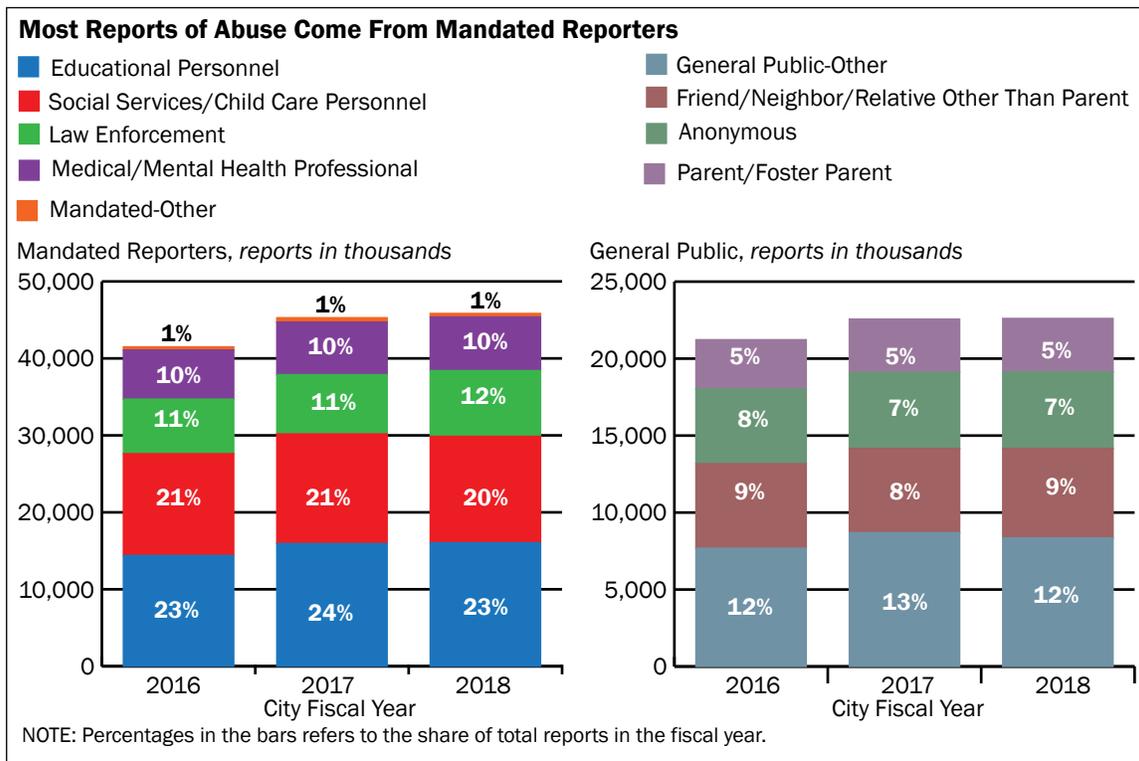


Who Are the Main Sources for Reports of Alleged Child Abuse and Maltreatment in New York City?

The New York Statewide Central Register of Abuse and Maltreatment is a hotline that takes reports from individuals who suspect that a child is being abused or maltreated. Reports about New York City children are forwarded to the city's Administration for Children's Services for investigation. Multiple reports about one child or family are folded into a single investigation.

New York State requires people in certain professions who often have contact with children in the course of their work to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the hotline. These people are called mandated reporters. IBO has examined the shares of reports to the hotline over several years that came from mandated reporters versus those that came from the general public, such as relatives, neighbors, or anonymous callers.



- In city fiscal year 2016, 41,511 of 62,743 reports (66 percent) originated from mandated reporters. Teachers, principals, and other school staff accounted for 23 percent of all reports, including 27 percent of reports made when school was in session and 5 percent of reports made during the summer.
- Of other mandated reporters, social service and child care personnel made 21 percent of reports, law enforcement made 11 percent, and medical and mental health professionals made 10 percent in 2016.
- Among general public, or nonmandated, reporters, the largest share of calls came from a group that the Administration for Children's Services categorizes as "others," but could not provide specific examples (12 percent) and the second most (9 percent) came from friends, neighbors, and relatives other than parents.
- There are clear differences between the sources of calls reporting child abuse here and calls made in rest of the country. In federal fiscal year 2016, a greater share of calls nationally came from law enforcement (7 percentage points more) and medical and mental health professionals (5 percentage points more) than in the five boroughs during city fiscal year 2016. Conversely, a smaller share of calls was received nationally from social service and child care staff (9 percentage points less) and school staff (4 percentage points less) than here.
- Following the deaths in September and December 2016 of two children previously known to the Administration for Children's Services, reports to the state hotline about children in New York City increased from 62,743 in city fiscal year 2016 to 67,860 in 2017 and 68,463 in 2018. The 2017 increase included 3,779 more calls from mandated reporters and 1,338 more from the general public. Despite the increases, mandated reporters continued to account for two-thirds of all calls.

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SOURCES: Administration for Children's Services' Monthly Flash Indicators; U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (2018). Child maltreatment 2016. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>