The Florida State University Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation 2025 Annual Report: The Supervised Visitation Database Case and Client Statistical Analysis

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Case and Client Statistical Analysis Results

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025

Federal Fiscal Year

Cases: 1,592   Clients: 6,656   Services: 29,480

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, 2024 to September 30, 2025, the 12 months since the last report. A total of 46 supervised visitation providers in Florida contributed information to the database during this timeframe.

For the year, from 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2025, the total number of documented cases utilizing supervised visitation programs was 1,592, the number of clients served was 6,656 (2,976 children, 1,908 visitors, and 1,772 custodians/others), and the number of services provided was 29,480. This is the number of completed or terminated services only, and does not include intake sessions, scheduled but cancelled services or no-shows. Overall, the numbers are down 1% from 2024.

The amount of missing data has *continued to decline* over the last eight 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.

The following are the 2025 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 climbing slightly from last year at 9.1%.

Referral Source

	Frequency	Percent
Dependency Case	1291	81.4
DV Injunction	146	9.1
Dissolution of Marriage	78	4.8
Never Married/Paternity	43	2.7
Criminal Case	5	.3
Self-Referred	15	.9
Other	14	.8
TOTAL	1,592	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 28% to 29.3%** this year, while the percentage of primary substance abuse cases declined from 41% to 36.8%, edging back up towards 38%, the 2022 numbers. The percentage of child abuse/neglect cases rose slightly from 21% to 24.2%.

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
Child Abuse / Neglect	386	24.2
Domestic Violence	467	29.3
Parental Substance Abuse	587	36.8
Parental Mental Health	90	6
Parental Criminal Activity	5	.5
Other Parental Misconduct	57	3.5
Other	0	0
TOTAL	1,592	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 36.8% of cases this year were referred to supervised visitation primarily for parental substance abuse, 21.8% of the remaining cases listed parental substance abuse as an additional allegation, so **58.6% of all cases reported substance abuse** as an issue. This is a slight decrease from last year. Similarly, while 6% of cases had parental mental health as a primary reason for referral, 16.2% of cases (down from 18% last year) listed it as an additional issue which adds up to 22.2% cases. Combined, these two issues are present in 80% of all cases.

Also of note is 29.3% of cases listed DV as the primary reason for services, and 24.8% of the cases also listed it as an additional allegation, meaning **54.1% of all cases had DV as a component.**

Additional Allegations

	Frequency	% of Additional Allegations
Child Abuse / Neglect	202	17.1
Domestic Violence	295	24.8
Parental Substance Abuse	259	21.8
Parental Mental Health	191	16.2
Parental Criminal Activity	28	2.3
Other Parental Misconduct	211	17.7

Fear of Abduction	(97)	
Environmental Concerns	(30)	
Undermining Custodial Parent	(26)	
Failure to Protect	(21)	
Prolonged Parental Absence	(37)	
		100
TOTAL	1,186	

Primary Service Requested

This chart identifies the primary service(s) 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, parenting plans, 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 remained low.

The number of Parent Education/Planning listed as the <u>primary service</u> increased dramatically from 16% to 22.5%. We are not sure of the cause of this uptick but perhaps the fact that so many cases are now being handled by internal CBC case managers has allowed for inclusion of many more parent educational cases without supervised visitation.

Primary Service Requested

	Frequency	% of all Cases
Supervised Visitation	1301	81.7
Monitored Exchange	12	.1
Parent Education/Plan	386	19.2
Therapeutic Supervision	32	1.0
Visitation Compliance	2	.0
Supervised Phone Visit	5	.0
TOTAL	1738	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 decrease in

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virtual visits (4.3% down to 3% in 2024 and 2.8% in 2025) as most programs only use supervised phone or internet visits in rare occasions. Programs are still utilizing virtual visits when requested or required.

Description of Services

	Frequency	Percent
(In person) Supervised Visitation	27,677	93.9
Monitored Exchange	586	2.1
Supervised Phone/Internet Visit	843	2.8
Therapeutic Supervision	84	.2
Intake/Additional Service	290	1.0
TOTAL	29,480	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. Since 2022, the numbers of interns and volunteers used to provide services have increased, and this year they are up from 4% to 10.5%.

Person Providing Service

	Frequency	Percent
Paid Staff	26,326	89.3
Intern	3,096	10.5
Volunteer	30	.1
Total	29,336	99.9
Missing	21	.1
TOTAL	29,480	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
Male	1,517	51
Female	1,456	49
Unknown	3	.00
TOTAL	2,976	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. The category Two or More Races saw a slight decrease, as did the number of White children, from 50% to 44.4%. The increase was reflected in the Black and Hispanic categories.

Child's Race

	Frequency	Percent
White	1,317	44.4
Hispanic	393	13.2
Black	932	31.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	18	.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	13	.4
Two or More Races	296	9.9
Middle Eastern/N.African	7	.2
Total	2,976	100
Missing	0	
TOTAL	2,976	100

Child's Age

More than 75% of children in Florida's Supervised Visitation programs are under age 10. The majority of those children are age 6 and under (57.2%), and the largest category is infants and toddlers, 0-3 (34.5%).

Child's Age

	Frequency	Percent
0 - 3	1,024	34.5
4 - 6	676	22.7
7 - 9	556	18.5
10 - 12	377	12.6
13 - 15	243	8.1
16+	95	3.3
Total	2,966	100
Missing	10	.1
TOTAL	2,966	100

Parent's Marital Status

According to the collected data, a vast majority 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 **increased last year to about 72%, and now in 2024 to 74%.**

Parent's Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent
Unmarried	2,314	71.7
Married	268	9.0
Separated	393	13.2
Divorced	181	6.1
Total	2,976	100
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL	2,976	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 316 visitors.

Visitor's Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	665	34.8
Female	1,243	65.2
Unknown	-	
TOTAL	1,908	100

In the last six years, women have emerged as the most common visitor by a 2:1 margin. Since 2018 the percentage of women has increased steadily from 60% in 2018 to 66% in 2024, with a slight downtick in 2025 to 65.2%. This likely reflects that most cases are dependency cases.

Visitor's Race

The majority of visitors continue to be white. In 2025, 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
White	953	50.4
Hispanic	271	14.2
Black	551	28.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	18	.9
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	.1
Two or More Races	105	5.5
Middle Eastern/N. African	3	.1

Total	1,904	99.9
Unknown	4	.1
TOTAL	1,908	100

Visitor's Relationship to Child

The most common *primary* visitor (1 per case) was a parent to the child client (98.9%). As in previous years, mothers showed higher representation as visitors than fathers.

Visitor's Relationship to Child

	Frequency	Percent
Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)	1,033	64.87
Father (biological, adoptive, or step)	542	34.04
Grandparent	12	.72
Sibling	1	.07
Other Family Member	2	.15
Foster Parent	2	.15
Total	1,592	100
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL	1,592	100

The following chart represents the 316 additional visitors to the primary visitors. Approximately 73% 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
Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)	126	40
Father (biological, adoptive, or step)	104	33

	Frequency	Percent
Grandparent	47	15
Sibling	31	10
Other Family Member	6	2
Non-Relative Caregiver	1	0
Other	1	0
Total	316	100
Missing	0	0
TOTAL	316	100

Visitor's Annual Income

As in previous years, the majority of primary visitors are below the poverty level – approximately 59% below $20,000 and perhaps as much as 77.4% if the family poverty line is used (includes less than $29,999 category). In 2023, the number of visitors in the lowest category dropped for the first time since 2017. In 2024 the drop continued moving from 52% down to 47%. Gains were seen in all categories from $20–29k and above.

Visitor's Annual Income

	Frequency	Percent
Less than $10,000	722	45.8
$10,000 - $19,999	225	14.1
$20,000 - $29,999	286	17.5
$30,000 - $39,999	165	10.3
$40,000 and above	158	9.9
Total	1,556	97.6
Unknown	36	2.4
TOTAL	1,592	100

Custodian's Gender

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

Custodian's Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	2926	17.8
Female	1,286	81.4
Unknown	14	.8
TOTAL	1,592	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 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 6.5% to 11%.

Custodian's Race

	Frequency	Percent
White	835	52.4
Hispanic	219	13.8
Black	393	24.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	.5
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	.2
Two or More Races	130	8.1
Middle Eastern/N. African	5	.3
Total	1,592	100
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL	1,592	100

Custodian's Relationship to Child

Custodian's Relationship to Child

	Frequency	Percent
Mother (biological, adoptive, or step)	247	15.5
Father (biological, adoptive, or step)	108	6.7
Grandparent	162	10.1
Sibling	7	.4
Other Family Member	138	8.6
Non-Custodial Relative	229	14.9
Foster Parent	629	39.5
Group Home	39	2.4
Unknown	14	.8
Other	19	1.1
TOTAL	1,592	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, as in 2024, Foster Parent (39.5%) supersedes Parent as the most common caregiver (22.2%). Following Foster Parents and Parents, Non-custodial Relatives were the third 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. Often, it Is impossible to know a foster parent or group home's income. Similar to last year, the number of custodians in the higher income ranges has been increasing. It appears that almost 23% (down from 27% in 2023 and 26% in 2024) of the custodians earn less than $20,000 per year. With federally designated poverty levels at $27,750 for a family of four, about 30-35% of custodians fall beneath the poverty threshold, down from about 40-43% of the custodians in 2024.

Custodian's Income

	Frequency	Percent
Less than $10,000	246	15.4
$10,000 - $19,999	109	6.8
$20,000 - $29,999	203	12.7
$30,000 - $39,999	373	23.7

$40,000 and above	554	34.7
Total	1,485	93.3
Unknown	107	6.7
TOTAL	1,592	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 more 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 four years.

Florida Child Support Program Participation

	Frequency	% of all Cases
YES	350	11
NO	2,165	68
Don't Know	669	21
TOTAL	3184	100

 *Total of 3,184 represents both Visitor and Custodian for 1,592 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 2023, the number returned to previous levels (after a drop during the covid years) with 52.7% of all cases and in 2024, the number of cases reporting domestic violence as a component is 48%. **In 2025, the number of cases reporting domestic violence as a component is 49%**

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.

Unexpected Incidents

	Critical Incident Cases	% of all Cases
2021	174	9.4%
2022	156	9.3%
2023	136	7.6%
2024	122	7.6%
2025	110	6.9%

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. Since 2021, the percentage of cases with unexpected incident has dropped steadily.

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: **110 (6.9% of all cases)**
Total number of Critical Incidents: **141 (.48% of all services)**

Unexpected Incident Types

	# of Incidents
Visitor became ill	3
Visitor showed favoritism	2
Visitor threatened other adult	1
Visitor arrested on-site	4
Child accidentally injured	8
Visitor refused staff directions	35
Visitor physically harmed child	4
Visitor threatened child	2
Visitor came to visit intoxicated	9
Visitor used corporal punishment	2
Custodian used corporal punishment	1
Child refused to participate	29
Visitor Threatened Staff	5
Child became ill	2
Custodian refused redirection	1
Custodian threatened staff	1
Other	1
TOTAL	110

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In 2025, the number of unexpected incidents dropped somewhat but the percentage of services with an unexpected incident remained about the same. 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 program sites.

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
Case worker notified	19
Incident report written	36
Incident discussed with violator	71
No action taken	2
Police/Sheriff/emergency personnel called	67
Service terminated	30
Staff called abuse hotline	4
Violator was arrested	1
Closed case due to critical incident	1
Other	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 2024, cancellations were 6.987, which is down from 9,761 in 2023. In 2025 the number of cancellations remained fairly steady at 6857

Cancellation of Visits

Cancelled By	# of Incidents
Visitor	4,409
Custodian (not foster parent)	617
Foster parent	309
DCF/CBC	394
SV program	571
Other	542
Missing	15
TOTAL	6,857

Reasons for cancellation are varied and listed below. Often, no reason is given. Approximately 17% of all scheduled services were No-Shows. Also of note is the number of services canceled for Non-Confirmation: 521. Many sites require confirmation of the visit to ensure their program resources are not wasted on unexpected no-shows.

Reason for Cancellations

Reason for Cancellation	# of times
Conflicting appointment	259
Transportation	512
Work	324
Illness	861
Holidays	290
Weather	153
Death	27
Child's activities	87
Incarceration	189
Vacation	159
Change in court order	33
Child refused to visit	61
Staff resources unavailable	30
Other emergency	81
Non-confirmation	558
Other	923
Unknown	480
Security Unavailable	5
TOTAL	5,032

Case Closures

In the 2024-2025 analysis period, 672 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
Excessive no-shows/cancellations	96
Completion of court ordered term of service	46
Moved to unsupervised visits (per court)	104
Termination of parental rights or court ordered cessation of visits	44
Loss of contact with visitor or custodian	19
Family reunified	27
Child refused to visit	3
SVP's time or visit limit reached	9
Safety concerns	6

Termination for violation of other rules	5
Excessive demands on program resources	2
Unexpected incidents	4
Refusal to pay fees	1
Other	308
Total	672

The number of cases closed for no-shows and for termination of parental rights continued to drop in 2025.

As seen below, the number of cases closed for safety reasons jumped up this year.

Case Closures Due to Safety Concerns

	Case Closure Due to Safety Reasons
2016	52
2017	55
2018	42
2019	48
2020	22
2021	12
2022	43
2023	5
2024	5
2025	17

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 670 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
SA Present	119	17.7%	551	
SA Prior to services	84	70.5% of SA cases	10	491
SA While case was open	9	7.5% of SA cases	14	522
SA During a service	2	1.6% of SA cases	13	530
SA Known after services	1	.8% of SA cases	5	539

Arrests for Violent Crime

In the 670 cases that programs **closed** in the 2023-2024 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
Arrests for violent crime (AVC)	43	5%	627	
AVC Prior to services	26	60% of AVC cases	8	511
AVC While case was open	7	16.2% of AVC cases	15	523
AVC During a service	5	11.6% of AVC cases	14	531
AVC Known after services	2	4.6% of AVC cases	6	539

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

1. **Reasons for referral:** The three main reasons judges order cases to supervised visitation remain parental substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence. The Clearinghouse remains committed to ongoing training on issues related to these dynamics.
2. **Fewer resources overall.** Fewer cases from family court are being referred to supervised visitation, even though programs and judges both report a need for services in those cases. Instead, dependency cases receive the most services in supervised visitation, and programs consistently report fewer support dollars and chronically reduced funding for family court services. That combination may make judges in family court cases feel compelled to allow untrained family

members and friends to provide oversight in volatile cases, leaving children vulnerable. Trained program staff offer the most attention to safety.

Conclusion: Again in 2025 we reiterate: DCF's provision of training and technical assistance is an important way to support Florida's SV programs. For more than ten year in a row, we have emphasized the stark need for increased SV program funding as well as the implementation of standards statewide for supervised visitation programs and monitored exchange programs. However, no new funding streams have been created.

We look to the state of Florida to mandate funding and standards.

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