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Multiple 51A Reports

April 2016



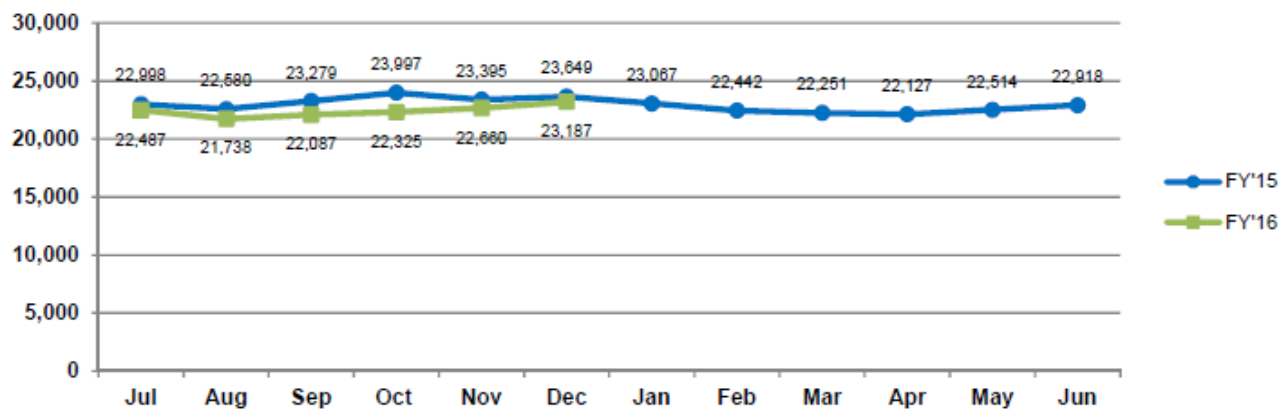
This report is responsive to Section 25 of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 18B which states:

“...the commissioner shall report quarterly on the total number of cases of multiple 51A reports reviewed by the department under subsection (r) of section 51B of chapter 119, the types of those cases, and their resolutions. The report shall be filed with the governor, the clerks of the senate and the house, the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, and the child advocate.”

The Department currently tracks the number of cases with multiple 51A reports and shares that data as part of a quarterly report to the legislature under line item 4800-0015 of chapter 46 of the acts of 2015. Shown below is data included in the most recent of those quarterly reports to the legislature, Q2 of FY2016. As is noted in the graph’s caption, the data does not reflect if these multiple reports are filed on the same or separate incidents.

Multiple 51A Reports

11. Families (Count of Children) Receiving Multiple 51A Reports within a 10-Month Period



There can be multiple 51As for one incident; therefore, some of these children only had one incident of reported abuse/neglect for which multiple 51As were filed.

December 2015: The number of children with multiple 51As within a 10-Month Period (4/1/15 through 12/30/15) was 23,187 (2.0% reduction over the same time period in FY'15). Of these 23,187 children with multiple 51As: 3,197 children had 51As that were all screened-out, 2,843 children were in more than one supported investigation, and 59 children were in more than one initial assessment with a finding of concern.

The Department is currently developing the capacity to track information regarding the area clinical reviews and regional clinical reviews required under subsection (r) of section 51B of chapter 119. Area clinical reviews occur when three or more reports involving separate incidents have been filed on any child in a family within a 12 month period. Regional clinical reviews occur when three or more reports involving separate incidents have been filed on any child in a family within a three month period.