

Division of Family and Children Services

Georgia Department of Human Resources

# Outcome Measures

## Child Welfare



# March 2009

## Definitions and Data Sources

### **SAFETY 1 – Children are first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.**

- Figure 1:** Child Protective Services Cases ..... 1  
Includes all cases active at some time during the month  
Sources: Internal Data System, SHINES
- Figure 2:** Disposition of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports..... 1  
Chart reflects the disposition of reports received in a particular month.  
Sources: Internal Data System, PSDS, SHINES
- Figure 3:** Percent of Investigations Completed Timely ..... 2  
The percentage of cases in which the investigation was completed within the 45 calendar day time frame.
- Figure 4:** Number of Overdue Investigations..... 2  
The number of investigations that exceed the 45 day standard for a particular month.
- Figure 5:** Recurrence of Substantiated Child Maltreatment..... 3  
Of all the children who were victims of substantiated maltreatment, the percentage that had a substantiated report of maltreatment during the previous six months.  
*National Standard: less than or equal to 5.40%*  
Sources: Protective Services Data System, SHINES

### **PERMANENCY 1 – Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.**

- Figure 6:** Child Placement Services Cases ..... 4  
Includes all cases active at some time during the month  
Sources: Internal Data System, SHINES
- Figure 7:** Comparison of Foster Care Entries & Exits..... 4
- Figure 8:** Foster Care Exit Reasons..... 5
- Figure 9:** Foster Care Re-entries..... 5  
Of all the children who entered foster care, the percentage that were discharged from a previous placement within twelve months of the current foster care placement.  
*National Standard: less than or equal to 8.60%*  
Sources: AFCARS, Internal Data System, SHINES
- Figure 10:** Length of Time to Achieve Reunification ..... 6  
Of all the children who exited foster care through reunification with their family, the percentage that reunified in less than twelve months from the date of their last removal from the home.  
*National Standard: greater than or equal to 76.20%*  
Sources: AFCARS, Internal Data System, SHINES

## Definitions and Data Sources cont...

- Figure 11: Children Placed with Relatives** ..... 6  
Of all children in Placement, the percentage that are placed with a relative or a relative foster home. *State Target: greater than or equal to 30.00%*  
Sources: Internal Data System, SHINES
- Figure 12: Adoptions Finalized** ..... 6  
The number of children whose adoption was finalized.  
Source: Social Services Adoption Unit

# HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 2009

## **Safety-Related Outcomes**

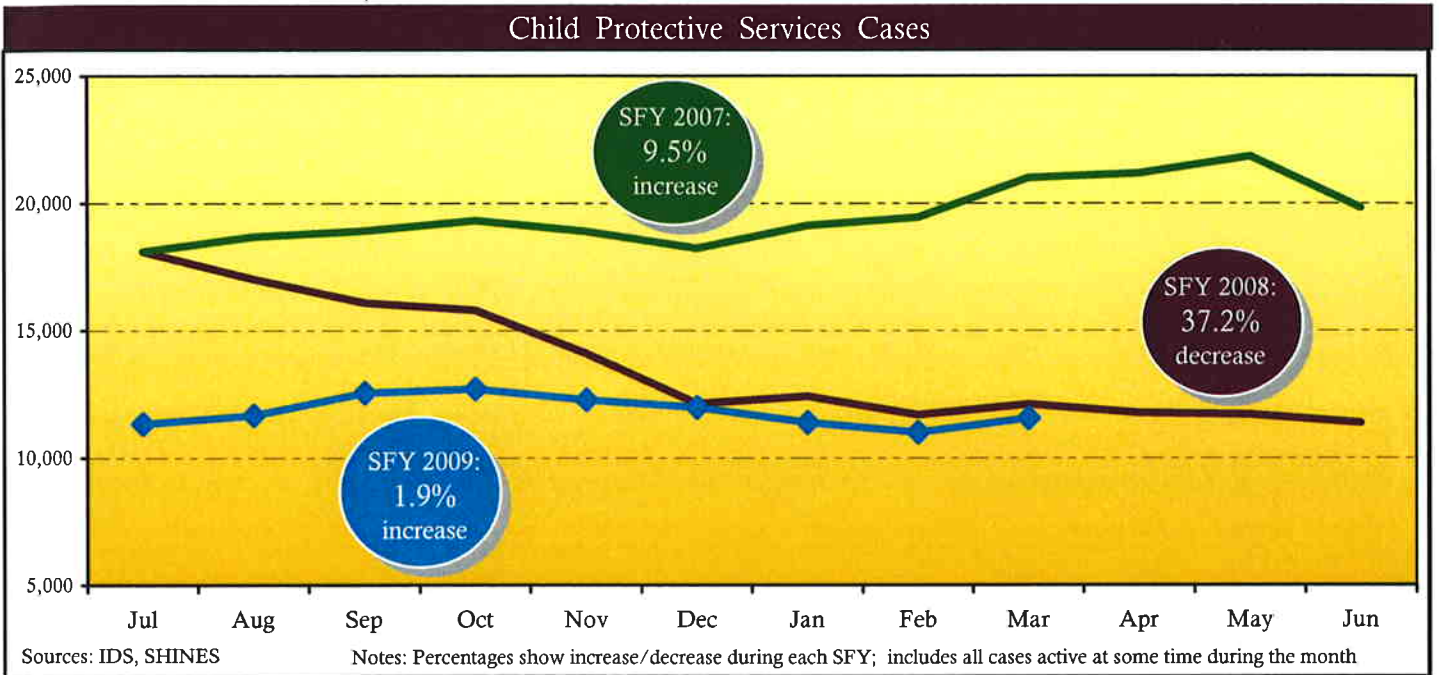
- The number of Child Protective Services cases increased by 5% from February to March 2009.
- Fifty-five percent of all February 2009 reports received Family Support (diversion) Services.
- Thirty percent of the reports received in February 2009 were investigated. Of the reports investigated, 56% were substantiated.
- In March 2009, 99.1% of the investigations were completed timely; a 17.2% increase from March 2007.
- Investigations exceeding the established time frame decreased from 464 in November 2008 to 2 in March 2009.
- Recurrence of substantiated child maltreatment for March 2009 is 2.83%, well below the national standard of 5.40%.

## **Permanency-Related Outcomes**

- The number of children receiving placement services increased by 4% from February to March 2009.
- More children continue to exit care than enter. The majority of children, 86%, exited care to reunification with parents, live with relatives, adoption, or guardianship.
- The length of time to achieve reunification was 56.6% for March; below the national standard of 76.2% for this outcome.

# SAFETY-RELATED OUTCOMES

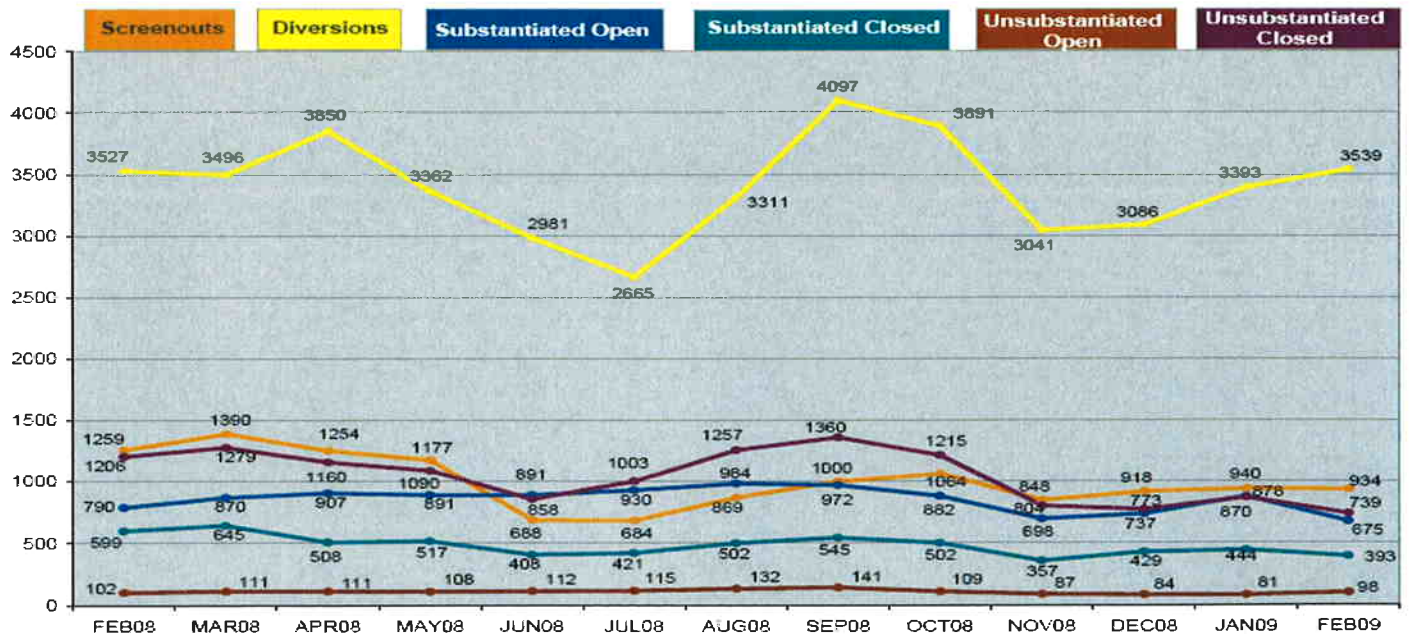
**Figure 1: Number of Child Protective Services Cases (includes investigations and Family Preservation cases).**



Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
11,345	11,679	12,556	12,713	12,279	11,990	11,391	10,999	11,556			
18,115	17,033	16,090	15,801	14,105	12,142	12,428	11,703	12,122	11,769	11,719	11,380
18,115	18,687	18,912	19,319	18,889	18,242	19,139	19,453	21,005	21,182	21,841	19,833

**Figure 2: Disposition of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports**

## Child Abuse and Neglect Reports State (March 2009)\*



Source: IDS, PSDS, SHINES February 2009      \*Data reported on a 1 month delay to allow investigations to be completed      Data Analysis and Reporting Section