NSW child protection reports involving children with teenage parents in 2016–17

Key findings from an analysis of children who were reported to NSW Family and Community Services (FACS) in 2016–2017 as being at risk of significant harm (ROSH), and had at least one teenage parent at the time of the report.

Who was reported?

- 1,185 children and young people reported at ROSH had at least one teenage parent (15-19 yrs)
- 48% were Aboriginal
- 99.6% were aged four years or younger
- 26% of all children reported at ROSH
- 9 in 10 parents of these children had a child protection history

Children reported at ROSH who have teenage parents are more likely to be involved in a cycle of intergenerational abuse and neglect.

Where did most reports come from?

- 28% of all first time ROSH reports for children with teenage parents came from NSW Health

What were the key reported issues?

- 42% Domestic violence
- 41% Neglect
- 40% Caregiver drug/alcohol abuse
- 43% Physical abuse

How did FACS respond?

- Compared to the overall ROSH population, children with teenage parents were 1.7 times more likely to enter out-of-home care
- The support needs and negative child protection outcomes associated with having teenage parents were greater among Aboriginal children
- Children with teenage parents were more likely to be seen following their report and found to be unsafe as a result

Notes:

- The data were sourced from the FACS client information system relating to child protection and out-of-home care – CIW - KIDS snapshot environment, 2016–17.
- These figures were sourced from the FACSIAR Brief, “NSW child protection reports involving children with teenage parents in 2016-17”. The full brief is available at www.facs.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/674192/Teenage-Parents-FACSIAR-Brief.pdf.
- This infographic was produced by FACS Insights Analysis and Research, part of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. Further publications and statistics can be found at www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources.