

FINDING A: CHILDREN BELONG IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Child Maltreatment at All-Time Lows, Racial Disproportionalities Remain

- At 26% of total referrals, **parents were the top referral source to the OCYFA in 2024**. Most parents called about ongoing investigations by DCF and related communication concerns, visitation schedules, struggles with case plans, and questions about their rights and responsibilities.
- **DCF has reduced the number of children it has taken into foster care over the last few years**, and Vermont State’s Attorneys have filed fewer CHINS cases. As measured by DCF substantiations, in 2023 Vermont saw an all-time low in the number of unique child victims of maltreatment, at 639.
- **Vermont’s rate of entries into foster care per 1,000 children remains well above the national average**. Black children continue to be disproportionately taken into foster care in Vermont, making up 1.8% of the general population, but 3% of the children in foster care.

Vermont Child in Need of Care or Supervision (“CHINS”) Case Filings, FY22 - FY24

Statutory Basis: 33 VSA § 5102(3)	Filed FY22	% of total	Filed FY23	% of total	Filed FY24	% of total
CHINS A: Abused / Abandoned	54	6%	57	7%	41	7%
CHINS B: Without Parental Care or Supervision	695	71%	578	69%	407	65%
CHINS C: Beyond Control	65	7%	57	7%	51	8%
CHINS D: Truant	160	16%	142	17%	130	20%
Total CHINS A-D	974	100%	834	100%	629	100%