

- The number of child welfare referrals has increased by **37%** from 2006 to 2015.
- In 2015, **37%** of referrals were accepted for assessment.
- In 2015, **22%** of the assessments were determined to be founded for abuse or neglect.
- The number of assessments opened to a case for services has declined by **30%** from 2006 to 2015.

CHILD PROTECTION TRENDS IN COLORADO

This table shows the number of unduplicated referrals, assessments, founded assessments, and ongoing cases opened from assessment handled by child welfare for abuse, neglect, or children beyond the control of their parents or guardians over the last ten years. These data represent children served due to abuse or neglect as well as youth beyond the control of their parents, the two primary populations served by the Colorado Child Welfare system.

Calendar Year	Referrals	Assessments	% Assessed	Founded Assessments	% Founded	Cases Opened*	% Opened
2006	67,521	35,291	52%	7,334	21%	9,924	28%
2007	69,872	36,821	53%	7,267	20%	9,614	26%
2008	73,546	37,905	52%	7,538	20%	9,238	24%
2009	74,706	38,273	51%	7,575	20%	8,230	22%
2010	80,118	37,859	47%	7,559	20%	7,684	20%
2011	80,472	34,752	43%	6,979	20%	7,164	21%
2012	83,086	34,181	41%	7,024	21%	7,313	21%
2013	83,504	33,234	40%	6,730	20%	7,033	21%
2014	84,782	31,792	37%	6,898	22%	6,977	22%
2015	92,502	33,793	37%	7,303	22%	6,979	21%

Source: Trails

* Cases opened represents new traditional child welfare cases being opened from assessments, closed cases re-opened as a result of an assessment, assessments connected to existing open cases, and Family Assessment Response (FAR) cases in which services were provided.

The number of referrals statewide has increased by **37%** over a ten year period from 2006 to 2015. Moreover, the number of referrals increased by **10%** from 2014 to 2015, largely due to the implementation of the Statewide Child Protection Hotline. The number of assessments decreased by **4%** from 2006 to 2015. The percentage of referrals that are accepted for assessment has decreased from **52%** in 2006 to **37%** in 2015 as a result of enhanced, team-based screening practices and changes in county screening policies.

The number of cases opened has declined from 2006 to 2015 by **30%**. The decline in opened cases over this span can be attributed to better screening and serving lower risk families through collaborative community efforts and prevention services, rather than through traditional ongoing child protection cases, which is consistent with best practice and other national trends.

Referrals, Assessments, Founded Assessments and Cases Opened by Year

