

# LUZERNE COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

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We all play a role  
when it comes to the  
health, safety, and well-being  
of the children in our community.



# MISSION STATEMENT

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To assure that children are protected and live free from abuse and neglect, and are given the opportunity to grow and develop to their fullest potential through the active use of family and community strengths and resources

## OUR VISION

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To enhance the quality of life for children by becoming a leader in developing partnership between families and the community, and to protect children, preserve families, and assure all children a permanent home

# CHILD WELFARE IN PENNSYLVANIA

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In Pennsylvania, child welfare services are State supervised and County administered. All 67 children and youth agencies in PA are licensed by the Department of Public Welfare through its Office of Children Youth and Families.

# ROLE AND FUNCTION OF DEPARTMENTS

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- Screening
- Intake-Child Protective Services (CPS) and General Protective Services (GPS)
- Ongoing-In-Home and Out of Home
- Adolescent Unit
- Independent Living

❖ **24 Emergency Response**



# INTAKE-FIRST TO RECEIVE ALLEGED ABUSE REPORT AND FIRST TO RESPOND

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## CPS

- Immediate or 24 hr. response time
- Allegations of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, medical neglect, and others
- Co-occurring criminal investigation
- Child Advocacy Center interview/exam
- Indicated/Unfounded

## GPS

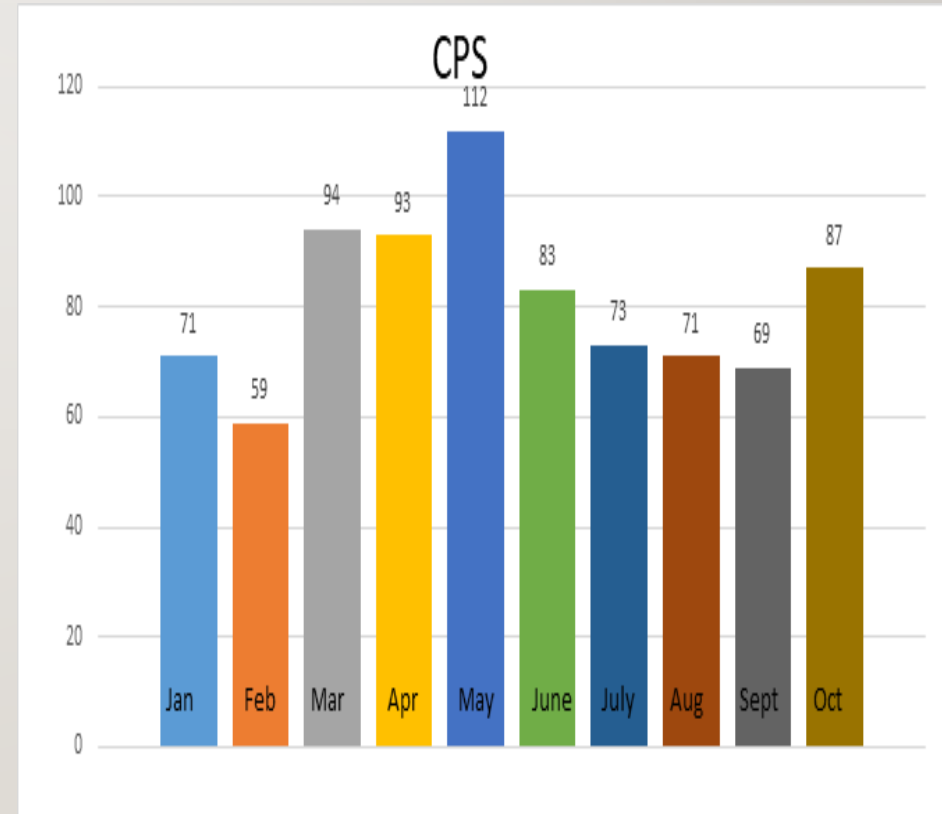
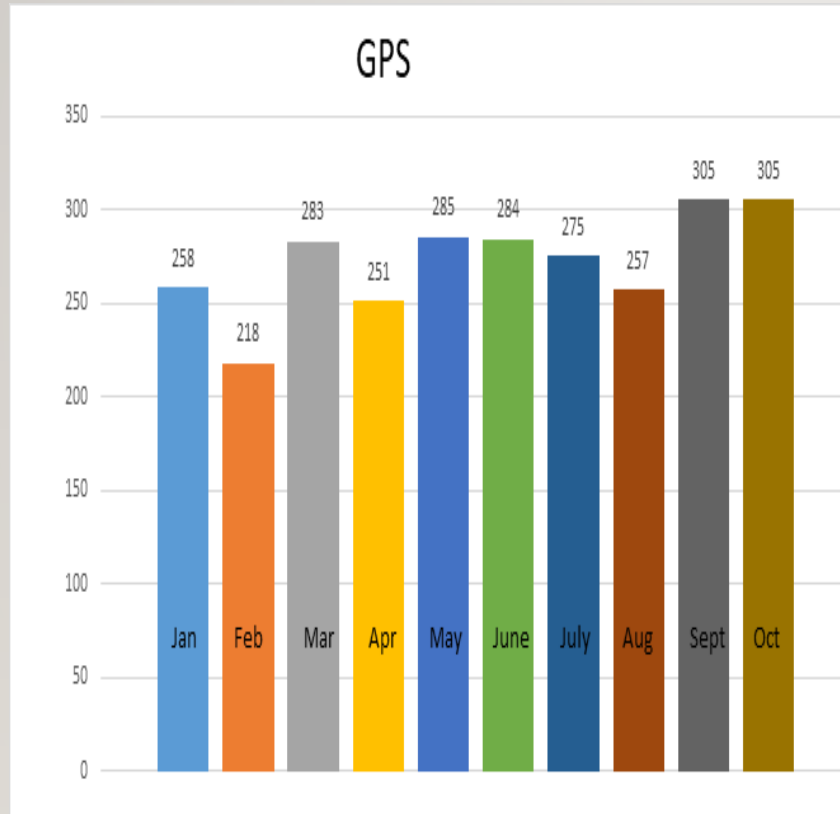
- Response time varies according to alleged risk (immediate to 10 days)
- Allegations of parental drug addiction, mental health concerns, inadequate living conditions, truancy, and others
- Unlikely to be criminal component/CAC involvement
- Valid/Invalid

# TOTAL OF CPS AND GPS INVESTIGATIONS

*\*TO 11/10/2021\**

GPS TOTAL: 2721

CPS TOTAL: 812



# NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED

*\*TO 11/20/2021\**

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- Number of referrals received by the Agency - 6,788
- Number of families receiving ongoing service - 3,654
- Number of children achieving permanency - 296
- Number of children entering placement – 886
- Number of children adopted - 72



# COLLABORATION



- County Agencies
- Law Enforcement
- Schools and Child Care Facilities
- Medical and Mental Health Providers
- Relatives/Neighbors
- Religious Communities
- Court System/Guardian Ad Litem
- Community Service Providers



# SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Children shouldn't have to worry about ----

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- Where they are going to sleep
  - When they will eat
  - Who will take care of them
  - What will happen tomorrow
  - Being sick, frightened or safe
  - Being able to go to school
- Many parents served in the child welfare system experience concerns related to; mental health, substance use disorders, poverty, affordable and safe housing, reliable child care, unemployment, lack of knowledge of child development, transportation and limited or no positive support systems.

# SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS FOR FAMILY PRESERVATION AND REUNIFICATION

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- Wraparound Services, Community and School Based Behavioral Health
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Adult Mental Health
- Substance Use Disorders (SUD) Treatment
- Treatment for Pregnant Substance Using parents
- Trauma Therapy
- Victims of Abuse supports
- Parenting Services
- Visitation Services
- Family Group decision making

# FUTURE GOALS OF LUZERNE COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

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- Focus on stabilizing our workforce.
- Increase prevention services to keep children and families engaged in the community.
- Continue to achieve permanency in a timely manner.
- Continue our cross-systems collaboration with County stakeholders.

# COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS



**Luzerne County Children and Youth Services: (570) 826-8710**  
**Pennsylvania Child Abuse Hotline- Childline 1-800-932-0313**