

The Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation 2023 Annual Report: The Supervised Visitation Database Case and Client Statistical Analysis



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Case and Client Statistical Analysis Results

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023

Federal Fiscal Year

Cases: 1,821 Clients: 7,610 Services: 33,641

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, 2022 to September 30, 2023, the 12 months since the last report. A total of 50 supervised visitation providers in Florida contributed information to the database during this timeframe.

For the year, from 10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023, the total number of documented cases utilizing supervised visitation programs was 1,821, (up approx. 9%) the number of clients served was 7,610 (up approx. 15% - 3,412 children, 2,150 visitors, 2,048 custodians/others), and the number of services provided was 33,641 (up approx. 18%.) *This is the number of completed or terminated services only, and does not include intake sessions, scheduled but cancelled services or no-shows.*

The newest variable (2020) is a variable denoting whether the visitor or custodian for each case is participating in the Florida Child Support Program. As this question is added to more intake forms, we have consistently obtained more data — the 2020 report had only 38 entries while the 2021 report showed 181 entries and the 2022 report has 232 entries. This year, we have 1,469 entries. We expect this to continue to rise as sites revise their intake forms and processes to reflect this item.

The amount of missing data has *continued to decline* over the last five years. This may be because of the 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.

The following are the 2023 findings.

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. **Mostly, the trends have remained steady as dependency court continues to be the most common referral source.** Domestic violence cases account for the next largest source of referrals remaining steady from last year at 7%.

Referral Source

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Dependency Case</i>	1537	84.4	84.4
<i>DV Injunction</i>	118	7	7
<i>Dissolution of Marriage</i>	84	5	5
<i>Never Married/Paternity</i>	46	2.5	2.5
<i>Criminal Case</i>	12	.4	.4
<i>Self-Referred</i>	23	.7	.7
<i>Other</i>	1	.0	.0
<i>TOTAL</i>	1,821	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 primary domestic violence **cases increased from 31% to 37.5%** this year, while the percentage of primary substance abuse cases dropped from 41% to 38%. The percentage of child abuse/neglect cases remained the same.

Programs may identify that one factor behind child abuse/neglect may be domestic violence or substance abuse. **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.**

Reason for Referral (Condensed)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Child Abuse / Neglect</i>	327	18.2	18.2
<i>Domestic Violence</i>	684	37.5	37.5
<i>Parental Substance Abuse</i>	691	38.0	38.0
<i>Parental Mental Health</i>	105	5.7	5.7
<i>Parental Criminal Activity</i>	9	.4	.4
<i>Other Parental Misconduct</i>	2	.1	.1
<i>Other</i>	3	.1	.1
TOTAL	1,821	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 38% of cases this year were referred to supervised visitation primarily for parental substance abuse, 16.7% of the remaining cases listed parental substance abuse as an additional allegation, so **54.7% of all cases reported substance abuse** as an issue. Similarly, while 5.7% of cases had parental mental health as a primary reason for referral, 10.8% of cases listed it as an additional issue which adds up to 16.5%. Combined, these two issues are present in 71.2% of all cases.

Also of note is 37.5% of cases listed DV as the primary reason for services, and 15.2% of the cases also listed it as an additional allegation, meaning **52.7% of all cases had DV as a component**.

Additional Allegations

	Frequency	% of Additional Allegations	% of all cases
<i>Child Abuse / Neglect</i>	305	21.5	16.7
<i>Domestic Violence</i>	277	19.5	15.2
<i>Parental Substance Abuse</i>	291	20.5	15.9
<i>Parental Mental Health</i>	198	13.5	10.8
<i>Parental Criminal Activity</i>	42	3.0	2.3
<i>Other Parental Misconduct</i>	230	16.0	12.6
<i>Fear of Abduction</i>	(89)		
<i>Environmental Concerns</i>	(54)		

<i>Undermining Custodial Parent</i>	(32)		
<i>Failure to Protect</i>	(46)		
<i>Pornography</i>	(9)		
<i>Other</i>	85	6.0	4.6
<i>None</i>		100	78.1
TOTAL	1,428		

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 over the last year and fell to a new low once again this year.**

The number of supervised phone visits listed as the primary service was 0%. Some centers continue to offer phone or virtual visits if needed, however, they are no longer a primary service.

Primary Service Requested

	Frequency	% of all Cases
<i>Supervised Visitation</i>	1743	95.1
<i>Monitored Exchange</i>	19	1
<i>Parent Education/Plan</i>	32	1.7
<i>Therapeutic Supervision</i>	9	.4
<i>Visitation Compliance</i>	18	.9
<i>Supervised Phone Visit</i>	0	0
TOTAL	1,821	100

Description of All Services

The chart below identifies the distribution of service types provided to clients. The most common service remains supervised visitation. This year saw a continued but slight decrease in virtual visits (5% down to 4.3%) as programs fully returned to in-person

visits. So, while it was not listed as a primary service for any cases, programs are still utilizing virtual visits when requested or required.

Description of Services

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>(In person) Supervised Visitation</i>	30,556	90.8	90.8
<i>Monitored Exchange</i>	768	2.5	2.5
<i>Supervised Phone/Internet Visit</i>	1,458	4.3	4.3
<i>Therapeutic Supervision</i>	435	1.2	1.2
<i>Intake/Additional Service</i>	424	1.2	1.2
TOTAL	33,641	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 volunteers. After several years of rising intern/volunteer involvement, their participation fell in 2021 but increased in 2022 (perhaps after Covid restrictions ended) and colleges and universities restarted their internship programs. This year however, the participation of interns and volunteers has receded once again.

Person Providing Service

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Paid Staff</i>	32,884	97.8	98.9
<i>Intern</i>	366	1	1.1
<i>Volunteer</i>	6	.01	.01
<i>Total</i>	33,256	98.9	100
<i>Missing</i>	385	1.1	
TOTAL	33,641	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 from 1 to 8 children per case. As in previous years, the number of boys and girls remains approximately even.

Child's Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Male</i>	1,740	51	51
<i>Female</i>	1,672	49	49
<i>Unknown</i>	0	.00	.00
TOTAL	3,412	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, Black clients appear to be generally over-represented, while white and Hispanic clients are underrepresented as supervised visitation center clients. Only the category Two or More Races saw a significant increase, as the number of White children dropped by about 5%.

Child's Race

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>White</i>	1,614	47.5	48.1
<i>Hispanic</i>	339	9.9	10.0
<i>Black</i>	978	28.7	29.1
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander</i>	7	.2	.2
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>	12	.3	.3
<i>Two or More Races</i>	399	11.6	11.9
<i>Unknown</i>	21	.6	.6
<i>Total</i>	3,370	98.8	100
<i>Missing</i>	42	1.2	
TOTAL	3,412	100	

Child's Age

More than 73% of children in Florida's Supervised Visitation programs are under age 10. The majority of those children are age 6 and under (56%), and the largest category is infants and toddlers, 0-3 (34%).

Child's Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>0 - 3</i>	1,142	33.7	34.1
<i>4 - 6</i>	744	21.8	22.0
<i>7 - 9</i>	601	17.6	17.8
<i>10 - 12</i>	425	12.4	12.6
<i>13 - 15</i>	296	8.6	8.7
<i>16+</i>	163	4.7	4.8
<i>Total</i>	3,371	98.8	100
<i>Missing</i>	41	1.2	
<i>TOTAL</i>	3,412	100	

Parent's Marital Status

According to the collected data, a larger percentage of parents receiving Supervised Visitation services have never been married to each other. This percentage has remained about the same at around 65-69% for the last four years but has **increased this year to about 72%**.

Parent's Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Unmarried</i>	2,445	71.7	72.6
<i>Married</i>	307	8.9	9.2
<i>Separated</i>	428	12.6	12.7
<i>Divorced</i>	186	5.5	5.5
<i>Total</i>	3,366	98.7	100
<i>Unknown</i>	46	1.3	
<i>TOTAL</i>	3,412	100	

Visitor's Gender

The following data represents information on the *primary* visitor in each case. The visitor is typically 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, as well as additional visitors such as grandparents, siblings, and other relatives, account for the additional 329 visitors.

Visitor's Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Male</i>	753	35	35
<i>Female</i>	1,397	65	65
<i>Unknown</i>	-		
<i>TOTAL</i>	2,150	100	100

In the last decade, men and women were almost equally represented as visitors participating in supervised visits. Since 2018 the percentage of women has increased steadily from 60% in 2018 to 67% in 2022 and dropped slightly to 65% in 2023. This likely reflects that most cases are dependency cases.

Visitor's Race

The majority of visitors continue to be white. In 2022, 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 18.5% as Hispanic (some people choose more than one race). Compared to the general population, Hispanic and white families are underrepresented as visitors, while Black families are overrepresented as visitors in Florida's Supervised Visitation programs.

Visitor's Race

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>White</i>	1,168	54.4	54.4
<i>Hispanic</i>	270	12.6	12.6
<i>Black</i>	579	26.9	26.9
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander</i>	11	.5	.5
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>	2	0	
<i>Two or More Races</i>	119	5.6	5.6
<i>Other</i>	1	0	0
<i>Total</i>	2,150	100	100

<i>Unknown</i>	=		
TOTAL	2,150	100	

Visitor's Relationship to Child

The most common *primary* visitor (1 per case) was a parent to the child client (98.6%). As in all previous years (with the exception of 2011), mothers showed higher representation as visitors than fathers.

Visitor's Relationship to Child

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)</i>	1,161	63.9	63.8
<i>Father (biological, adoptive, or step)</i>	631	34.8	34.8
<i>Grandparent</i>	23	1.4	1.4
<i>Sibling</i>	2	0	0
<i>Other Family Member</i>	3	0	0
<i>Non-Relative Caregiver</i>	1	0	0
<i>Total</i>	1,821	100	100
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0	
TOTAL	1,821	100	

The following chart represents the 329 additional visitors to the primary visitors. Approximately 76% 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 along with the visiting parent.

Additional Visitors

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)</i>	144	43.8	44.6
<i>Father (biological, adoptive, or step)</i>	103	31.4	31.8
<i>Grandparent</i>	23	6.9	7.0
<i>Sibling</i>	34	10.4	10.5
<i>Other Family Member</i>	16	4.8	4.9

<i>Non-Relative Caregiver</i>	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>	4	1.2	1.2
<i>Total</i>	324	98.5	100
<i>Missing</i>	5	1.5	
<i>TOTAL</i>	329	100	

Visitor's Annual Income

As in previous years, the majority of primary visitors are below the poverty level – approximately 72% below \$20,000 and perhaps as much as 85.4% if the family poverty line is used (includes less than \$29,999 category). The number of visitors in the lowest category dropped for the first time since 2017. The category with the highest gains was the \$40k and above category.

Visitor's Annual Income

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Less than \$10,000</i>	952	52.4	52.5
<i>\$10,000 - \$19,999</i>	348	19.1	20.3
<i>\$20,000 - \$29,999</i>	227	12.5	12.6
<i>\$30,000 - \$39,999</i>	169	9.2	7.3
<i>\$40,000 and above</i>	117	6.4	3.1
<i>Total</i>	1,813	99.6	100
<i>Unknown</i>	8	.4	
<i>TOTAL</i>	1,821	100	

Custodian's Gender

The following four sections represent information on the custodian(s) in the case.

Custodian's Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Male</i>	342	18.7	18.7
<i>Female</i>	1,467	80.7	80.7
<i>Unknown</i>	12	.6	
<i>TOTAL</i>	1,821	100	100

Women were the most common *primary* 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 (227) may include a custodian's spouse, stepparents, siblings, and grandparents, among others.

Custodian's Race

The majority of the custodians continue to be white clients. However, the number of custodians identifying as Two or More Races has increased steadily and is up from 4.3% to 6.5%.

Custodian's Race

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>White</i>	1,097	53.7	54.0
<i>Hispanic</i>	320	15.7	15.8
<i>Black</i>	461	22.6	22.8
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander</i>	10	.4	.4
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>	6	.2	.2
<i>Two or More Races</i>	134	6.5	6.8
<i>Total</i>	2,028	99.1	100
<i>Unknown</i>	20	.9	
TOTAL	2,048	100	

Custodian's Relationship to Child

Custodian's Relationship to Child

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)</i>	227	12.6	12.6
<i>Father (biological, adoptive, or step)</i>	139	7.7	7.7
<i>Grandparent</i>	211	11.6	11.6
<i>Sibling</i>	3	0	0
<i>Other Family Member</i>	168	9.3	9.3
<i>Non-Custodial Relative</i>	236	12.9	12.9

<i>Foster Parent</i>	717	39.5	39.5
<i>Group Home</i>	52	2.8	2.8
<i>Other</i>	68	3.6	3.6
<i>Unknown</i>			.
TOTAL	1,821	100	100

Previously, the most common primary custodian was a parent to the child client; however, parents as custodians have been steadily dropping as Foster Parents as the Custodian has risen. This year, Foster Parent (39.5%) supersedes Parent as the most common caregiver (20.3%). Following Foster Parents, Parents and then Non-custodial Relatives were the most common custodians.

Custodian's Income

There is often some missing data on the custodian's income since many programs and case managers do not have access to this information. This year most programs have added Custodian Income to their intake forms. Therefore, the number of unknowns fell to just 35. The number of custodians across the range of incomes has been relatively similar. However, this year, the \$10k - \$19k shrunk considerably while the \$20k – 29k and \$40k and above categories increased. It appears that almost 27% (down from 38%) of the custodians earn less than \$20,000 per year. With federally designated poverty levels at \$27,750 for a family of four, more than half of custodians fall beneath the poverty threshold.

Custodian's Income

	Frequency	Percent	Valid %
<i>Less than \$10,000</i>	342	18.8	18.8
<i>\$10,000 - \$19,999</i>	146	8.0	8.0
<i>\$20,000 - \$29,999</i>	520	29.5	29.5
<i>\$30,000 - \$39,999</i>	316	17.3	17.4
<i>\$40,000 and above</i>	462	26.3	26.3
<i>Total</i>	1,786	99.9	100
<i>Unknown</i>	35	.1	
TOTAL	1,821	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. With most sites now including this variable in their intake forms, the number of missing data points has steadily fallen. The category of *Don't Know* dropped from 63% to 21% over the last three years.

Florida Child Support Program Participation

	Frequency	% of all Cases
<i>YES</i>	401	11
<i>NO</i>	2,476	68
<i>Don't Know</i>	765	21
<i>TOTAL</i>	3,642	100

*Total of 3,642 represents both Visitor and Custodian for 1,821 cases.

Domestic Violence Reporting

In each case, the person entering data is required to note whether domestic violence 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. However, 2022 saw a significant drop, with 31.6% of cases reporting domestic violence. In 2023, the number has returned to previous levels, with 52.7% of all cases including DV as a component.

Unexpected Incidents: Disruptions in Service

An *unexpected Incident* is a disruption in service: an event that occurred before, during, or immediately after the service was initiated, that was unusual or problematic, and may have required monitor intervention, the cancellation or termination of the service, or the removal of the offending party from the premises.

Critical Incidents

	Critical Incident Cases	% of all Cases
<i>2019</i>	179	8.4%
<i>2020</i>	87	5.1%
<i>2021</i>	174	9.4%
<i>2022</i>	156	9.3%
<i>2023</i>	136	7.4%

The purpose of this variable was not only to identify dangerous situations, but also to learn what more minor problems might be occurring during visits that require attention. In 2020, the rate fell to only 87 critical incidents, or 5.1% of cases. This may be because, for almost six months, most programs were only offering virtual visits. In 2021 and 2022, the numbers rose again with the return of in-person visits and the inherent risks associated with them. In 2023, the number of incidents dropped slightly.

The Clearinghouse continues to emphasize the need for enhanced safety measures and consistently offers support and training on the issue of safety in supervised visitation.

Unexpected Incident Outcomes

Number of cases with Critical Incidents: **136 (7.43% of all cases)**
 Total number of Critical Incidents: **164 (.48% of all services)**

Unexpected Incident Types

	# of Incidents
<i>Visitor became ill</i>	2
<i>Visitor showed favoritism</i>	6
<i>Visitor threatened other adult</i>	1
<i>Visitor arrested on-site</i>	4
<i>Child accidentally injured</i>	10
<i>Visitor refused staff directions</i>	42
<i>Visitor physically harmed child</i>	4
<i>Visitor threatened child</i>	8
<i>Visitor came to visit intoxicated</i>	16
<i>Visitor used corporal punishment</i>	4
<i>Custodian used corporal punishment</i>	2
<i>Child refused to participate</i>	43
<i>Visitor Threatened Staff</i>	8
<i>Child became ill</i>	4
<i>Custodian refused redirection</i>	3
<i>Custodian threatened staff</i>	1
<i>Other</i>	1
TOTAL	164

In 2023, the number of unusual incidents dropped somewhat. Visitors refusing direction and children refusing to participate are the most common issues.

The generally low number of unexpected incidents may reflect staff training of Florida's SV programs. Unexpected incidents have the potential to be dangerous. Proper security measures are always necessary at programs.

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

Unexpected Incident Outcomes

Action Taken	# of Incidents
<i>Case worker notified</i>	19
<i>Incident report written</i>	42
<i>Incident discussed with violator</i>	85
<i>No action taken</i>	4
<i>Police/Sheriff/emergency personnel called</i>	9
<i>Service terminated</i>	34
<i>Staff called abuse hotline</i>	2
<i>Violator was arrested</i>	1
<i>Closed case due to critical incident</i>	5
<i>Other</i>	1

Cancellation of Visits

Scheduled visits are often canceled before they can take place. Below is a cumulative list of those responsible for canceling services. Most often, the visit is cancelled by the visitor for various reasons. In 2023, cancellations are up from 6,565 in 2022 to 9,761 in 2023.

Cancellation of Visits

Cancelled By	# of Incidents
<i>Visitor</i>	6,478
<i>Custodian (not foster parent)</i>	768
<i>Foster parent</i>	585
<i>DCF/CBC</i>	675
<i>SV program</i>	673
<i>Other</i>	577
<i>Missing</i>	5
TOTAL	9,761

Reasons for cancellation are varied and listed below. Often, no reason is given. Approximately 18% of all scheduled services were No-Shows. Also of note is the number of services canceled for Non-Confirmation: 755. Many sites require confirmation of the visit to ensure their program resources are not unexpected no-shows.

From 2022 to 2023, Cancellations Due to Weather were up more than double, as was Child Refusal to Visit. However, cancellations due to staff resources dropped from 228 to 8.

Reason for Cancellations

Reason for Cancellation	# of times
<i>Conflicting appointment</i>	381
<i>Transportation</i>	665
<i>Work</i>	459
<i>Illness</i>	1,238
<i>Holidays</i>	454
<i>Weather</i>	160
<i>Death</i>	19
<i>Child's activities</i>	118
<i>Incarceration</i>	275
<i>Vacation</i>	164
<i>Change in court order</i>	79
<i>Child refused to visit</i>	109
<i>Staff resources unavailable</i>	9
<i>Other emergency</i>	106
<i>Non-confirmation</i>	755
<i>Other</i>	1,186
<i>Unknown</i>	675
<i>Security Unavailable</i>	18
TOTAL	6,870

Case Closures

In the 2022-2023 analysis period, 894 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 that are no longer active.

Reason for Case Closure

Reason for Case Closure	# of times
<i>Excessive no-shows/cancellations</i>	159
<i>Completion of court ordered term of service</i>	44
<i>Moved to unsupervised visits (per court)</i>	116
<i>Termination of parental rights or court ordered cessation of visits</i>	36
<i>Loss of contact with visitor or custodian</i>	31
<i>Family reunified</i>	38
<i>Child refused to visit</i>	9
<i>SVP's time or visit limit reached</i>	21
<i>Safety concerns</i>	5
<i>Termination for violation of other rules</i>	11
<i>Excessive demands on program resources</i>	2
<i>Unexpected incidents</i>	3
<i>Refusal to pay fees</i>	2

<i>Other</i>	417
<i>Total</i>	894

The number of cases closed for safety reasons dropped in 2020 and 2021 but increased back to 6.4% in 2022. In 2023 the number of cases closed for Safety Reasons decreased (as did the number of cases closed for Refusal to Pay Fees and Child Refused to Visit.) The reason for this decrease is unknown.

Case Closures Due to Safety Concerns

	Case Closure Due to Safety Reasons
<i>2015</i>	59
<i>2016</i>	52
<i>2017</i>	55
<i>2018</i>	42
<i>2019</i>	48
<i>2020</i>	22
<i>2021</i>	12
<i>2022</i>	43
<i>2023</i>	5

Closure Variables

When closing a case, programs are asked to report on substance abuse and arrests for violent crime before, during, and after the completion of services. If the program answered yes, they were provided the opportunity to expand on their information. Below is the summary of this data from the 894 cases closed this year and the percentage of closed cases the numbers represent.

Substance Abuse

About 38% of clients came to supervised visitation this year with substance abuse as their *primary* issue. Almost 16% of new cases also listed substance abuse as an *additional* allegation, meaning 54% of cases named substance abuse (SA) as an issue for supervised visits. Note that many programs do not have the resources available to track clients after they leave.

Closure Variables: Substance Abuse

	Yes	% of Closed Cases Indicating SA was Present	No	Unknown
<i>SA Present</i>	228	25.5%	666	
<i>SA Prior to services</i>	182	79% of SA cases	11	662
<i>SA While case was open</i>	44	19.2% of SA cases	12	728

<i>SA During a service</i>	8	3.5% of SA cases	14	733
<i>SA Known after services</i>	4	1.7% of SA cases	6	745

Arrests for Violent Crime

In the 894 cases that programs **closed** in the 2022-2023 year, 5% of cases included a client who had been previously arrested for a violent crime. However, the percentage of those perpetrators becoming violent during supervised visitation services is low.

Closure Variables: Violent Crime

	Yes	% of Closed Cases Indicating AVC was Present	No	Unknown
<i>Arrests for violent crime (AVC)</i>	55	5%	839	
<i>AVC Prior to services</i>	36	65.4% of AVC cases	12	707
<i>AVC While case was open</i>	7	12.7% of AVC cases	25	723
<i>AVC During a service</i>	1	1.8% of AVC cases	189	736
<i>AVC Known after services</i>	2	3.6% of AVC cases	9	744

While the number of known offenses after case closure 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.

Implications and Recommendations

The steady increase in dependency cases in Florida’s supervised visitation providers and the small number of family court cases that serve families reflects that **fiscal resources for supervised visitation are being directed to dependency cases, not family court cases.**

This is troubling because when courts need the services of family court supervised visitation, those resources may not exist. Judges may feel compelled to allow untrained family members and friends to provide oversight in dangerous cases, leaving children

vulnerable. Trained program staff offer the most attention to safety. **Or courts may allow unsupervised visits in cases where a parent is violent because there are no local resources for supervision.**

No new funding for Florida's SV system has been created by the legislature or supported by the courts in decades. Most existing funding is from the Department of Children and Families from a federal grant (called the State Access and Visitation grant). Most of these funds are distributed to the Community Based Care organizations, who typically the funding to support dependency cases. Programs also receive some small amount support from local philanthropic organizations.

The need continues for increased program funding as well as the implementation of standards statewide for supervised visitation programs and monitored exchange programs throughout the state.

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