38-39% of the custodians earn less than $20,000 per year. With federally designated poverty levels (Feb. 2020) at $25,750 for a family of four, a significant number of clients fall beneath the poverty threshold. Also, 55% percent of custodians fall below the 125% of poverty level mark.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
Less than $10,000	353	18.6	18.6
$10,000 - $19,999	389	20.5	20.7
$20,000 - $29,999	381	20.1	20.3
$30,000 - $39,999	353	18.8	18.8
$40,000 and above	410	21.6	21.6
Total	1,886	99.6	100
Unknown	9	.4	
TOTAL	1,895	100	

Florida Child Support Program Participation

The newest variable added to the database in 2020 was inquiring whether the Visitor or Custodian was participating in the Florida Child Support Program. During the first full year of data intake, the numbers increased significantly. The category of *Don't Know* dropped from 63% to 26% showing that the data is being far more routinely collected.

	Frequency	% of all Cases
YES	398	10

NO	2,455	64
Don't Know	1,040	26
TOTAL	3,893	100

*Total of 3,893 represents both Visitor and Custodian for 1,844 cases.

Domestic Violence Reporting

In each case, the person entering data is required to note whether domestic violence (DV) was a component of or was present in the case upon intake (according to the referral.) In 2021 42% indicated **YES**, up from 38% in 2020. As the cases progress and staff learn more about the family dynamics, cases that are referred for other reasons are often found to also have family violence. In addition, with domestic violence reports climbing due to Covid-19, it is not unexpected that the number has risen or that additional allegations of domestic abuse will rise.

	Frequency	% of all Cases
Domestic Violence YES	774	42
Domestic Violence NO	1,070	58
TOTAL	1,844	100

Critical Incidents: Serious Disruptions in Service

A *Critical Incident* is a serious disruption in service: an event that occurred before, during, or immediately after the service that was so problematic as to require monitor intervention, the cancellation or termination of the service, or the removal of the offending party from the premises.

	Critical Incident Cases	% of all Cases
2014	90	3.4%
2015	151	6.2%
2016	202	9.3%
2017	239	10.7%
2018	193	8.7%
2019	179	8.4%
2020	87	5.1%
2021	174	9.4%

From 2014 to 2017, the number of cases with critical incidents rose consistently from 90 to 239 or from 3.4% to 10.7% of all cases. This may be in part due to the researchers redefining "critical incident" to include *any serious disruption of services* following the

2014 reporting year. In 2018, however, the number of cases with a critical incident fell to 8.7%, and in 2019 to 8.4% of cases, certainly a welcome development. In 2020, the rate fell dramatically to only 87 critical incidents, or 5.1% of cases. No doubt, this was because for almost six months, most programs were only offering virtual visits which provide less opportunity for critical incidents. In 2021 the numbers rose again with the return of in-person visits and the inherent risks associated with them. Still this number is in the general area of recent years. The Clearinghouse continues to stress the need for enhanced safety measures and consistently offers support and training on the issue of safety in supervised visitation, especially with services conducted in case worker offices not well equipped for security emergencies.

Critical Incident Outcomes

Number of cases with Critical Incidents: **174 (9.4% of all cases)**
Total number of Critical Incidents: **198 (.63% of all services)**

	# of Incidents
Visitor became ill	4
Visitor showed favoritism	8
Visitor threatened other adult	4
Visitor arrested on-site	3
Child accidentally injured	16
Visitor refused staff directions	51
Visitor physically harmed child	6
Visitor threatened child	17
Visitor came to visit intoxicated	18
Visitor used corporal punishment	5
Visitor left unexpectedly	3
Child refused to participate	28
Child abuse observed	4
Child became ill	9
Custodian refused redirection	18
Custodian harmed child	2
Other	2
TOTAL	198

In 2021, the number of critical incidents returned closer to norms as expected because of the return to in-person visits. Visitors refusing direction and children refusing to participate are the most common issues.

The generally low number of critical incidents should also represent a commendation to the well-trained staff of Florida's SV programs who were quite successful in preventing critical incidents from occurring as well as handling them safely and quickly. Those programs with proper security measures in place for both virtual and in-person visits often have more successful outcomes in cases of critical incidents.

But any critical incident is concerning and may be quite dangerous. Proper security measures are always necessary to prevent potential tragedies from occurring.

Below are the noted actions taken in each case experiencing a critical incident. Several actions might have been taken for a particular incident, therefore allowing for a higher number of actions than incidents themselves.

Action Taken	# of Incidents
Case worker notified	10
Incident report written	13
Incident discussed with violator	96
No action taken	4
Police/Sheriff/emergency personnel called	10
Service terminated	48
Staff called abuse hotline	9
Violator was arrested	2
Closed case due to critical incident	6
Other	2

Cancellation of Visits

Scheduled visits are often cancelled before they can take place. Below is a cumulative list of those responsible for cancelling services. Most often, the visit is cancelled by the visitor for various reasons.

Cancelled By	# of Incidents
Visitor	4,195
Custodian (not foster parent)	830
Foster parent	519
DCF/CBC	178
SV program	641
Other	935
Missing	4
TOTAL	7,302

Reasons for cancellation are varied and listed below. Most often, no reason is given, especially when cancellation messages are left on center voicemail. In addition, one or more parties are often reported as "No Show" for a service, meaning they did not officially cancel and did not show up for the scheduled appointment time. **Approximately 14% of all scheduled services were No-Shows.** Also of note is the

number of services cancelled for Non-Confirmation: 491. Many sites are requiring confirmation to ensure their program resources are not wasted on no-shows.

Reason for Cancellation	# of times
Conflicting appointment	238
Transportation	152
Work	328
None given	163
Illness	590
Holidays	288
Weather	62
Death	24
Child's activities	76
Incarceration	120
Vacation	86
Change in court order	39
Child refused to visit	142
Staff resources unavailable	8
Other emergency	60
Non-confirmation	491
Other	7
Unknown	4,448
TOTAL	7,302

Case Closures

In the 2020-2021 analysis period, 704 cases were closed. It is noteworthy that programs often forget to close cases, especially if clients simply stop coming over time. The Clearinghouse has made an effort to remind programs to review and close cases no longer active.

Reason for Case Closure	# of times
Excessive no-shoes/cancellations	207
Completion of court ordered term of service	46
Moved to unsupervised visits (per court)	195
Termination of parental rights or court ordered cessation of visits	86
Loss of contact with visitor or custodian	45
Family reunified	37
Refusal of child to visit	8
SVP's time or visit limit reached	32
Safety concerns	12
Termination for violation of other rules	14
Excessive demands on program resources	18
Critical incidents	12
Refusal to pay fees	0

Other	57
Total	769

The number of cases closed for safety reasons dropped from 3% in 2020 to 2% in 2021.

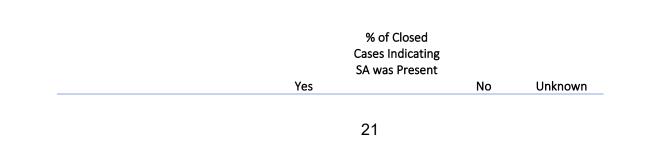|	Case Closure Due to Safety Reasons
2015	59
2016	52
2017	55
2018	42
2019	48
2020	22
2021	12

Closure Variables

Since the 2014 reporting year, additional closing variables have been part of the database. Programs were asked to report on substance abuse and arrests for violent crime before, during, and after the completion of services. If the center answered yes, they were provided the opportunity to expand on their information. Below is the summary of this data from the 769 cases closed this year and the percentage of closed cases the numbers represent.

Substance Abuse

About 40% of clients came to supervised visitation this year with substance abuse as their primary issue. Twenty-seven percent of new cases also listed substance abuse as an additional allegation, meaning 67% of cases named Substance Abuse as an issue. The actual number may be higher as substance abuse is known to be severely underreported. Some substance abuse issues continue during the SV services, sometimes even during a service.

It appears that most of the substance abuse in cases occurs before SV services and might in fact contribute to a client's placement in an SV program. Data show that during services, substance abuse may be, at least for a time, decreasing. Note that many programs do not have the resources available to track clients after they leave.

% of Closed Cases Indicating SA was Present		
Yes	No	Unknown

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SA Present	92	12%	677	
SA Prior to services	81	88% of SA cases	5	516
SA While case was open	14	15% of SA cases	10	558
SA During a service	2	2% of SA cases	12	568
SA Known after services	2	2% of SA cases	3	576

Arrests for Violent Crime

	Yes	% of Closed Cases Indicating AVC was Present	No	Unknown
Arrests for violent crime	38	5%	749	
AVC Prior to services	34	89% of AVC cases	14	554
AVC While case was open	7	18% of AVC cases	20	555
AVC During a service	5	13% of AVC cases	20	562
AVC Known after services	2	5% of AVC cases	9	571

In the 769 cases that programs **closed** in the 2020-2021 year, 5% of cases included a client who had been previously arrested for a violent crime. Fortunately, the percentage of those perpetrators becoming violent during supervised visitation services is low.

While the number of known offenses post services reported is only 2, this may be due to the fact that many programs do not have access to records after their clients complete services. In addition, some programs do not have the time or funding to follow up with their clients post-services.

Yet, previous data which included a review of client arrest records for two years post services did indicate a significant decrease in reported violent crimes. This may also be reflected in the decreasing numbers above as, based on previous Clearinghouse research, arrests for violence decrease dramatically during and after SV services.

Implications and Recommendations

Despite continuous technical assistance funded by DCF, Florida's programs continue to lack funding for program security. Most programs in Florida do not have on-site security personnel. As in years past, we highlight this problem because of the kinds of cases sent to SV programs – which tend to have elevated risk.

This annual report again reflects the fact that supervised visitation programs in Florida provide a valuable service.

As in years past, we highlight the need for legislatively enacted statewide standards with a mechanism for monitoring and certifying these crucial programs. Although the

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Clearinghouse produces a large amount of training and technical assistance material, it does not have the authority to monitor or certify any program. This means that programs have minimal to no oversight. The only meaningful feedback occurs when the local court system declines to refer cases to a program that offers services. When the Clearinghouse receives complaints from any parent, we refer the parent to the court that ordered the supervised visitation.

The Clearinghouse will continue to offer training in issues related to parental substance use disorder, domestic violence, and co-occurring problems in response to this year's data.

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