

SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

23

Federal Fiscal Year 2023

NEW JERSEY COURTS



New Jersey Courts

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INTRODUCTION

This annual report on New Jersey's Supervised Visitation Program is presented to the governor, the legislature, and the chief justice of the Supreme Court as required by N.J.S.A. 2A:12-11. Compiled by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), this report covers the period from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 and includes data from visitation programs across counties managed by the AOC Family Practice Division.

Established by the Legislature in 1984 under N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq., the program was created to recognize the significant psychological impact that a parent's absence can have on the child and the parent. Its goal is to support and maintain the bonding between children and absent parents while prioritizing the safety and well-being of the child.

Since 1997, the New Jersey Judiciary has received annual federal Access and Visitation grant funds to support the program. These grants facilitate the creation and maintenance of programs that enable non-custodial parents to visit their children. Funds are allocated to counties based on their needs and the number of families served. While 20 of New Jersey's 21 counties participate in this funded program, Bergen County does not, though it does provide visitation services funded locally.

The program offers supervised visitation and neutral exchange services, ensuring safe and monitored interactions in designated community facilities. Neutral exchange services specifically manage the safe transfer of children between parents.

As part of the New Jersey Judiciary's broader mission to provide effective services to families, the program has faced challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020. Although some services continued both in-person and remotely, the pandemic led to a reduction in service levels, and some counties have yet to resume pre-pandemic service volumes.

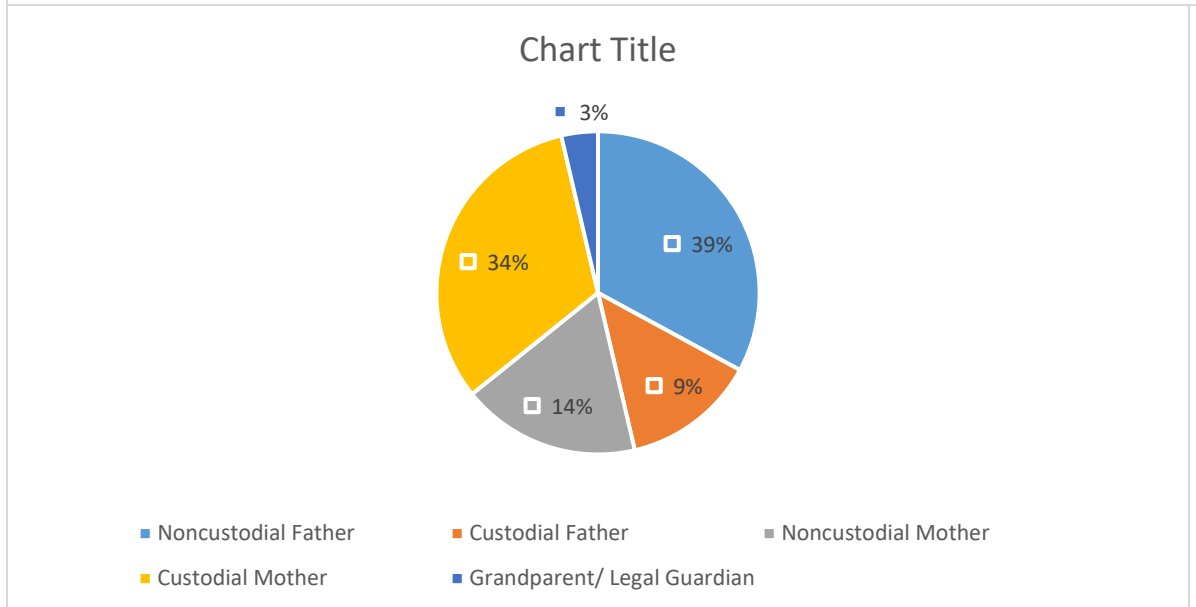
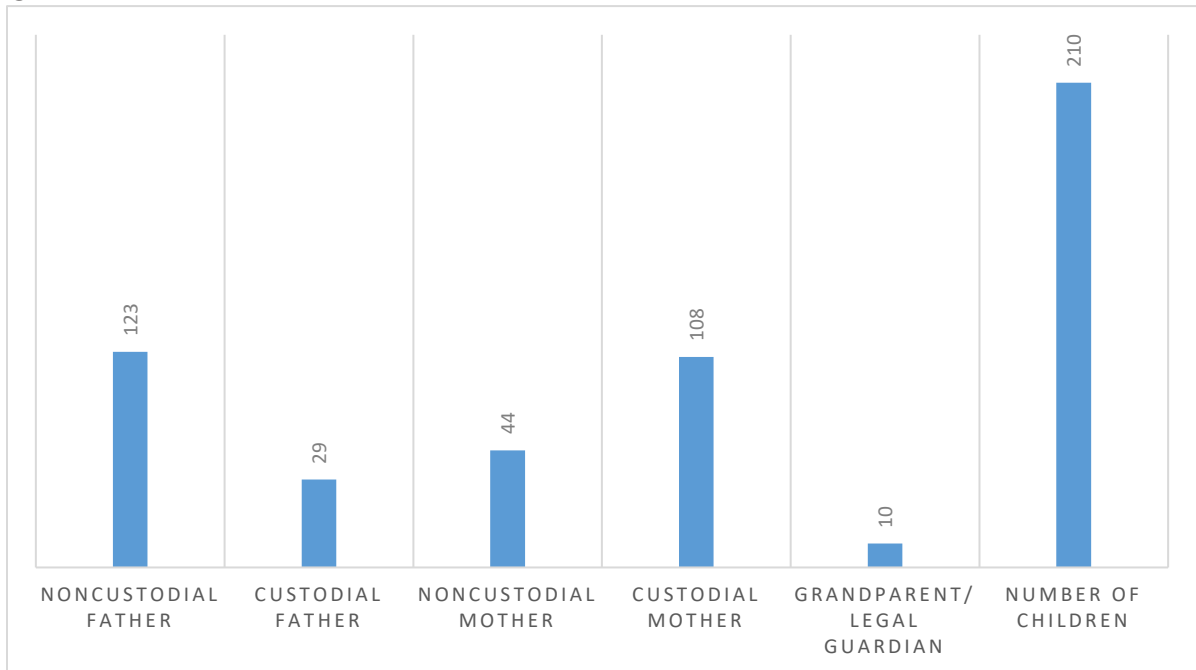
In 2025, we will be working with our local stakeholders to establish viable programs in each county.

SUPERVISED VISITATION STATISTICAL DATA

Client Information

The program strives to provide services that support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and time with their children. Some of the allowable services outlined in the statute involve the participation of both parents. As depicted in Chart A below, of the 314 parents or guardians that received services, non-custodial fathers represent the largest group served at 39 percent, followed by custodial mothers at 34 percent.

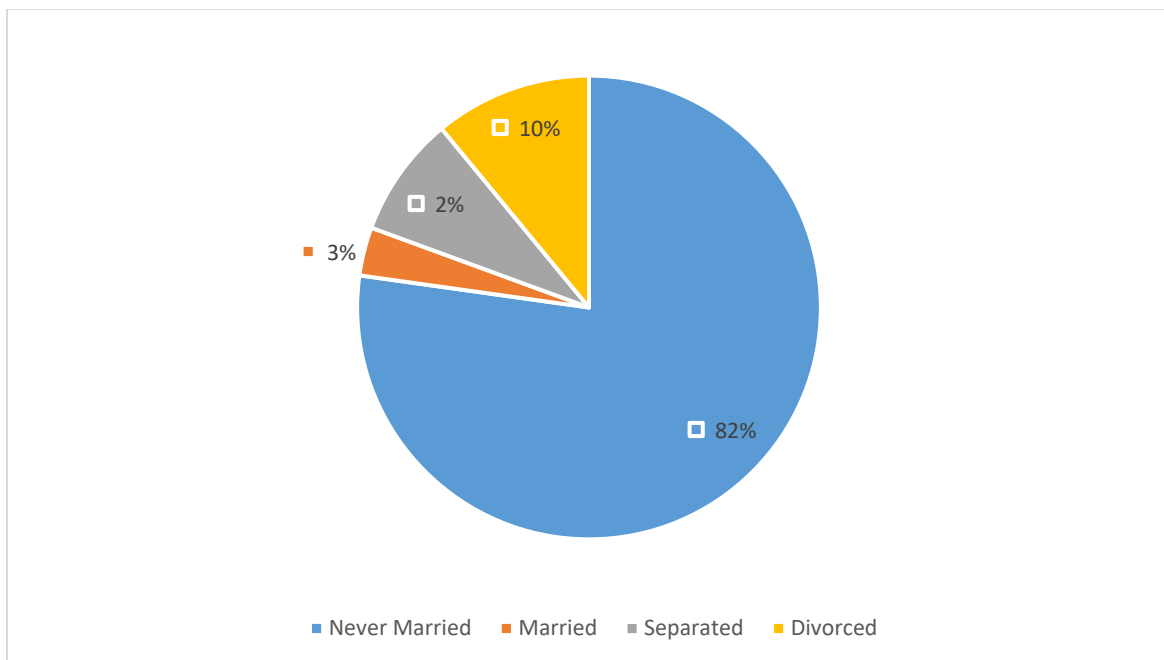
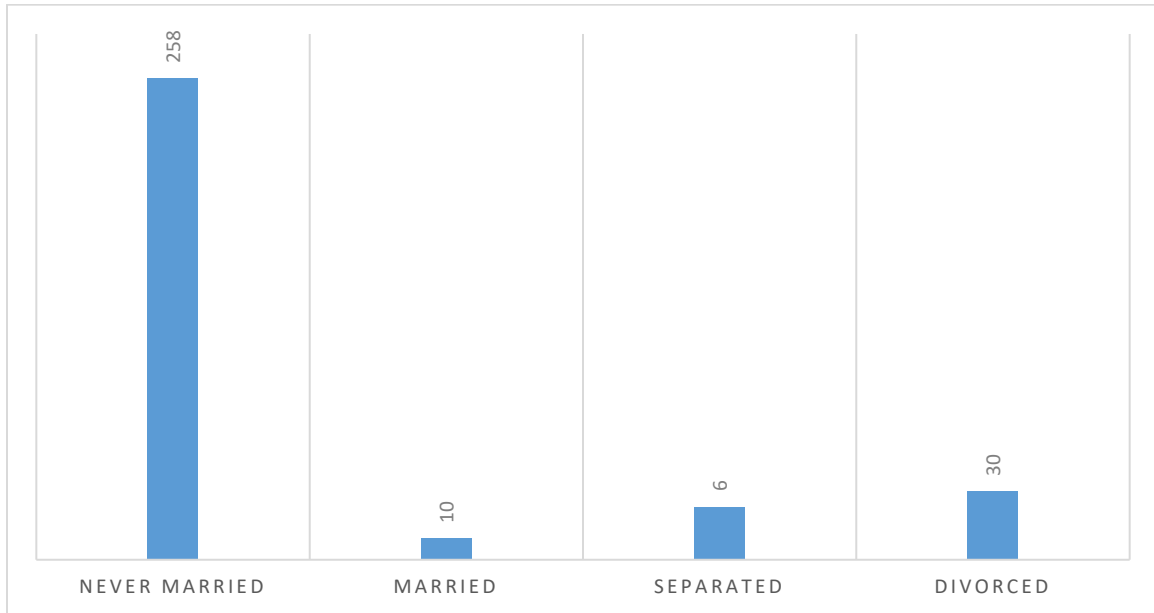
Chart A



Marital Status of Participants

Unmarried parents must often navigate multiple, and frequently overlapping, legal proceedings to resolve issues of child support and parenting time. The program can bridge this gap by offering a reasonable and affordable pathway for non-custodial parents to seek access to and parenting time with their children. As depicted in Chart B below, in the program overseen by the Judiciary, 82 percent of parents were never married to the other parent.

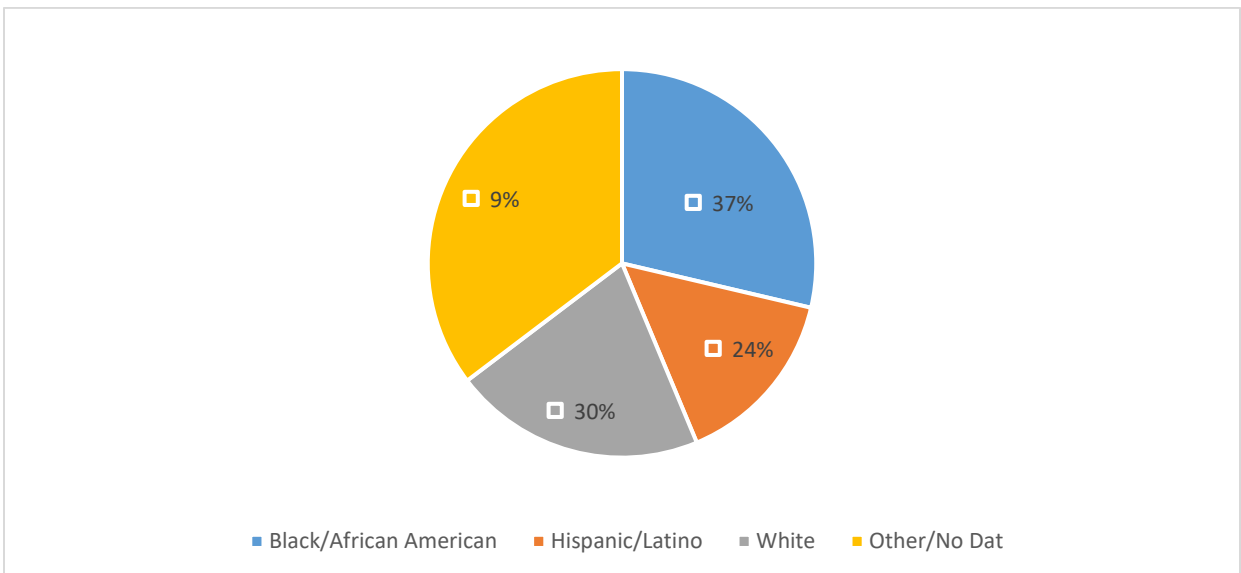
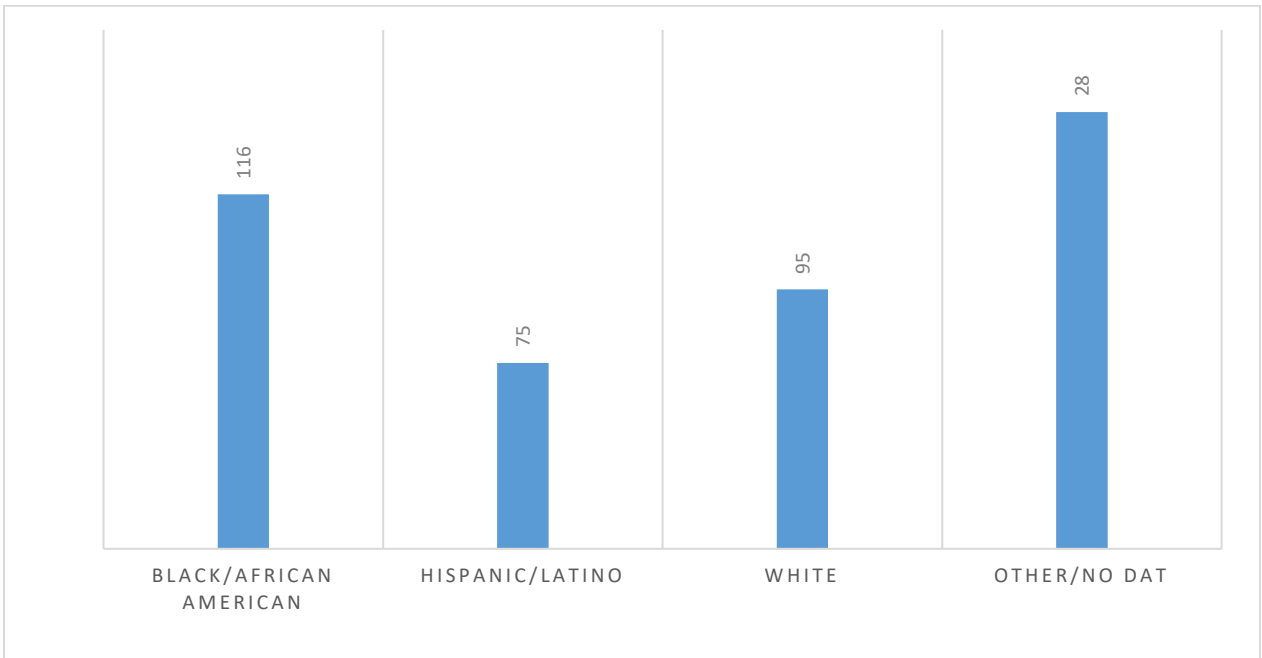
Chart B



Self-Reported Race/Ethnicity

Most participating parents self-identify as belonging to one of three racial or ethnic groups: White, Black/African American, and Hispanic or Latino. Of the 314 parties that received services, the data revealed that Black/African American parents constituted 37 percent of the supervised visitation caseload, White constituted 30 percent, and Hispanic/Latino accounted for 24 percent of the total caseload. The remaining 9 percent of participants self-identified among the following racial groupings: American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, two or more races, or other/data not reported.

Chart C



Involving both parents in their children's lives positively influences their development. Programs such as supervised visitation, which enhance non-custodial contact, offer valuable opportunities for children's social, emotional, and academic growth.

These programs also ensure that children experience a safe, conflict-free environment. The Judiciary is committed to promoting effective communication and collaboration among all stakeholders in the supervised visitation process.

The statewide program aims to uphold and implement consistent, high-quality practices across the state, focusing on fairness and ensuring the continued availability of essential visitation services.

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: Dec. 31, 2024

I. Administration of the Program

The following is a description of the New Jersey Judiciary's Supervised Visitation Program.

A. Administrator

N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq. designates the administrative director of the courts as the administrator of the program. The legislation sets forth the specific duties and responsibilities of the administrator, which includes arranging for technical assistance to program coordinators in the counties.

B. State Coordinator

The state coordinator of the program, as part of the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts, serves as the program's statewide manager, ensuring its compliance with the legislation, court rules and the procedures manual. The state coordinator also provides technical assistance to the counties.

C. County Coordinators

In each county, a supervised visitation program county coordinator (hereafter referred to as county coordinator) manages the program at the local (Superior Court) level, reviews all cases referred for program participation, schedules sites and volunteers to meet visitation schedules, and submits statistical data to the state coordinator. The county coordinator ensures that the screening, training, supervising, and managing of all staff and volunteers in the program comply with approved standards. County coordinators report matters specific to the program to the vicinage family division manager. (Note: Bergen County is the only county that does not participate in the funded program. However, it also must report matters specific to the program to its family division manager.)

II. Community Involvement

The program depends on the involvement of the community in providing this critically needed service in terms of volunteers and community sites.

A. Volunteers

Volunteers are a key component of the program. Volunteers provide supervision not only during the day, but also during evenings and weekends so that visitation can occur at times convenient to the families. The volunteers serve as neutral observers, ensuring the safety of the child. They intervene only when necessary.

All volunteers must complete a training course, which includes a mandatory domestic violence training, before beginning supervision. The county coordinators conduct the training under the oversight of and with technical assistance from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

B. Community Sites

Community sites make the program possible by donating the use of their facilities for the visitations. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq., the administrative director of the courts must approve all external sites. Sites must be accessible, functional, comfortable, and safe and must adhering to domestic violence safety protocols.

III. How the Program Works

A. Referral by the Court to the County Coordinator

The court refers matters to the program. Referral is appropriate in dissolution, non-dissolution, or domestic violence cases where the court is concerned about the physical or emotional welfare of the child and after third-party supervision provisions have been exhausted.

B. Court Order

The court order should clearly state the duration of supervised visitation, the length of visits, the names of the individuals permitted to attend the visitation, and a date to return to court for determining whether supervision should continue.

C. Pre-Screening Interview

The county coordinator conducts a comprehensive interview of both parties. The purpose of the interview is to gather information and, if appropriate, to arrange a tentative schedule for the visitations. During the interview, the parties are provided a copy of the rules of visitation

that will govern each session. In some instances, the interview could reveal issues of concern that call into question the suitability of the case for the program. In those situations, the judge could reevaluate the matter.

D. Role of the observer in the visitation

Each visitation must include an observer. The observer can be a county coordinator, court staff, or a volunteer. Their role is to serve as a neutral observer and to monitor closely the visitation, intervening on behalf of the child when necessary. The observer could terminate the visitation session if in the observer's judgment, the rules of the visitation are violated or if continuation of the visit is stressful to the child or threatening to the welfare of the child.

IV. Access and Visitation Grant

Since 1997, the New Jersey Judiciary has been the recipient of federal Access and Visitation grant funds to sustain the program. The grant requires the funds be used by the states to establish and/or continue programs to support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and visitation with their children. In FFY 2023, the New Jersey Judiciary received \$171,356 in funds through the grant. These funds are allocated to the counties based on need and number of children and parents served.

V. Appendices

- A. Statistical Data
- B. Supervised Visitation Site List

Appendix A

Statistical Data

This data is required to be reported annually to the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Note: These appendices reflect data only on the twenty counties that accept program funds. Bergen County provides visitation services with county funds and these are not included in these data

**TABLE ONE
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

NEW CASES

This chart reflects the number of new cases added to the Program in FFY 2023.

County*	New Cases
Atlantic	30
Burlington	25
Camden	0
Cape May	0
Cumberland	0
Essex	33
Gloucester	6
Hudson	0
Hunterdon	0
Mercer	40
Middlesex	0
Monmouth	4
Morris	3
Ocean	5
Passaic	11
Salem	0
Somerset	0
Sussex	0
Union	0
Warren	0
Total	157

*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the program.

**TABLE TWO
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

CLIENT INFORMATION

This chart reflects the visitation participants in each county and their relationship to the child.

County*	Non-Custodial Parent Father	Custodial Parent Father	Non-Custodial Parent Mother	Custodial Parent Mother	Grandparent/ Legal Guardian	Children in Common
Atlantic	20	7	10	17	6	39
Burlington	22	2	3	22	1	40
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	21	9	12	21	3	36
Gloucester	5	1	5	1	0	6
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	39	3	4	34	0	55
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	1	3	3	1	0	10
Morris	2	1	1	2	0	4
Ocean	4	1	4	1	0	8
Passaic	9	2	2	9	0	12
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	123	29	44	108	10	210

TABLE THREE

*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the program.

**SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

MARITAL STATUS*

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county within the stated categories at the time of entering the program.

County**	Never Married to Each Other	Married to Each Other	Separated from Each Other	Divorced from Each Other	Data Not Reported
Atlantic	48	0	0	6	0
Burlington	39	2	2	6	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	55	0	0	8	0
Gloucester	12	0	0	0	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	72	6	2	0	0
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	6	0	0	2	0
Morris	2	0	0	4	0
Ocean	6	0	2	2	0
Passaic	18	2	0	2	0
Salem	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0
Total	258	10	6	30	0

*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the program.

**TABLE FOUR
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

RACE/ETHNICITY

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county that voluntarily self-identify as the stated race/ethnicity.

County*	Am. Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic Or Latino	Native Hawaiian /Pac. Islander	White	Two or More Races	Data Not Reported
Atlantic	0	1	19	14	0	23	0	3
Burlington	0	0	20	7	0	17	0	6
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	2	43	8	0	10	3	0
Gloucester	0	0	7	0	0	5	0	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	0	0	17	32	0	21	3	7
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	0
Morris	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0
Ocean	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	1
Passaic	0	0	4	14	0	4	0	0
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	5	116	75	0	95	6	17

*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the program.

**TABLE FIVE
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

PARTICIPANTS ANNUAL INCOME

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county that voluntarily identify as having an income within the stated range.

County*	Less Than \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$19,999	\$20,000 - \$29,999	\$30,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 and above	Data Not Reported
Atlantic	0	2	5	0	1	52
Burlington	0	0	0	0	0	50
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	7	1	7	4	17	30
Gloucester	0	0	0	0	0	12
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	1	7	20	6	8	38
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0	8
Morris	2	0	1	0	1	2
Ocean	0	0	0	0	0	10
Passaic	0	0	0	0	0	22
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	10	33	10	27	224

*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the program.

**TABLE SIX
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

SERVICES PROVIDED

This chart reflects the number of visits funded through the Access and Visitation grant.

County*	Supervised Visitation
Atlantic	61
Burlington	51
Camden	0
Cape May	0
Cumberland	0
Essex	67
Gloucester	13
Hudson	0
Hunterdon	0
Mercer	81
Middlesex	0
Monmouth	9
Morris	7
Ocean	11
Passaic	23
Salem	0
Somerset	0
Sussex	0
Union	0
Warren	0
Total	323

*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the program.

**TABLE SEVEN
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

CHILD SUPPORT CASES

This chart reflects the number of parties in the program that voluntarily identified as receiving or paying child support.

County*	Non-Custodial Parent Father	Custodial Parent Father	Non-Custodial Parent Mother	Custodial Parent Mother	Grandparent/ Legal Guardian
Atlantic	10	2	2	10	2
Burlington	16	0	0	16	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	21	8	11	21	3
Gloucester	5	1	5	1	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	33	3	4	33	0
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	1	3	3	1	0
Morris	2	1	1	2	0
Ocean	4	1	1	4	0
Passaic	9	2	2	9	0
Salem	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0
Total	101	21	29	97	5

*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the program.

Appendix B

Supervised Visitation Site List

Atlantic:

Atlantic Family Division AV Coordinator

Shana Drake
609-402-0100, ext. 47467

The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families

376 Tilton Road Rear
Northfield, NJ 08225
609-727-9335
Mindy Shemtov, executive director

Bergen:

Division of Family Guidance

One Bergen County Plaza, Second Floor
Hackensack, NJ 07601
201-336-7398

Burlington:

Burlington Family Division AV Coordinator

49 Rancocas Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
609-288-9500, ext. 38220
Sharyn Sherman, program coordinator

Catholic Charities (Tuesday/Wednesday evenings; Saturday morning)

115 West Pearl St.
Burlington, NJ 08016
609-394-5157
Amilia Gallagher, supervising monitor

The Fatherhood Connection (Tuesday evening)

Willingboro, NJ 08046
609-877-1076
Tashon Jackson, director

Camden:

Camden Family Division AV Coordinator

Rafael Mendez, court services supervisor
856-650-9100, ext. 43516

The Center for Family Services

584 Benson St.
Camden NJ 08103
609-463-6645
Doris Vidal

Cape May:

Cape May Family Division AV Coordinator

Nicole DiMedio, court services supervisor
609-402-0100, ext. 47566

Families Matter, LLC 899 Bayshore Road

Villas, NJ 08251
609-886-8666
Nicole DiMedio, director

Cumberland:

Cumberland Family Division AV Coordinator

PO Box 866
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
856-453-4553
Danixa Molina, program coordinator

Robin's Nest

42 South Delsea Dr.
Glassboro, NJ 08028
856-881-8689, ext. 190

Essex County:

Essex Family Division AV Coordinator

Essex County Veterans Courthouse

50 West Market St.
Newark, NJ 07102
973-776-9300, ext. 5521
Gloria Brown, program coordinator

Gloucester:

Gloucester Family Division AV Coordinator

70 Hunter St.
Woodbury, NJ 08096
856-878-5050, ext. 15548
Chastity Robinson, program coordinator

Hudson:

**Hudson Family Division AV Coordinator
Superior Court of New Jersey, Family Division**

595 Newark Ave.
Room 218
Jersey City, NJ 07306
201-748-4400 ext. 60572
Rosanne Lomolino, program coordinator

Hunterdon County:

Hunterdon Family Division AV Coordinator

65 Park Ave.
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-750-8100, ext. 13836
Bennett Rymon, program coordinator

Mercer County:

Mercer Family Division AV Coordinator

209 South Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08690
609-571-4200, ext. 74384
Johanny Hart, program coordinator

El Centro (Catholic Charities)

327 S. Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-954-7487
Robert Hernandez, director

Middlesex County:

**Middlesex Family Division AV Coordinator
Middlesex County Family Court Building**

120 New St.
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
732-645-4300, ext. 88609
Kathy Fread, program coordinator

Monmouth County:

**Monmouth Family Division AV Coordinator
Monmouth County Superior Court**

PO Box 1252
71 Monument Park
Freehold, NJ 07728
732-358-8700, ext. 87198
Corinne Manson, program coordinator

Morris County:

Morris Family Division AV Coordinator

Yolander Hill, program coordinator
862-397-5700, ext. 75105

Center for Evaluation and Counseling

1719 Route 10 East
Parsippany, NJ 07054
973-829-6960

Ocean County:

**Ocean Family Division AV Coordinator
Ocean County Justice Complex**

PO Box 2191
120 Hooper Ave.
Toms River, NJ 08754-2191
732-504-0700, ext. 64503
Karolyn Rivera, program coordinator

Preferred Children's Services

1200 River Ave.
PO Box 2036
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-905-5106, ext. 101
Stacy M. Welch, program director

Saint Francis Counseling Center

4700 Long Beach Blvd.
Brant Beach, NJ 08701
609-494-8861, ext. 182
Lori Tomaro, program director

Passaic County:

Passaic Family Division AV Coordinator

Blanca Bravo, program coordinator
973-653-2910, ext. 24616

Paterson YMCA

128 Ward St.
Paterson, NJ 07505
973-247-8858

Salem:

Salem Family Division AV Coordinator

PO Box 233
Salem, NJ 08079
856-878-5050, ext. 15881
Angela Thomas, program coordinator

Somerset County:

Somerset Family Division AV Coordinator

Christine Reilly, program coordinator
908-332-7700, ext. 13486

Catholic Charities

540 Route 22 East
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908-722-1881
Esther Iannetta

Sussex County:

Sussex Family Division AV Coordinator

Lori Reich, program coordinator
862-397-5700, ext. 75194

First Baptist Church (NJCCR), (*Neutral Exchange Only*)

4 East Main St.
Sussex, NJ 07461
973-875-9451

Center for Evaluation and Counseling

1719 Route 10 East
Parsippany, NJ 07054
973-829-6960

Union County:

Union Family Division AV Coordinator

Union County Superior Court

Superior Court, Family Division

Union County Courthouse

New Annex Building

Elizabeth, NJ 07207

908-787-1650, ext. 21314

Nancy Little, program coordinator

Warren:

Warren Family Division AV Coordinator

Justine McDonald, program coordinator

908-750-8100, ext. 13209

Catholic Charities

Phillipsburg Family Service Center

700 Sayre Ave.

Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

908-454-2074

Susan Reimer, supervisor



STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D.
ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE COURTS

GURPREET M. SINGH
ACTING DIRECTOR, TRIAL COURT
SERVICES

JOANNE M. DIETRICH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FAMILY
PRACTICE DIVISION