

2023 Incidence of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse among the Families, Adults, and Children
Served by the Department of Children and Family Services

This report is provided by the Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to the Children and Family Services Act, 20 ILCS 505/34.6. The statute requires that the Department submit a report to the General Assembly on the incidence of alcohol and other drug abuse among the families, adults, and children served by the Department.

Children and family members involved with DCFS are assessed at multiple entry, transition, and other milestones within the life of a DCFS case. DCFS caseworkers, clinicians, and specialty staff primarily use the Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool to identify and measure service needs. The tables below indicate the number of children and adults involved with DCFS who were identified on a CANS assessment as having actionable substance abuse needs during state fiscal year (SFY) 2019-2023 for comparison. The “actionable” items in the CANS assessment tools are defined as those needing action with a moderate degree of severity or those needing immediate, intensive action.

Tables 1-5 present needs for youth at case opening for cases opening in SFY19 – SFY23.
Tables 6-10 present needs for biological caregivers of youth whose cases opened in SFY19 – SFY23.

Youth Substance Use Need

Table 1. Youth with actionable substance use need based on CANS assessment by age group: SFY19.

Age at Case opening-FY19	# Cases	# with actionable substance use need	% with actionable substance use need
0-5	2045	11	0.5%
6-14	1338	30	2.2%
15-17	311	79	25.4%
Total	3694	120	3.2%

Table 2. Youth with actionable substance use need based on CANS assessment by age group: SFY20.

Age at Case opening-FY20	# Cases	# with actionable substance use need	% with actionable substance use need
0-5	2258	17	0.8%
6-14	1421	25	1.8%
15-17	368	78	21.2%
Total	4047	120	3.0%



Table 3. Youth with actionable substance use need based on CANS assessment by age group: SFY21.

Age at Case opening-FY21	# Cases	# with actionable substance use need	% with actionable substance use need
0-5	2084	13	0.6%
6-14	1330	35	2.6%
15-17	320	62	19.4%
Total	3734	110	2.9%

Table 4. Youth with actionable substance use need based on CANS assessment by age group: SFY22.

Age at Case opening-FY22	# Cases	# with actionable substance use need	% with actionable substance use need
0-5	1859	28	1.5%
6-14	1210	33	2.7%
15-17	273	37	13.6%
Total	3342	98	2.9%

Table 5. Youth with actionable substance use need based on CANS assessment by age group: SFY23.

Age at Case opening-FY23	# Cases	# with actionable substance use need	% with actionable substance use need
0-5	1878	34	1.8%
6-14	1231	24	1.9%
15-17	301	49	16.3%
Total	3410	107	3.1%

Biological Caregivers Substance Use Need

Table 6. Biological caregiver substance use need at case opening by child age at case opening: FY19.

	# of Case Openings in FY19 with at least one biological/natural parent entering caregiver CANS	# of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)	% of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)
Parents of children 0-5 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1757	1057	60.2%
Parents of children 6-14 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1063	624	58.7%
Parents of children 15-17 years old when the spell began (at entry)	202	89	44.1%
Total	3022	1770	58.6%

Table 7. Biological caregiver substance use need at case opening by child age at case opening: FY20.

	# of Case Openings beginning in FY20 with at least one biological/natural parent entering caregiver CANS	# of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)	% of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)
Parents of children 0-5 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1929	1093	56.7%
Parents of children 6-14 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1120	574	51.3%
Parents of children 15-17 years old when the spell began (at entry)	234	82	35.0%
Total	3283	1749	53.3%

Table 8. Biological caregiver substance use need at case opening by child age at case opening: FY21.

	# of Case Openings beginning in FY21 with at least one biological/natural parent entering caregiver CANS	# of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)	% of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)
Parents of children 0-5 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1797	1040	57.9%
Parents of children 6-14 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1063	601	56.5%
Parents of children 15-17 years old when the spell began (at entry)	222	101	45.5%
Total	3082	1741	56.5%

Table 9. Biological caregiver substance use need at case opening by child age at case opening: FY22.

	# of Case Openings beginning in FY22 with at least one biological/natural parent entering caregiver CANS	# of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)	% of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)
Parents of children 0-5 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1608	887	55.2%
Parents of children 6-14 years old when the spell began (at entry)	983	519	52.8%
Parents of children 15-17 years old when the spell began (at entry)	174	67	38.5%
Total	2765	1472	53.2%

Table 10. Biological caregiver substance use need at case opening by child age at case opening: FY23.

	# of Case Openings beginning in FY23 with at least one biological/natural parent entering caregiver CANS	# of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)	% of Case Openings with at least one biological/natural parent with actionable substance use (CANS item #123)
Parents of children 0-5 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1630	920	56.4%
Parents of children 6-14 years old when the spell began (at entry)	1016	555	54.6%
Parents of children 15-17 years old when the spell began (at entry)	195	77	39.5%
Total	2841	1550	54.6%

DCFS collaborates with the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) to provide substance use assessment, treatment, and recovery support services to DCFS-involved families. A summary of services to DCFS-involved youth and adults during state fiscal year 2023 is provided below using the most recently available data.

**State Fiscal Year 2023(FY-23) Services to DCFS Involved Individuals
(Source: Department of Human Services,
Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery)**

DCFS Involved-Gender & Age

	0-18	19-25	26-44	45-64	65+	Total
Female	48	416	2,063	140	5	2,662
Male	77	129	1,015	236	10	1,465
Grand Total	125	544	3076	376	15	4,123

DCFS Involved-Referral Source

Age		0-18	19-25	26-44	45-64	65+	Total
	Child Welfare (DCFS/POS)	50	352	1,578	193	9	2,178
	Criminal Justice Referral	38	69	523	43	1	674
	DHS/SAPP Prevention Provider	2	9	48	6	1	66
	Early Intervention Provider	1	1	7			9
	Employer/EAP			2			2
	Individual	14	58	604	101	2	779
	Other Community Referral	12	63	374	27	1	476
	Other Health Care Provider		13	71	9	1	94
	School	7	1	3			11
	Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Provider	2	6	63	8		79
	Grand Total	125	544	3,076	376	15	4,123

DCFS Involved-Primary Substance

Age		0-18	19-25	26-44	45-64	65+	Total
	Alcohol	13	82	710	117	8	929
	Barbiturates			2			2
	Benzodiazepines	2	5	13			20
	Cocaine/Crack		35	260	28	1	323
	Ecstasy		1	3			4
	Gambling			1			1
	Heroin	1	29	233	45	1	307
	Inhalants			2			2
	Marijuana/Hashish	67	129	390	20	2	605
	Methamphetamine	4	122	603	49		776
	Non-Prescription Methadone			1			1

	None	42	157	968	124	3	1,293
	Other			2			2
	Other Amphetamines	1	2	23	2		28
	Other Hallucinogens			4			4
	Other Non-Barbiturate Sedatives			1			1
	Other Opiates and Synthetics		16	127			151
	Other Stimulants		2	16			18
	Over the Counter			2			2
	PCP			18			19
	Grand Total	125	544	3,076	376	15	4,123

DCFS Involved-Primary Route Administration

Age		0-18	19-25	26-44	45-64	65+	Total
	Inhalation	1	69	445	85	3	602
	Injection IV or Intramuscular	1	38	392	19		449
	Not Applicable	10	40	176	18		244
	Oral	23	146	1,089	164	9	1,430
	Smoking	91	274	1,132	95	3	1,589
	Grand Total	125	544	3,076	376	15	4,123

Data in this report is from individual service data submitted into DARTS (Division's Automated Reporting & Tracking System). Please note that DARTS only collects data for services reimbursed through SUPR contract and Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS). Data on services reimbursed by Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) are not reported by providers into DARTS, and therefore, the admissions and other service information are not included. Totals reflect the unduplicated count of clients within a category and are not meant to reflect a simple sum. Some clients enter treatment more than once in the same year, but their category/demographic has changed. Therefore, the number indicated within a category reflects admissions, not unduplicated clients.