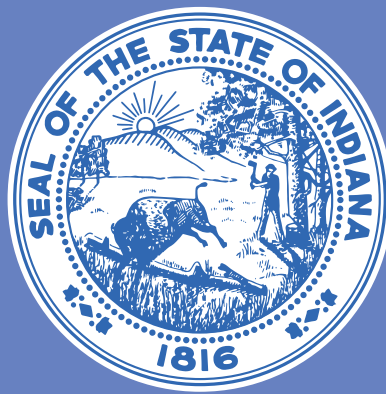


2018 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana



Calendar Year 2018

Includes special section covering July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Published December 2019

Preface

This report focuses on child deaths that directly resulted from caregiver maltreatment or neglect during Calendar Year 2018.

Each year, dozens of Hoosier children die at the hands of their caregivers. In the majority of these cases, the victims had no prior substantiated history with the Indiana Department of Child Services; and yet, in many cases, such maltreatment – whether by neglect or physical abuse – remains preventable through increased community awareness and education.

The Indiana Department of Child Services believes the release of data surrounding these incidents helps to shine a light on the needs of our communities. How might a first-time parent have reacted in a stressful situation had that parent received better education about early childhood needs? If a caregiver struggling to cope with the challenges of child-rearing had better access to mental health treatment, might a loss of life have been prevented? This report seeks to start those conversations.

This report uses data from the DCS database, which categorizes fatalities by the major category of death and provides detailed information about cause of death to offer a clearer picture of the types of abuse and neglect that ultimately resulted in the loss of a child.

The Indiana Department of Child Services completes a review of all child fatalities that fit the following circumstances:

- Children under the age of 1: The child's death is sudden, unexpected or unexplained, or there are allegations of abuse or neglect
- Children age 1 or older: The child's death involves allegations of abuse or neglect

DCS assesses the fatality in question to determine if abuse or neglect has occurred, and therefore, the allegation should be substantiated.

Historically, the DCS Child Fatality Report has utilized data on deaths reported during the state fiscal year. In 2019, Indiana law was revised to require the report cover the calendar year for easier year-over-year comparisons.*

Through analysis of the report, DCS identifies common risks for abuse- and/or neglect-related fatalities. This information aids in the development of prevention, educational and service programs. The data is also used to evaluate, review and modify DCS policy, practice and procedure when warranted. The data assembled in the report is collected from multiple sources, including DCS, law enforcement, death certificates, coroners' reports and autopsy findings.

Each fatality is reviewed at both the county and state level. A team of professionals from the county where the death occurred determines whether it was a result of abuse or neglect. Following the local county's recommendation as to whether the abuse or neglect allegation should be substantiated, an independent team of DCS personnel provides a supplementary review.

* An addendum detailing deaths substantiated as the result of child abuse or neglect in the latter half of SFY 2017 is attached to this report.

Executive Summary

In CY 2018, the Indiana Department of Child Services was called upon to investigate 242 child fatalities. 65 (26%*) of those deaths were determined to be a direct result of abuse or neglect. 2019 marks the first year Indiana law has required the agency to study child fatalities based on a calendar year (instead of a state fiscal year), so no comparison to a prior year's report is available. Of the total fatalities covered by this report, 22 (34%) were due to abuse, and 43 (66%) were due to neglect.

In 52 of the 65 fatalities (80%), the victim was 3 years old or younger. This finding demonstrates a consistent trend (nationally and in Indiana) that young children are at the highest risk of abuse or neglect.

Statewide, the highest number of child fatalities caused by abuse or neglect in 2018 were recorded in Lake (8) and Madison (5) counties.

26 (40%) of the fatalities covered in this report were determined to be accidental; 30 (46%) were declared homicides. The manner of death in seven (11%) of the fatalities was listed as unknown/could not be determined. One fatality was recorded as a death by suicide, and one was the result of natural causes. 10 of the 65 victims (15%) included in this report had prior substantiated history with DCS.

- Most common causes of death
 - Abusive head trauma: 16 deaths (25%)
 - Drowning: 8 deaths (12%)
 - Poisoning/acute intoxication: 8 deaths (12%)

In the majority of cases (44 or 68%), the victim was injured in their own homes. 62 (or 95%) of the 65 cases were investigated by law enforcement as well as DCS.

Biological parents were deemed responsible most often for the child fatalities detailed in this report. There were 32 perpetrators cited in abuse-related fatalities; of them, 20 (63%) were the victim's biological parents. There were 53 perpetrators cited in neglect-related fatalities; of them, 45 (85%) were biological parents.

Households where a death occurred were commonly home to more than one child. In 50 (77%) of the 65 deaths analyzed in this report, reports indicate at least two children in the home.

In some cases, caregiver stressors were determined to play a role in the death of a child. A history of substance abuse was cited most frequently. Insufficient income and unemployment were also common factors.

* Percentages are rounded.

Abuse and neglect fatalities by county

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Allen	3	1	4
Boone	2	1	3
Clinton	0	1	1
Delaware	0	3	3
DuBois	1	0	1
Elkhart	0	3	3
Floyd	0	2	2
Gibson	1	0	1
Grant	0	1	1
Harrison	0	1	1
Hendricks	0	1	1
Henry	1	0	1
Huntington	1	0	1
Jackson	0	1	1
Jefferson	0	1	1
Knox	1	0	1
Lake	2	6	8

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Lawrence	1	0	1
Madison	3	2	5
Marion	1	3	4
Monroe	1	0	1
Morgan	0	1	1
Newton	0	2	2
Noble	1	1	2
Orange	0	1	1
Porter	0	4	4
Posey	1	0	1
Saint Joseph	1	2	3
Shelby	0	1	1
Vanderburgh	0	1	1
Vigo	0	2	2
Whitley	1	0	1
Total	22	43	65

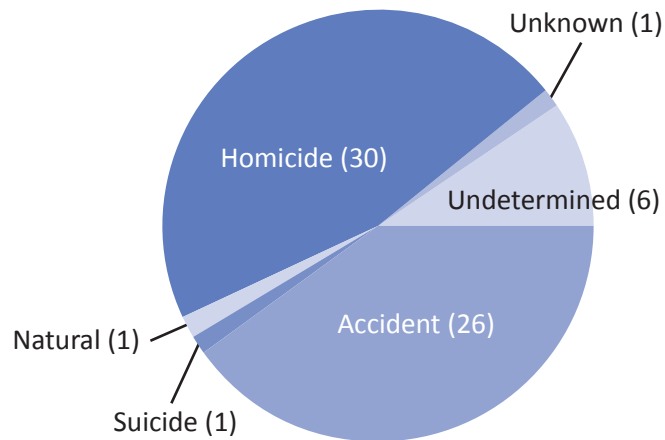
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Assessment statistics for investigation by other agencies, all children

Investigation	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Coroner cases	22	43	65
Autopsies performed	22	42	64
Scene investigated by coroner	9	13	22
Scene investigated by law enforcement	21	41	62
Scene investigated by fire investigator	0	3	3
Emergency medical services was on scene	12	42	54
All child fatalities	22	43	65

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Manner of death, all children



“Manner of Death” obtained from state death certificates.
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Primary cause of death, all children

Asphyxia	7	11%
Drowning	8	12%
Exposure	3	5%
Fall or crush	1	2%
Fire, burn or electrocution	2	3%
Malnutrition/dehydration	2	3%
Motor vehicle and other transport	4	6%
Other infection	1	2%
Other medical condition	3	5%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	8	12%
Weapon, including body part	26	40%
Total	65	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Fatalities due to abuse

- A 5-year-old child died of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was at his home with his mother and the mother's boyfriend when he was found, unresponsive, on the bathroom floor by the mother's boyfriend. The mother was taking a nap at the time the child was found. Her boyfriend woke her up, and she called the child's grandmother, who came to the home and found the child still on the bathroom floor. The mother admitted to disciplining the child several days earlier with a belt, adding that her boyfriend had to pull her off the child because she was striking the child too aggressively. The mother also admitted she had seen and allowed her boyfriend to discipline the child and had heard her boyfriend punching the child on several occasions. At autopsy, the child's injuries were consistent with neck compression. The mother's boyfriend was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.
- A 2-year-old child suffocated. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was found deceased in her room with a blanket around her neck and bruising to her face. The child resided with her mother, her mother's boyfriend and several siblings. The mother reported that she and her boyfriend had put the child to sleep together the prior night, and when she went to check on the child later in the morning, she found her tangled in a blanket, blue, with blood coming out of her mouth. One of the other children in the home said that the mother's boyfriend had put the child to sleep the prior night. Another child said the mother's boyfriend was overly physical with his discipline of the children, and he frequently covered the decedent in thick blankets and tucked them under her. Another child in the home indicated the mother's boyfriend would hit the decedent hard and make her cry. The injuries were consistent with someone having placed a hand over the child's mouth and neck, resulting in loss of consciousness. The autopsy revealed internal injuries and contusions to numerous parts of the child's body, as well as old fractures. The pathologist indicated that simply swaddling the child would not have caused her death. The mother and her boyfriend were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.
- A 2-month-old child died of skull fractures. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the child was with his father while the child's mother was at school. When the mother returned home from school, she thought something was wrong with the child. The father admitted to spanking the child on his bottom and seeing bruises on the child's bottom and blood in the child's diaper after doing so. He denied causing any head injuries to the child, stating he fell with the child and possibly shook him a little fast after spanking him. The father was the only caregiver home with the child when the child sustained his injuries. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 15-year-old child died of gunshot wounds. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child primarily resided with his mother and sister, but the children were at their father's home to visit at the time of the fatality. The mother received a call from the child's school, reporting the child was absent. She attempted to contact the child, his sister and their father, but when she could not get into contact with them, she went to the father's house. The mother called law enforcement, and the child, his sister and their father were found, deceased from gunshot wounds. The incident was determined to be a double murder/suicide at the hands of the father. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 13-year-old child died of gunshot wounds. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child primarily resided with her mother and brother, but the children were at their father's home to visit at the time of the incident. The mother received a call from the child's school, reporting the child was absent. She

Fatalities due to abuse, continued

attempted to contact the child, her brother and their father, but when she could not get into contact with them, she went to the father's house. The mother called law enforcement, and the child, her brother and their father were found, deceased from gunshot wounds. The incident was determined to be a double murder/suicide at the hands of the father. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.

- A 3-month-old child died of head injuries. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS but did have an open case at the time of the fatality. The child's parents took him to the emergency room on the day of his death. The parents' stories about what occurred were inconsistent and improbable given the child's multiple injuries, including brain bleeding, brain swelling and retinal hemorrhaging. Physicians indicated the child's injuries were consistent with non-accidental abusive head trauma. The parents were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 2-month-old child died of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child lived at home with his mother, father and half-siblings. The night before the child's death, the mother asked the father if he could watch the child while she took the other two children to school in the morning. After dropping the other children off at school, the mother received a phone call from the father, who was crying hysterically. The father told her the child was limp and unresponsive. The father reported he gave the child an ounce of water, and the child went limp. The father later stated he fell asleep with the child and then woke up because the child was screaming. He said he thought the child hit his head on a nearby marble coffee table. The child underwent a neck MRI, eye exam and skeletal survey, which showed the child had a brain injury. Doctors determined the father's story was inconsistent with the injuries. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- An 8-year-old child died of strangulation and a gunshot wound. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with her mother and father. On the day of the incident, the father contacted 911 dispatch and informed them he had shot his wife and daughter; when law enforcement arrived, they would find him, deceased, as well. The father indicated to dispatchers his reasoning for killing his wife and child was because of "a very horrible marriage, years and years of problems." When law enforcement arrived, they found the mother, father and child, deceased. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 2-month-old child died of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with her mother, father and several siblings. The mother left the child in the care of the father so she could work the night shift at her job. The father stated while the mother was at work, the child woke up and began to cry. The father admitted to shaking the child a few times and putting her back in her crib. The child woke a couple of hours later and was crying again, so he said he shook the child and then threw her from her crib onto his bed. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 2-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with his mother, his mother's boyfriend and several siblings. The mother stated that prior to the day of the fatality, the child had been ill and did not want to eat. The mother's boyfriend was watching the child the following day and admitted he got angry because the child would not eat. The mother's boyfriend admitted he sometimes hit the child in the head in an attempt to force him to eat. The mother's boyfriend stated that on the day of the fatality, he threw the child onto his bed, and the child's stomach hit the board of the bed. The mother's boyfriend was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.

Fatalities due to abuse, continued

- A 4-month-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. When the child was taken, unresponsive, to the hospital, the mother indicated to law enforcement, hospital staff and DCS that the child had been with a babysitter, and she found the babysitter giving the child CPR at time of pick-up. The child's paternal great-grandfather, who lived with the child, mother and father, stated he was home with the mother and the child all morning, and the child had been crying. The great-grandfather indicated the mother left the home with the child, without a word, with the baby covered in a car seat. The father said the mother never left the child with a babysitter. The alleged babysitter said she hadn't seen the mother since she was pregnant and had never met the child. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 9-month-old child died of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. Parents alleged the child was found, unresponsive, in the bathtub, after the father left the child in the tub to retrieve a towel and a diaper. At autopsy, the child was found to have multiple hemorrhages. There was no evidence of drowning found. The parents could not provide a reasonable explanation for the child's head injuries. At the time of this writing, no criminal charges have been filed. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 1-year-old child died of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother left the child home with her boyfriend while she went to work. When she returned home, her boyfriend said the child was sleeping, so she went to bed. The next morning, the mother found the child, unresponsive. The child was found to have subdural hemorrhages, optic nerve hemorrhages and other brain trauma. Medical professionals indicated the child's injury would have caused an immediate change in the child's behavior. The mother's boyfriend was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother's boyfriend.
- A 1-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The family was residing in a hotel, and the mother indicated she woke around 3 a.m. on the night of the incident and found the child, unresponsive, in her playpen. The child presented to the hospital with bruises, which the mother said had been caused by the child's sibling. The mother's boyfriend said he was watching the children that night while the mother was at work. He stated he took the children to his parents' home for a while, and the child got sick, so he took the children home and gave them a bath around 8 or 9 p.m. The mother's boyfriend indicated he put the child down in her playpen. The mother asked her boyfriend to pick her up from work between 10 and 11 p.m. The child was asleep when they got home. The other children in the home were later observed, and one was noted to have bruises on his body and his eyes. One child indicated that their mother's boyfriend hit both of the other children often. The mother and her boyfriend were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.
- A 1-year-old child died of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child arrived at the hospital with the mother's boyfriend. He indicated he had found the child, unresponsive, in the middle of the night and rushed him to the hospital. The mother's boyfriend indicated he ran into a pole on the way to the hospital and flagged down a passerby to transport them to the hospital. Doctors indicated the child had evidence of significant physical abuse that would not have occurred from a car accident. Mother indicated she woke up, and neither her boyfriend nor the child were in the apartment, but she observed the apartment was in disarray with blood on clothing articles. Her boyfriend was unable to provide an adequate explanation for the child's injuries. The mother and her boyfriend were both charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.

Fatalities due to abuse, continued

- A 1-year-old child died of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother left the child at home with her husband, the child's stepfather, while she was at work. The stepfather said the child was sitting in a baby bath seat with the shower running when the stepfather left the room to check on another child. The stepfather said he heard a thud and then found the child, unresponsive, in the shower. When the child was taken to the hospital, he had bruising on his body and a bite mark on his face. The stepfather said that after he found the child, unresponsive, he hit, shook and bit the child in an attempt to wake him. The injuries were not consistent with this story. The stepfather and the mother were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the stepfather and the mother.
- A 10-year-old child died of a gunshot wound. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. Law enforcement responded to a call of two unresponsive individuals in an apartment. Both the child and mother had suffered gunshot wounds to the head. The grandmother found the child and the mother after having not heard from them for several days. The grandmother indicated the mother was schizophrenic, and the family was in the process of having her committed to a mental-health facility. The mother had stolen a gun from the child's father's home a couple of days prior. The incident was determined to be a murder/suicide. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 7-month-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child presented to the hospital with severe head trauma. The mother had taken the child with her to her boyfriend's home for the night. Her story about what happened after they got there was inconsistent. At times, she said she had seen the child smile earlier in the morning; other times, she said the child was dead in her crib when she found her. Physicians indicated the child's injury would have occurred close to the time the child became unresponsive. The mother was the caregiver for the child during this time. She was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 2-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was found, deceased, at the babysitter's home by the child's mother when she returned from work. The mother immediately put the child in her vehicle, called 911 and was met by EMS on the way to the hospital. The child was taken to the hospital and found to be covered in bruises, with swelling to the face and an injury to one ear. The babysitter said the child had gotten up, slipped and hit her head on the bathtub. During the week prior to the child's death, the child returned home from the babysitter's home on two occasions with bruising and black eyes. The babysitter gave questionable stories regarding the injuries. The child began telling her mother she was afraid to go to the babysitter's home. The babysitter was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the babysitter and the mother.
- A 1-year-old child died of complications following a physical assault. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. At the time of the fatality, the child had been with the mother's friend and the mother's friend's boyfriend for several days. The mother's friend called the mother after a couple of days to say the child was ill and would not sit up. The child's mother and father went to pick up the child. When they arrived, the child was limp and unresponsive. The mother's friend denied having injured the child in any way. The child presented with numerous head injuries. Physicians indicated the child's injuries were consistent with intentionally inflicted trauma that would have occurred during the time the child was with the mother's friend and the mother's friend's boyfriend. The mother's friend and the friend's boyfriend were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother's friend and her boyfriend.

Fatalities due to abuse, continued

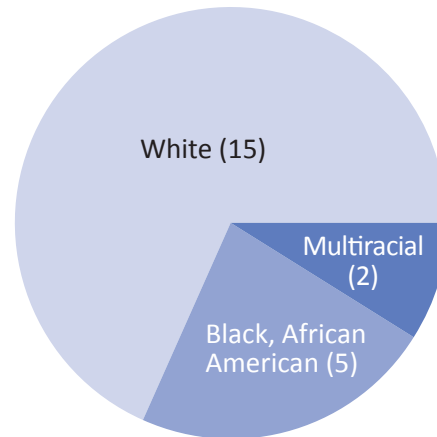
- A 1-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with his mother and his mother's girlfriend. It was reported the child was found in his bed, unresponsive, on the day of the fatality. He presented to the hospital with a skull fracture among other injuries. The mother's girlfriend admitted she became angry with the child and pushed him down. She said the child would not stop crying, so she held the child, facedown, into a robe until he stopped crying. The mother's girlfriend stated she later went to check on the child, and he was not breathing. Autopsy results revealed numerous injuries indicative of ongoing abuse. The mother's girlfriend was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother's girlfriend.
- An 11-month-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. On the day of the fatality, the mother took the child to her babysitter. The mother later received a call from the child's babysitter, stating that the child was not breathing. The child's babysitter indicated she found the child, unresponsive, and shook her in an attempt to wake her. At the hospital, the child presented with a skull fracture and other injuries. Physicians indicated the injuries to the child were inflicted. The babysitter gave multiple explanations, none of which was consistent with the child's injuries. Nearly one year later, the child's babysitter admitted she took the child off of her shoulder and slammed her down. The babysitter was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the babysitter.

Abuse statistics: demographic characteristics of the child

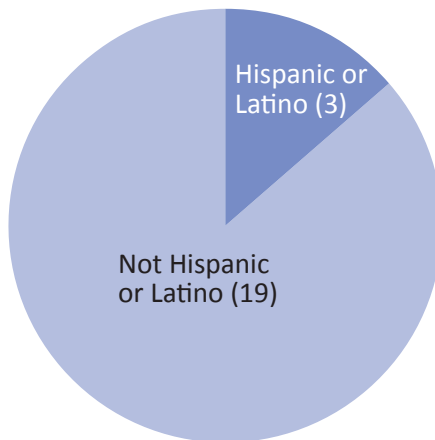
Age

Less than one year	8	36%
One year	6	27%
Two years	3	14%
Five years	1	5%
Eight years	1	5%
Ten to twelve years	1	5%
Thirteen to seventeen years	2	9%
Total	22	100%

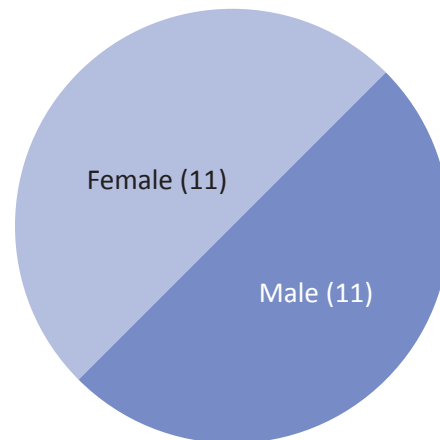
Race



Ethnicity



Gender



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

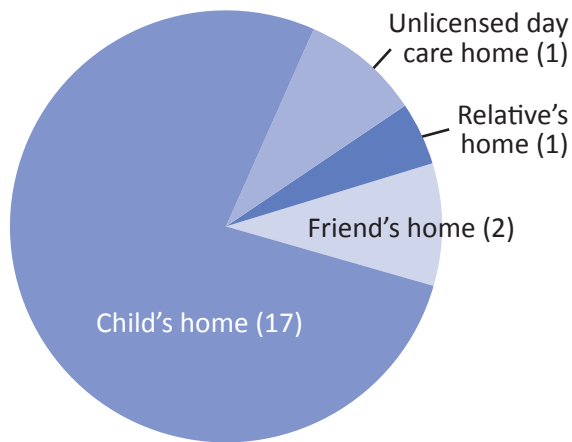
Abuse statistics: characteristics of the case

Type of abuse	Count	Percentage
Abusive head trauma	16	53%
Beating/kicking	7	23%
Biting	1	3%
Gunshot wound to head and strangulation	1	3%
Gunshot wounds	3	10%
Injuries consistent with hand over mouth and neck	1	3%
Thrown onto hard surface	1	3%

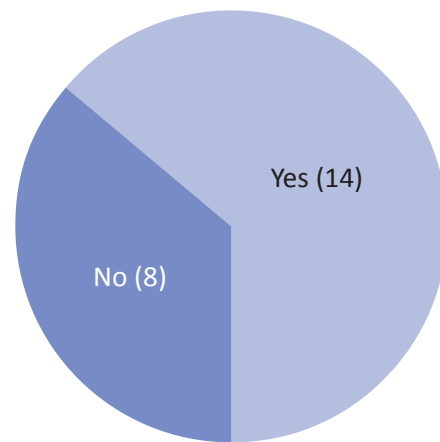
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0. Note: a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident



Other children in household



Caregiver 1 employment status

Employed	11	50%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	2	9%
Unemployed	5	23%
Unknown	4	18%
Total	22	100%

Caregiver 2 employment status

Employed	8	42%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	5	26%
Unknown	6	32%
Total	19	100%

Caregiver 1 education level

Less than high school	1	5%
High school	3	14%
College	3	14%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	15	68%
Total	22	100%

Caregiver 2 education level

Less than high school	0	0%
High school	2	11%
College	1	5%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	16	84%
Total	19	100%

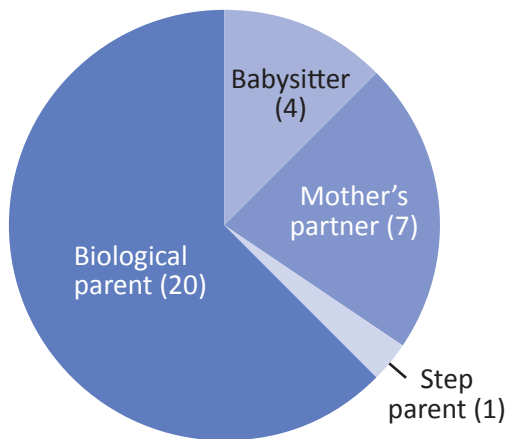
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

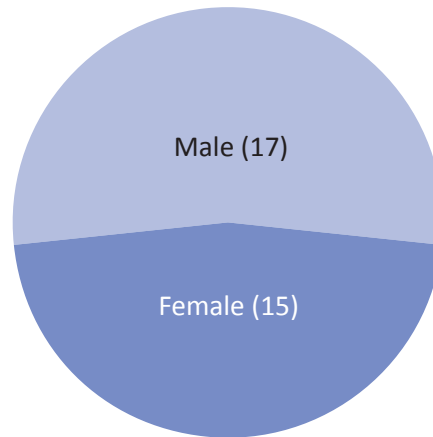
Age

Sixteen to nineteen years	1	3%
Twenty to twenty-four years	8	25%
Twenty-five to twenty-nine years	17	53%
Thirty to thirty-four years	1	3%
Thirty-five to thirty-nine years	1	3%
Forty to forty-nine years	2	6%
Fifty or more years	2	6%
Total	32	100%

Relationship to child



Gender



Note: 32 perpetrators total; a child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 2.0

Abuse statistics: factors impacting child

Acutely ill in the two weeks before death	2	History of child maltreatment as victim	4
History of intimate partner violence - unknown	1	Had been homeless	1

Note: a child may have had more than one stress factor, if any. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Abuse statistics: factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1		Caregiver 2	
Education level less than high school	1	Disability or chronic illness	1
Disability or chronic illness	2	History of child maltreatment as victim	2
History of child maltreatment as victim	5	History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	4
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	3	History of intimate partner violence as victim	3
History of intimate partner violence as victim	7	History of substance abuse	9
History of substance abuse	5	Unemployed	5
Unemployed	5	Insufficient income	4
Insufficient income	4	Language problem	2
Language problem	2	New residence in past 30 days	1
New residence in past 30 days	1		

Note: a caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Fatalities due to neglect

- A 3-month-old child died of sudden unexplained infant death and dehydration with a contributing factor of unsafe sleeping conditions. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was being watched by the mother's friend for several days, and the mother's friend woke to find the child, unresponsive. The child had been placed to sleep with the mother's friend in an adult bed. The mother's friend denied illicit substance use while caring for the child; however, she tested positive for THC and cocaine. The child was also found to be dehydrated. The caregiver said the child had been asleep for nearly 12 hours prior to being discovered, unresponsive. As of the writing of this report, no charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother's friend.
- A 4-year-old child died from a gunshot wound. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was at her grandmother's home along with her sibling, as was typical for the children on a weekday. The grandmother's ex-husband had also been staying there for a few months and helping care for the children. The grandmother's ex-husband slept on a couch in the living room because he believed someone was trying to steal his truck. Because of these concerns, he took his gun, which he usually kept in the closet, and kept it with him on the couch. When the grandmother learned he had a gun, she requested he remove it from the home. The day of the incident, the grandmother's ex-husband had taken the gun to the couch with him and put it under the couch cushion where he was sleeping. He left it there while the children were playing, unsupervised. He and the grandmother were in different parts of the home when they heard the gun go off. The child was most likely shot by her younger sibling, who was nearer to the gun. The grandmother's ex-husband was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the grandmother's ex-husband.
- A 1-year-old child died of positional asphyxia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The night of the child's death, he and his siblings had been sleeping in the living room, with the decedent in the middle of the couch. The father said he always slept with the child, so he decided to sleep on the couch with him. Father believes he lay on top of the child. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 2-year-old child died from hyperthermia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was found, facedown, on the floorboard behind the driver's seat in the mother's car. The mother admitted to drinking four or five 100-mL bottles of whiskey that day, admitting she "had a buzz, and her day was foggy." Video surveillance shows the child leaving the home about five hours before he was found. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of unsafe sleep conditions. The child had previously been removed from the mother and placed with the maternal grandparents. The child's DCS case was open at the time of the fatality, and the grandparents had filed for guardianship. The grandparents left the mother, unsupervised, with the child. The mother took the child to a bedroom to lie down, placed the child on the bed and got into the bed with the child. Mother stated she later woke to a knock on the front door and found the child, facedown and unresponsive. Mother submitted to a drug screen the day of the child's death and tested positive for substances including methamphetamine, morphine and THC. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 2-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The parents were having a cookout at their home the day of the fatality. Everyone went into the house after swimming, and the ladder was accidentally left down. After a few minutes inside the home, someone asked where the child was. The father found the child, underwater and unresponsive. As of the writing of this report, no

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.

- An 11-year-old child died of bowel obstruction and methamphetamine toxicity. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with her father and the father's girlfriend in Michigan, but all were in Indiana (along with the child's sibling) the day of the fatality. They traveled to Indiana to a home they were hired to clean. The child was severely autistic, nonverbal and diagnosed with pica, a condition that causes the patient to compulsively eat or chew inedible items. The home the family was supposed to be cleaning was described as a "hoarder's house," and the family was living there without consent while the owner was out of town. While at the home, the child became violently ill. The caregivers gave the child a bath and wrapped her in a towel. They placed a blanket over her, and everyone went to sleep. When they woke to check on the child, she was unresponsive. Toxicology results showed the child had ingested methamphetamine. The father's girlfriend ultimately admitted to having had methamphetamine (that she could no longer find) with her the day of the incident. The father and his girlfriend were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father and his girlfriend.
- A 1-year-old child died of an airway obstruction. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was dependent on a feeding tube and had a number of medical issues. On the day of the fatality, the child's aunt and grandmother were caring for the child while the father took the child's sibling to the doctor. When the father returned, the aunt was feeding the child. He became aggravated with how long the feeding was taking and turned up the speed on the feeding tube's pump. While the child was feeding, the father and aunt left the room and began arguing with one another. When they returned, the child was in distress. Medical records and statements by the family indicate the child often choked while he was being fed and required supervision during meals. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 3-year-old child died from a traumatic brain injury and blunt-force trauma from a tractor accident. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the mother and father were hooking the family tractor up to a seeder while the 3-year-old rode her bike nearby. While she was attempting to help the child's father, the mother noticed the child was near the tractor. The father indicated he knew the child was near where he was working, but he did not know her exact location. When the father moved the tractor to line it up with the seeder, he accidentally drove over the child. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 17-year-old died from a gunshot wound. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The night prior to the child's death, he told his father that he wanted to kill himself. The father declined to seek mental-health treatment for the child at that time. The child had previous incidents of suicidal ideation and had attempted to overdose on prescription pills a month before the fatal incident. The father kept his gun and ammunition in the child's room. Despite being informed by his child of suicidal ideations, he did not remove the gun from the child's room. The day of the fatal incident, the child had a friend over, and the child took the gun, loaded it with one bullet, pointed it at the family dog and pulled the trigger. He then aimed the gun at himself and pulled the trigger. Because there were no bullets in the gun, the child was not harmed at this time, and his friend took the gun and put it away in the closet. A short time later, the child took the gun from the closet again, loaded it, placed it in his mouth and pulled the trigger. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

- A 3-month-old child died as a result of complications of hyperthermia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the child's mother put the child and his 2-year-old sibling in her vehicle to take the children to daycare. She dropped the 2-year-old sibling off at daycare and then proceeded to head on to work. When she left work at the end of the day, she found the 3-month-old child, deceased in his car seat in the rear of her vehicle. The mother tested positive for metabolites of cocaine and THC. A grand jury declined to indict, and the mother was not charged. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 2-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The paternal grandmother was babysitting on the day of the fatality. The paternal grandmother was inside the home while the child and her 9-year-old sibling were playing in the yard where the pool was located. The child had been going in and out of the home, asking the grandmother for water to water the plants. When the grandmother declined to continue providing the water, the child attempted to get the water out of the pool, fell into the water and drowned. Grandmother admitted to using methamphetamine consistently for the five days prior to the incident. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the grandmother.
- A 1-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child lived with her mother, father and two siblings. The day of the fatality, the mother woke to get the oldest sibling ready for school, then went back to sleep while the other children slept. Later, the mother got the children a bottle and a banana and went to take a shower and do laundry. Mother was upstairs for about 45 minutes when she returned downstairs and found the front door open and the children not in the house. Mother found one of the children, safe, and the other was found by law enforcement in a creek behind the family's home. The child and her sibling had a history of getting out of the house, and the mother could not recall whether or not she had attempted to lock the front door that day. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 1-month-old child died as a result of sudden unexplained infant death with a contributing factor of unsafe sleeping conditions. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the child's mother fell asleep while holding the child. She was finally awoken by another household member 10 hours after she had fallen asleep with the child. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 4-year-old child died as a result of a motor-vehicle collision. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was a passenger in the vehicle his great-grandmother was driving. The great-grandmother stated that when she and the child got into the car the day of the collision, neither of his booster seats were present. She indicated she did not know who took the booster seats out of the car, so she placed the child in the car with a seatbelt. The great-grandmother's car hydroplaned and struck a tree. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations the great-grandmother.
- An 8-year-old child died of acute methamphetamine intoxication. The child had previously been removed from his mother's care by DCS. The child's DCS case had been closed and the child's father had custody at the time of the death. While residing with father, the child woke up in the middle of the night, hungry, and ate methamphetamine residue found in numerous places around the home. The father found the child, knew something was wrong but called a friend for help instead of contacting emergency services. When that was unsuccessful, he dropped the child off at the paternal grandparents' home. A methamphetamine manufacturing lab was found in the father's home. No food or furniture was found in the home. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

- A 3-month-old child died of methamphetamine intoxication. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. It was reported that the child was laid down to sleep on his back on a sectional sofa by his mother, and she then fell asleep. The father was already asleep at this time. Approximately five and a half hours later, the mother was awakened by a knock at the door, and she found the child, unresponsive and purple. The parents submitted to drug screens on the day of the fatality and tested positive for methamphetamine. The parents were charged with neglect of a dependent. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 1-day-old child died from a complication of maternal cocaine intoxication. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was born in the hallway of an apartment complex and had a slow pulse when EMS arrived to assist. The baby was taken to the hospital but did not survive. The mother and father admitted to cocaine and alcohol use, and the infant tested positive for cocaine. There were no charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 3-month-old child died of complications of severe malnutrition and dehydration. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother resided with her girlfriend. It was reported the child was found, unresponsive, when the mother went to feed the baby. The 3-month-old weighed only 6 pounds at the time of death. Medical records indicate the child was born at 5 pounds, 8.2 ounces. The child was seen at a medical appointment at 7 weeks old and weighed 8 pounds at that time. No charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her girlfriend.
- A 2-year-old child died of smoke inhalation. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. On the day of the fatal incident, the child had been left at the family's apartment with her two older siblings. The apartment building caught on fire, and the child was pulled from the home. She was not breathing, had no pulse and had second- and third-degree burns on her body. The 6-year-old surviving child indicated that the night before the fire, he was home alone with his siblings. The child reported that the night of the fire, the children had burned paper on the stove and then hid. The mother's boyfriend, a tenant of the same apartment complex, stated that the mother was at his home the night prior to the fire, and they were consuming alcohol. Charges were filed against the mother as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 4-year-old child died of smoke inhalation. The child had previously been removed from the home by DCS and was reunified two and a half years before the child's death. On the day of the fatal incident, the child had been left at the family's apartment, with his two siblings. The apartment building caught on fire, and the child was pulled from the home. He was not breathing, had no pulse and had second- and third-degree burns on his body. The 6-year-old surviving child indicated that the night before the fire, he was home alone with his siblings. The child reported that the night of the fire, the children had burned paper on the stove and then hid. The mother's boyfriend, a tenant of the same apartment complex, stated that the mother was at his home the night prior to the fire, and they were consuming alcohol. Charges were filed against the mother as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 1-month-old child suffocated. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother was at home with the baby and the baby's twin sibling while the father was at work. The mother said that she lay down with the babies and fell asleep about an hour before the father returned. The father stated that when he found the children in bed with the mother, one was unresponsive. The mother submitted to a drug and alcohol screen and tested positive for alcohol. Mother admitted to having had two beers and one or two shots of vodka in a one- or two-hour period while caring for the children the night of the incident. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

- A 2-year-old child died from a gunshot wound. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother and her child were at the mother's boyfriend's home the day of the fatality. The mother stated that she got into a physical altercation with her boyfriend when he returned home. She said she heard "a pop," and she ran into the bedroom where the child had been. Neither the mother nor her boyfriend could explain how the child obtained the gun or how the child was killed. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. Her boyfriend was not charged. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.
- A 4-month-old child died from heroin intoxication. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother said that she was feeding the child a bottle and fell asleep while lying on the couch the day of the fatality. When she woke up, she found the child to the side of her, facedown and unresponsive. The child tested positive for heroin. The parents denied knowing how heroin could have gotten into the child's system and both submitted to drug screens that returned negative results. The mother and father were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 3-year-old child died from complications of hyperthermia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The family had been to church and running errands the day of the incident. When the family returned home, the child's two siblings got themselves out of their car seats and went into the home for a nap. The mother left the vehicle to use the restroom, and the father opened all of the vehicle doors, leaving the child in her car seat in the vehicle, to take the grocery bags into the home. While the father was completing his last trip, the mother came back outside, noticed all of the bags were out of the car and closed the vehicle doors. The father then returned outside, saw the doors of the vehicle were shut and believed the mother had taken the child out of the car. The parents then went back into the home. When the child's siblings woke up from their nap several hours later, the parents realized the child was not napping with her siblings. They found the child, deceased, in the vehicle. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 5-month-old child died of heroin intoxication. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with his mother and father. The mother had recently been ill, so she asked the child's aunt to move in to help with the child. The child's aunt had a long history of substance abuse and had an open DCS case at the time of the fatality. The parents indicated they were bed-sharing with the infant on a twin-sized bed when they woke to find him, unresponsive. The parents denied anyone else in the home cared for the child the day of the fatality or the day prior. It was determined the child suffered from respiratory distress caused by exposure to heroin. Neither parent was able to provide an explanation. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- An 11-month-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The father stated he placed the child and his 3-year-old sibling in the bathtub and turned the water on. He then went to the couch and fell asleep. The 3-year-old woke the father up about 45 minutes later, and the father found the child floating, facedown, in the bathtub. He admitted to having drunk four or five vodka drinks throughout the evening while caring for the children; his blood-alcohol content tested between 0.08 and 0.11%. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 1-day-old child died of polydrug intoxication and prematurity. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother suffered an overdose while pregnant and was taken to the hospital, where she delivered the baby at 34 weeks before she died. Medical personnel determined the child would not survive, and the family removed the child from life support the next day. The child tested positive for methamphetamine, morphine and fentanyl among other substances. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

- A 2-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child, along with his mother, father and two older siblings, was at the home of a friend who had a pool. The child had on a flotation device, and the family had a rule that the children had to keep their flotation devices on if they were outside. A family member or friend removed the child's flotation device from the child. Parents had observed the child outside but could see him from only the neck up and assumed he still had his flotation device on. The child was later found, unresponsive, in the pool. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 2-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child and his sibling resided primarily with grandparents because of drug use in the mother and father's home. On the day of the fatal incident, the father had picked up the children from their grandparents' home and took them to a river. While at the river, two fishermen saw the father with the children and noticed the father appeared to be impaired. The fishermen approached the father to ask if he had been using substances, and the father admitted to using heroin. The fishermen called 911. Before law enforcement was able to respond, the fishermen noticed father "dunking" himself in and out of the lake, and they did not see the children. The fishermen found both of the children floating in the water, unresponsive. The father admitted to law enforcement that he had used heroin earlier in the day. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 4-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child and his sibling resided primarily with grandparents because of drug use in the mother and father's home. On the day of the fatal incident, the father picked up the children from their grandparents' home and took them to a river. While at the river, two fishermen saw the father with the children and noticed the father appeared impaired. The fishermen approached the father to ask if he had been using substances, and the father admitted to using heroin. The fishermen called 911. Before law enforcement was able to respond, the fishermen noticed father "dunking" himself in and out of the lake, and they did not see the children. The fishermen found both of the children floating in the water, unresponsive. Father admitted to law enforcement that he had used heroin earlier in the day. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 4-year-old child died from multiple internal injuries. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was with her grandmother and two siblings the day of the fatality. The grandmother was driving a skid loader, with the children in the bucket, which she commonly did. When the grandmother hit a bump, one child fell out of the bucket without the grandmother knowing, and the grandmother continued forward, accidentally running over the child. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the grandmother.
- A 3-year-old child died of methadone toxicity. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the parents placed the child to sleep on their bed. The child appeared normal at that time. Several hours later, the mother went to check on the child, and he was unresponsive. The father admitted there might have been a methadone pill present in the parents' bed when the child was placed there to nap. The parents were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 3-year-old child died of a skull fracture and blunt-force trauma after being struck by a train. The child had previously been removed from his mother by DCS and was successfully reunified with his mother more than two years prior to the fatality. The child and his sibling were at their home with their mother, uncle and grandfather. The mother was caring for the children and placed an unlatched baby gate in front of the main front door and screen door to block an opening at the bottom of the door. The mother was doing chores when she realized the children were not inside. She began searching for them and saw emergency-responders near

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

the train tracks behind the house. The children had a history of getting out of the home, unaccompanied. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.

- A 2-month-old child died of asphyxiation. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the mother lay with the child in her arms and fell asleep, and the child asphyxiated. Mother tested positive for cocaine and marijuana on the day of the child's death. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 3-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother stated she was getting her things out of the car when the child "took off." The mother admitted she could not see the child while she was getting things out of the vehicle. The child was found in the pond by local law enforcement. The mother admitted the child had a tendency to run away. The child had taken off a few weeks prior, and another child had brought her back home. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 23-day-old child died of positional asphyxia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The parents had placed the child in her bassinet to sleep while friends visited. The father stated he drank about five shots of whiskey in two and a half hours while the mother drank three malt beverages and three shots in a four-hour period. The friends left, and the parents went to bed. The mother woke up in the night, began to feed the child a bottle in bed and fell asleep. Mother woke up on top of the child. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of a motor-vehicle collision. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The mother was driving the vehicle at the time of the collision. The child was found to be properly secured in her car seat, but the car seat was not properly secured into the vehicle. The mother's vehicle was hit, and the child's car seat flew forward and struck the front passenger seat, causing the child's fatal injuries. The mother admitted to using methamphetamine and heroin on the day of the collision. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 1-year-old child died of sepsis due to tracheobronchitis and bronchopneumonia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. On the day of the fatality, the father was caring for the child while the mother was at a work event. The father put the child down to sleep on her stomach on a queen-sized bed. The child was later found, unresponsive. Physicians indicated it would have been clear the child required medical attention, noting a child with pneumonia would have shown signs of a fever, difficulty breathing and/or a cough. Additionally, the child was found to have non-prescribed buprenorphine, a medication used to treat opioid addiction, in her system. Physicians indicated this likely contributed to the death, as this medication would have made it more difficult for the child to breathe. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 7-month-old died as a result of complications of blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the incident, the child was with a babysitter. While the babysitter was making lunch, the child became unresponsive. Doctors indicated the child's injuries suggest trauma that would most likely have occurred at the babysitter's home. The babysitter could not provide a reasonable explanation for the child's injury. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the babysitter.

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

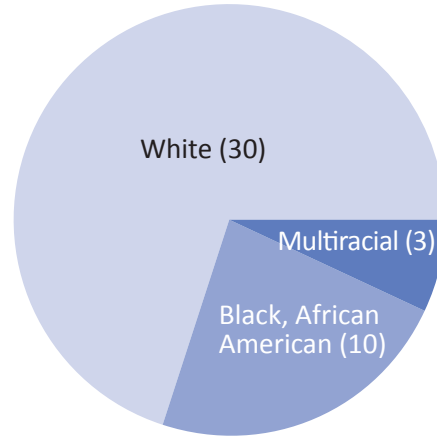
- A 2-month-old died of pulmonary edema and congestion with a contributing factor of unsafe sleeping conditions. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with the mother, father and several siblings. The mother said she had brought the child into bed with her in order to feed the child on the day of the fatality. The mother said she fell asleep and woke up when the father told her the baby was not breathing. She admitted to marijuana use the night of the child's death. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 2-month-old child died of severe dehydration. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child suffered from multiple medical issues and required a feeding tube. At some point, the mother removed the child's feeding tube and began feeding him by mouth using a bottle. She did not inform medical providers that she had removed the child's feeding tube. When medical professionals learned the child's feeding tube had been removed, they requested she reinsert it so the child could be properly nourished. The mother neither sought medical treatment to reinsert the tube nor did she reinsert the tube herself. Based on the autopsy, the pathologist indicated it would have taken several days for the child to lose as much weight as he had. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 3-month-old child died of positional asphyxia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. On the day of the fatality, the child's grandfather returned to the family home for his lunch break. When the grandfather walked into the child's room, he found the father sitting with the child in his lap. He described the father as being in a "sleep-like daze." As he tried to wake the father, he noticed the child was unresponsive. Father submitted to a drug screen and tested positive for THC and high levels of oxycodone. The father did not have a valid prescription for the substance. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.

Neglect statistics: demographic characteristics of the child

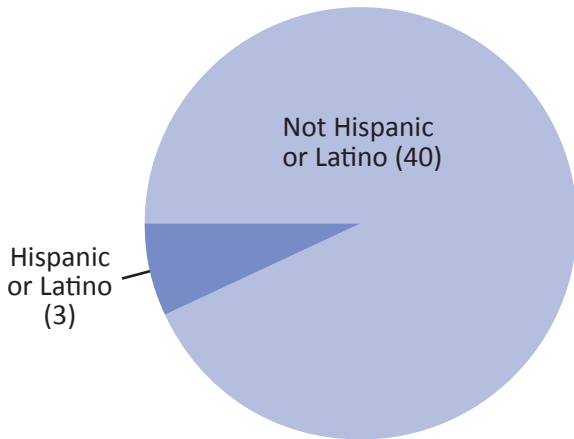
Age

Less than one year	18	42%
One year	5	12%
Two years	7	16%
Three years	5	12%
Four years	5	12%
Eight years	1	2%
Ten to twelve years	1	2%
Thirteen to seventeen years	1	2%
Total	43	100%

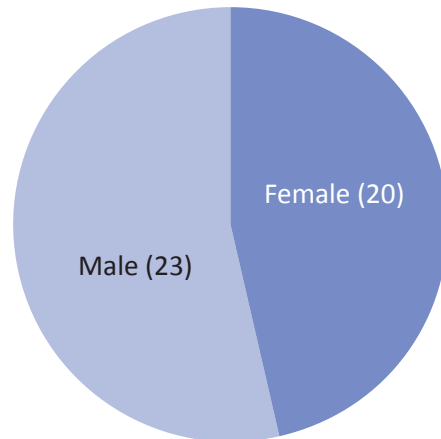
Race



Ethnicity



Gender



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the case

Primary cause of death		
Asphyxia	7	16%
Drowning	8	19%
Exposure	3	7%
Fall or crush	1	2%
Fire, burn or electrocution	2	5%
Malnutrition/dehydration	2	5%
Motor vehicle/other transport	4	9%
Other infection	1	2%
Other medical condition	3	7%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	8	19%
Weapon, including body part	4	9%
Total	43	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Type of neglect		
Unsafe sleep conditions	9	20%
Drowning	8	19%
Poisoning/acute toxicity	8	19%
Vehicle accident	5	12%
Gunshot	3	7%
Exposure hot car	3	7%
Malnutrition/dehydration	3	7%
Other medical issue	3	7%
Smoke inhalation	2	5%
Prenatal substance use	2	5%
Blunt-force trauma	1	2%

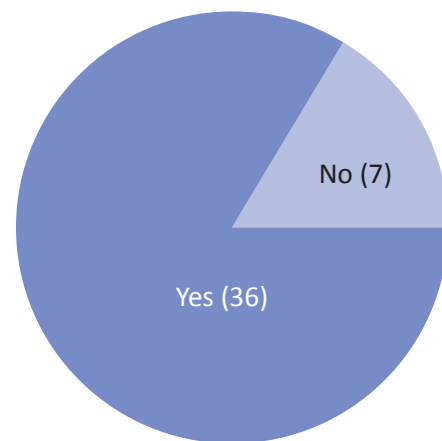
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Note: a child may have experienced more than one type of neglect.

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident		
Apartment hallway	1	2%
Child's home	27	63%
Driveway	1	2%
Father's girlfriend's client's home	1	2%
Friend's home	2	5%
Other parking area	1	2%
Relative's home	4	9%
River	2	5%
Roadway	2	5%
Train tracks behind home	1	2%
Unlicensed day care home	1	2%
Total	43	100%

Other children in household



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Note: a child may have experienced neglect in more than one location.

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household, continued

Caregiver 1 employment status		
Employed	17	40%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	5	12%
Unemployed	10	23%
Unknown	11	26%
Total	43	100%

Caregiver 2 employment status		
Employed	16	52%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	1	3%
Stay-at-home	1	3%
Unemployed	4	13%
Unknown	9	29%
Total	31	100%

Caregiver 1 education level		
Less than high school	0	0%
High school	6	14%
College	1	2%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	36	84%
Total	43	100%

Caregiver 2 education level		
Less than high school	0	0%
High school	5	16%
College	0	0%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	26	84%
Total	31	100%

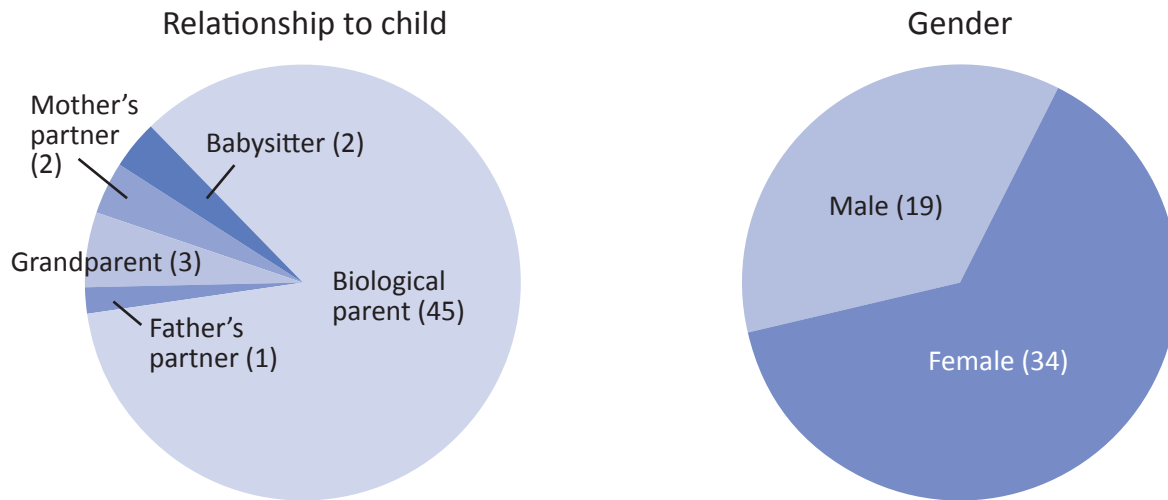
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

Age

Sixteen to nineteen years	2	4%
Twenty to twenty-four years	15	28%
Twenty-five to twenty-nine years	12	23%
Thirty to thirty-four years	12	23%
Thirty-five to thirty-nine years	13	3%
Forty to forty-nine years	2	6%
Fifty or more years	4	8%
Total	53	100%

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator, continued



Note: 53 perpetrators total; a child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 2.0

Neglect statistics: factors impacting child

Acutely ill in the two weeks before death	2
History of child maltreatment as victim	6
History of receiving mental health services	2
Prior disability or chronic illness	5

Problems in school	2
Had been homeless	1
Was receiving mental health services	1
Residence overcrowded	1

Note: a child may have had more than one stress factor, if any. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1	
Disability or chronic illness	3
History of child maltreatment as victim	6
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2
History of intimate partner violence as victim	4
History of substance abuse	25
Unemployed	10
Insufficient income	15
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	3
Residence overcrowded	1

Caregiver 2	
Disability or chronic illness	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	2
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	4
History of substance abuse	14
Unemployed	4
Insufficient income	7
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	3
Residence overcrowded	1

Note: a caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Appendix:

2017 Special Interim Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana

Partial Year 2017 (July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)

Preface

Historically, the DCS Child Fatality Report has utilized data on deaths reported during the state fiscal year. In 2019, Indiana law was revised to require the report cover the calendar year for easier year-over-year comparisons. This addendum details the 26 deaths substantiated as the result of child abuse or neglect in the latter half of SFY 2017. Those 26 deaths account for 19.2% of the 135 investigated during this time period, July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017.

Abuse and neglect fatalities by county

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Allen	0	1	1
Delaware	0	2	2
Elkhart	0	1	1
Franklin	0	1	1
Grant	0	1	1
Harrison	0	1	1
Hendricks	1	0	1
Howard	1	0	1
Kosciusko	0	2	2

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Lake	0	2	2
Marion	2	4	6
Porter	1	0	1
Ripley	1	1	2
Saint Joseph	0	1	1
Tippecanoe	0	1	1
Vanderburgh	1	1	2
Total	7	19	26

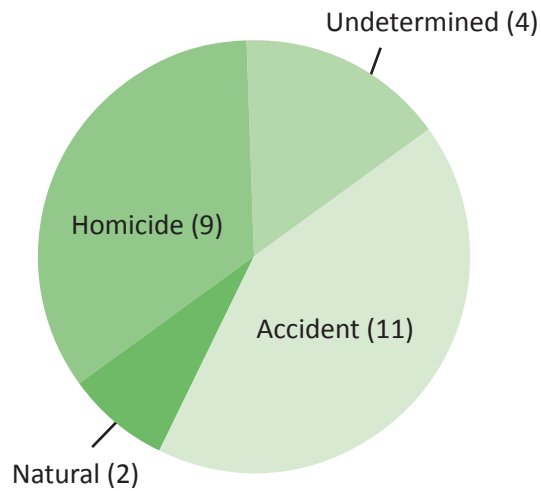
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Assessment statistics for investigation by other agencies, all children

Investigation	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Coroner cases	7	18	25
Autopsies performed	7	18	25
Scene investigated by coroner	2	9	11
Scene investigated by law enforcement	7	18	25
Scene investigated by fire investigator	0	0	0
Emergency medical services was on scene	4	15	19
All child fatalities	7	19	26

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Manner of death, all children



“Manner of Death” obtained from state death certificates. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Primary cause of death, all children

Asphyxia	5	19%
Drowning	5	19%
Malnutrition/dehydration	1	4%
Motor vehicle and other transport	2	8%
Other medical condition	3	12%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	1	4%
Prematurity	2	8%
Weapon, including body part	7	27%
Total	26	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Fatalities due to abuse

- A 4-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child presented to the hospital with numerous bruises and other injuries determined to be non-survivable. The mother maintained the child had caused the injuries to himself. Physicians indicated the injuries were consistent with non-accidental trauma and could not have been self-inflicted. The child had been home with the mother's boyfriend when these injuries were sustained. The mother and her live-in boyfriend were unable to provide consistent statements about how the child's injuries occurred. The mother's boyfriend was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.
- A 1-month-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the mother left the child with her boyfriend for a couple of hours. When she returned home, she noticed the child's head was swollen, and she immediately took him to the emergency room. Her boyfriend denied the child had fallen, been dropped or harmed in any other way. The child presented to the hospital with numerous injuries. The mother's boyfriend was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother's boyfriend.
- A 2-month-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The father stated he got up to get a drink with the child in his arms, and the next thing he remembered, he was lying on the floor next to the child. The child presented with a skull fracture among other injuries. The father's statement that he dropped the baby when he fell remained consistent; however, physicians indicated the injuries did not correspond with the story. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 1-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. On the day of the fatality, the mother's boyfriend was watching the child while the mother was at work. He contacted the mother and told her the child had fallen off the bed and hit her head. The child presented to the hospital with multiple injuries. The mother and her boyfriend submitted to a drug screen. The mother tested negative for all substances, but her boyfriend tested positive for fentanyl and norfentanyl. The child tested positive for THC-COOH, a metabolite of THC. The mother and her boyfriend were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.
- A 2-month-old child died from asphyxiation. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was said to have been found in his bed, unresponsive, while the father was caring for him. A skeletal survey showed 14 rib fractures among other injuries. The father admitted to having spanked the child previously and squeezing him while he was crying. The father said that, on the day of the fatality, he put the child face-down on the bed so the child would tire himself out by lifting his head. The mother and father were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 3-year-old child died from complications of blunt-force trauma to the head. The child had never been removed from his home by DCS. The child was living with the maternal uncle and the maternal uncle's girlfriend. While in the care of the maternal uncle's girlfriend, the child became unresponsive. She said the child hit his head after falling off the top bunk bed earlier in the day. At the hospital, the child presented with a skull fracture among other injuries. Physicians determined the injuries were likely the result of intentionally inflicted abuse. The uncle's girlfriend was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the uncle's girlfriend.

Fatalities due to abuse, continued

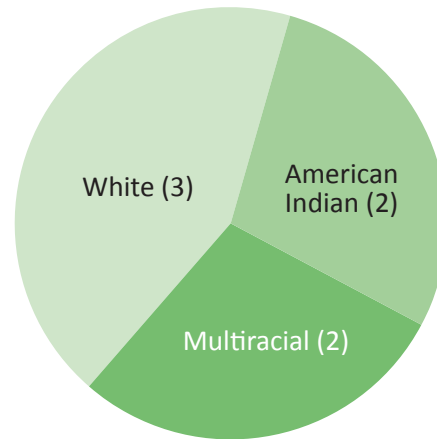
- A 4-month-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The father indicated that he was giving the child a bottle at 11 p.m. on the day of the fatality when the child began acting strangely. When the mother arrived home from work at around 2:30 a.m., she found the child “squealing” in his room. She held the child for approximately two hours, then placed the child to sleep and woke later to find him, unresponsive. Three hours later, the child arrived at the emergency department. The father denied causing any injuries but indicated he “set” the child on the couch and described this to law enforcement by holding his hand approximately 6 inches off of the table and implying he had dropped the child from that distance onto the couch. Physicians indicated the child’s injuries were indicative of the child being thrown or slammed onto a soft surface. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 2-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the mother left the child in the care of her boyfriend while she was at work. He called her in a panic, telling her the child was not breathing. The child was taken to the hospital where he presented with multiple injuries. In text messages between the mother and her boyfriend, the mother’s boyfriend admitted to the mother at one point the child had “just got the belt pretty good.” Other messages revealed additional injuries sustained by the child while he was in the care of the boyfriend. The mother and her boyfriend were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and her boyfriend.

Abuse statistics: demographic characteristics of the child

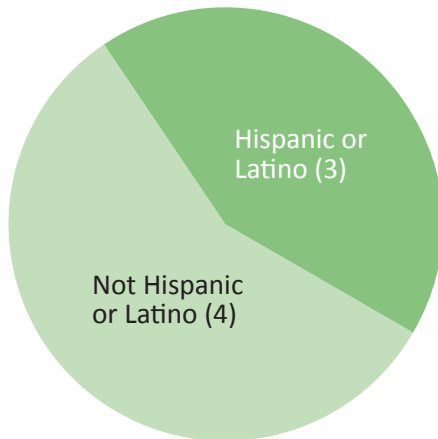
Age

Less than one year	4	57%
One year	1	14%
Three years	1	14%
Four years	1	14%
Total	7	100%

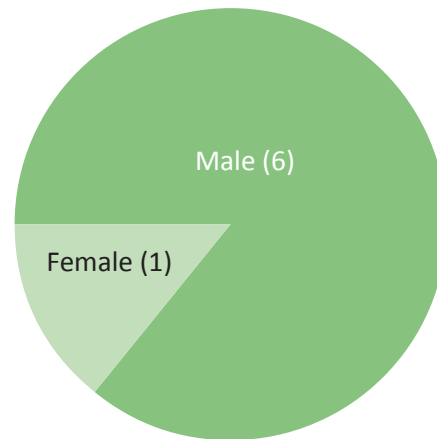
Race



Ethnicity



Gender



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

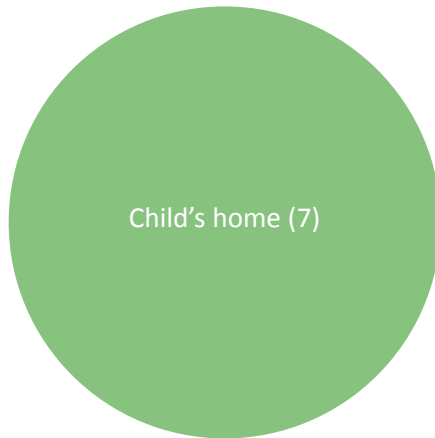
Abuse statistics: characteristics of the case

Type of abuse	Count	Percentage
Abusive head trauma	6	75%
Beating/kicking	1	13%
Traumatic asphyxiation	1	13%

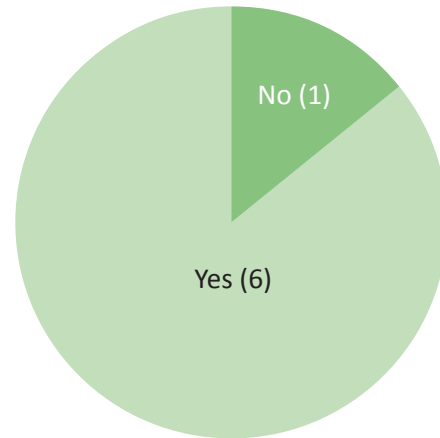
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0 Note: a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident



Other children in household



Caregiver 1 employment status

Employed	4	57%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	0	0%
Unknown	3	43%
Total	7	100%

Caregiver 2 employment status

Employed	0	0%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	1	17%
Unemployed	4	67%
Unknown	1	17%
Total	6	100%

Caregiver 1 education level

Less than high school	1	14%
High school	1	14%
College	0	0%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	5	71%
Total	7	100%

Caregiver 2 education level

Less than high school	0	0%
High school	1	17%
College	0	0%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	5	83%
Total	6	100%

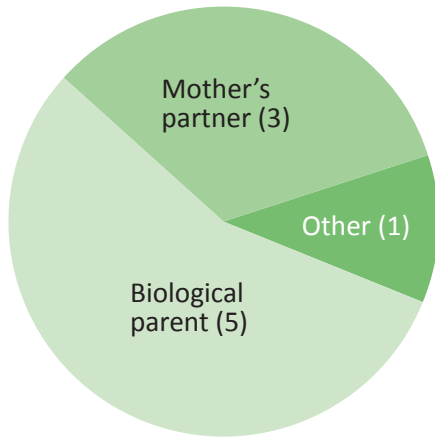
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

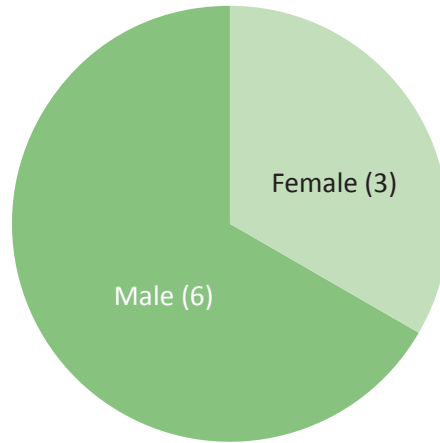
Age

Twenty to twenty-four years	4	44%
Twenty-five to twenty-nine years	3	33%
Thirty to thirty-four years	2	22%
Total	9	100%

Relationship to child



Gender



Note: Nine perpetrators total; a child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 2.0

Abuse statistics: factors impacting child

Acutely ill in the two weeks before death	2
History of receiving mental health services	1
Receiving mental health services	1

Note: a child may have had more than one stress factor, if any. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Abuse statistics: factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1	
Education level less than high school	1
History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of substance abuse	2
Insufficient income	4

Note: a caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Caregiver 2	
History of child maltreatment as victim	1
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2
History of substance abuse	3
Unemployed	4
Insufficient income	4

Fatalities due to neglect

- A 16-year-old child died of mixed-drug intoxication. The child had never been removed from her home by DCS but was residing with two legal guardians for one month prior to her death. The child ingested her legal caregiver's prescribed medications and was found, unresponsive. A month prior to the child's death, she made a Facebook Live video indicating she planned to take pills and drink alcohol to commit suicide. Observation of the home showed that while the family had a safe for medications, many of the medications, including the medication found in the child's system, were unsecured at the time of the child's death. DCS substantiated the allegations against one of the child's guardians, as the medication in the child's system corresponded to the caregiver's prescribed medications.
- A 13-year-old child drowned. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was diagnosed with autism and at the time of his death had the mental/emotional capacity of a toddler. The child wore an ankle bracelet that sounded an alarm and triggered a phone call to his parents' cellphones if he ever opened a door. On the day of the child's death, the family was visiting the child's grandmother at their lake house. The mother put the child to sleep on the floor of the parents' bedroom so they could supervise him. The mother then fell asleep with headphones on while father was outside on the pier. The mother woke later, remembering she needed to give the child his medication but did not see him sleeping on the floor. The child was found in the lake and was unable to be revived. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 2-month-old child died of aspiration of food amid unsafe sleeping arrangements. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. Parents gave the child a bottle of formula thickened with baby cereal. The cereal and formula mixture was described as extremely thick. The bottle they provided to the child with the mixture had a nipple that was damaged. The mother indicated the damage occurred when cleaning the nipple; the father indicated the nipple was purposefully cut to allow for the cereal formula mixture to flow through. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 17-day-old child died of complications of prematurity due to maternal assault. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child's alleged father stabbed the expectant mother multiple times, and the mother gave birth to the child prematurely at the hospital subsequent to the attack. The child survived for several days but ultimately died. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 6-year-old child died following a motor-vehicle collision. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The father was driving the children to school when he ran a stop sign and struck a school bus. The child was found, unresponsive and without a pulse, upon EMS' arrival after the accident. At the hospital, the father's blood-alcohol content was found to be 0.10%. The father was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 2-year-old child asphyxiated. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was with his father at a grandparent's farm at the time of the incident. The father placed the child and his sibling in the family's car for a nap and checked on the children a few times. He said that, the last time, he found his son playing with the window. He covered the child back up for his nap. The next time he looked over, he saw the child hanging out of the rear passenger window, not moving. As of the writing of this report, no charges have been filed as result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

- A 14-year-old child died from complications of end-stage renal disease. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. Approximately two years prior to death, the child was diagnosed with kidney disease. Five months prior to the child's death, a physician consistently informed the family the child should be seen by a specialist. Immediately prior to the child's death, he exhibited signs of medical distress and complained of pain. The parents failed to seek treatment until emergency services were necessary. The child received no care or treatment from a physician for approximately the last six to eight months of his life. As of the writing of this report, no charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 2-year-old child drowned. The child had been removed from his mother's care by DCS and placed with his father. The child, father and several friends were visiting a friend's farm when the child went missing. He was found in a nearby pond. Through several interviews, investigators learned the child did not have appropriate supervision. As of the writing of this report, no charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father.
- A 2-month-old child died of malnutrition and dehydration. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child lived with her parents. The day of the child's death, she had been placed upstairs, checked on six hours later and found to be deceased. The child was seen by physicians 10 days prior to her death and was recorded as having weighed 9.9 pounds. At her death, she weighed 7.9 pounds, a loss of approximately 20% of her body weight. The parents were charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 1-day-old child died in unsafe sleeping conditions. The child had not previously been removed from the home by DCS. The mother gave birth to the child at her home. The mother stated she did not know she was pregnant when she went into labor. She said that after the baby's birth, she cut the umbilical cord, showered and cleaned both herself and the baby. She then placed the newborn in a cardboard box with a blanket covering the baby and drove to a hospital where the baby was discovered, deceased. Mother would have passed several emergency medical service providers prior to arriving at the hospital she drove to. As of the writing of this report, no criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 2-year-old child died of a brain injury due to near drowning. A seizure disorder was also listed as a significant contributing factor. The child had previously been removed from the home by DCS and placed with his grandmother. The child was still in the care of his grandmother at the time of his death. On the day of the fatality, she placed the child in the bath with about 6 inches of water. She stepped out to get a towel and soap and left the child to play with his toys. She stated that when she returned to the bath about one minute later, she found the child, facedown in the bathtub, with his eyes rolled back. The child's treating physician indicated it was likely that the child, who had a known seizure disorder, suffered a seizure while in the bathtub, unsupervised. As of the writing of this report, there have been no charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the grandmother.
- A 5-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma following a train vs. motor vehicle collision. The child had not previously been removed from the home by DCS. The child was in her mother's vehicle with her sibling and her mother. While the mother was driving, she came to a train crossing where she observed the flashing lights indicating an approaching train. She drove onto the train tracks, and the vehicle was struck by a train. The mother admitted to using methamphetamine prior to the incident and tested positive for marijuana the day of the incident. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.

Fatalities due to neglect, continued

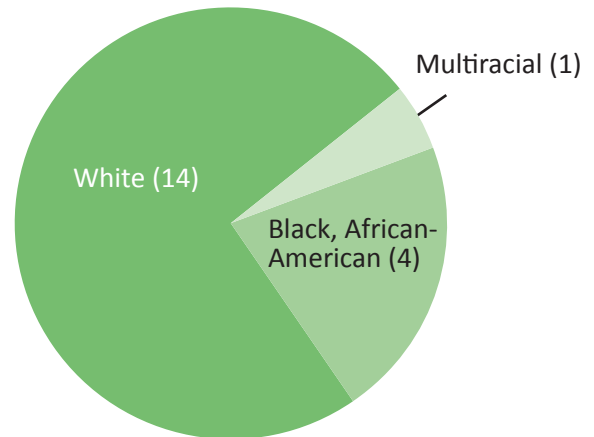
- A 4-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma following a train vs. motor-vehicle collision. The child had not previously been removed from the home by DCS. The child was in his mother's vehicle with his sibling and his mother. While the mother was driving, she came to a train crossing where she observed the flashing lights indicating an approaching train. The mother admitted to using methamphetamine prior to the incident and tested positive for marijuana the day of the incident. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.
- A 5-year-old child drowned. The child had not previously been removed from the home by DCS. The child was visiting the beach with his parents and was playing on a stone wall near the beach at the time of his death. The family sat down for lunch, and then, everyone went back to swim. Approximately five to 10 minutes after lunch, the child's father noticed the boy was missing. The child was subsequently found in the water. The child was reported to be able to swim "so-so" and was not wearing any form of personal flotation device. As of the writing of this report, no charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 6-year-old child died from blunt-force trauma after a motor-vehicle collision. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child resided with her grandmother, who was driving the vehicle at the time of the car accident. The child was sitting in the front seat of the grandmother's van when another driver hit the van on the driver's side. The grandmother indicated the child initially had her seatbelt on but had taken it off because she did not like wearing it. The child was not restrained in a car seat. The grandmother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the grandmother.
- An 11-month-old child died of asphyxia. The child had previously been removed from the home and placed in kinship care. The child was living with his father's long-term girlfriend at the time of his death. Also in the home was the mother's teenage child. The father was permitted supervised visits with the child. On the day of the child's death, the child was left unsupervised with the teenage child. The child suffocated while in the sole care of the teenage child. The teenager was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the father and kinship care provider.
- A 1-year-old child died of asphyxia. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child was riding in the family vehicle to the home of a family friend they were helping move. The child was with her parents and her four siblings, an infant family friend and the child's minor cousin. When the family got to its destination, neither parent got the child out of the vehicle or ensured the other children were supervising the child. The child was asleep, lying on the back bench of the family's vehicle, when the father put the seat down in order to load household items into their van. The child was found compressed in the seat that had been folded down. As of the writing of this report, no charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother and father.
- A 10-month-old child died from sudden unexplained death of an infant with a contributing factor of unsafe sleeping conditions. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The day of the fatality, the mother placed the infant to sleep between the child's two teenage half-siblings on a bed and then placed a blanket over the child's body and face. The mother then left the child to go outside to use methamphetamine. When she returned, she found the child, buried in the blankets and unresponsive. The mother was charged as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.

Neglect statistics: demographic characteristics of the child

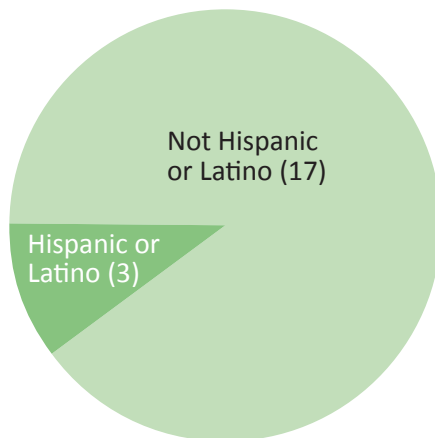
Age

Less than one year	7	37%
One year	1	5%
Two years	21	16%
Five years	2	11%
Six years	2	11%
Thirteen to seventeen years	3	16%
Total	19	100%

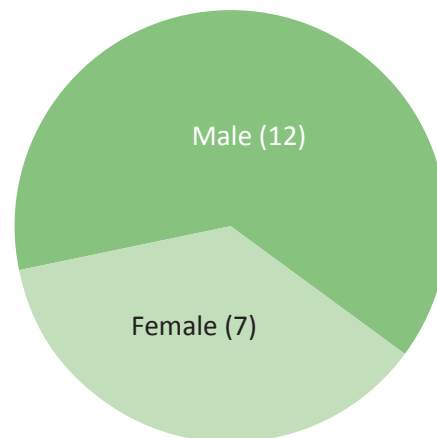
Race



Ethnicity



Gender



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the case

Primary cause of death

Asphyxia	4	21%
Drowning	5	26%
Malnutrition/dehydration	1	5%
Motor vehicle/other transport	2	11%
Other medical condition	3	16%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	1	5%
Prematurity	2	11%
Weapon, including body part	1	5%
Total	19	100%

Type of neglect

Vehicle accident	5	28%
Unsafe sleep conditions	3	17%
Drowning	4	22%
Asphyxiation	2	11%
Poisoning/acute toxicity	1	6%
Malnutrition/dehydration	1	6%
Other medical issue	4	22%

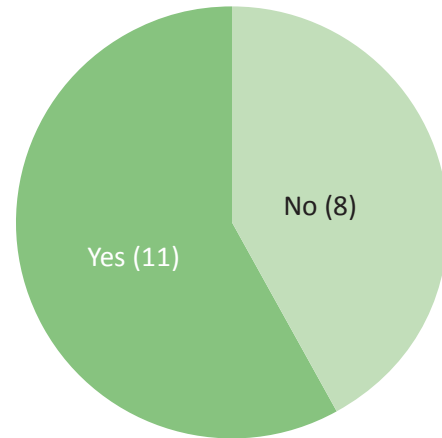
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Note: a child may have experienced more than one type of neglect.

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident		
Child's home	7	37%
Farm	2	11%
Home of legal guardians	1	5%
Hospital	1	5%
Other recreation area	1	5%
Relative foster care home	2	11%
Relative's home	1	5%
Roadway	2	11%
Sidewalk	1	5%
State or county park	1	5%
Total	19	100%

Other children in household



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Note: a child may have experienced neglect in more than one location.

Caregiver 1 employment status		
Employed	7	37%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	1	5%
Unemployed	4	21%
Unknown	7	37%
Total	19	100%

Caregiver 2 employment status		
Employed	8	53%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	2	13%
Unknown	6	38%
Total	16	100%

Caregiver 1 education level		
Less than high school	1	5%
High school	3	16%
College	2	11%
Post-graduate	1	5%
Unknown	12	63%
Total	19	100%

Caregiver 2 education level		
Less than high school	0	0%
High school	4	25%
College	2	13%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	10	63%
Total	16	100%

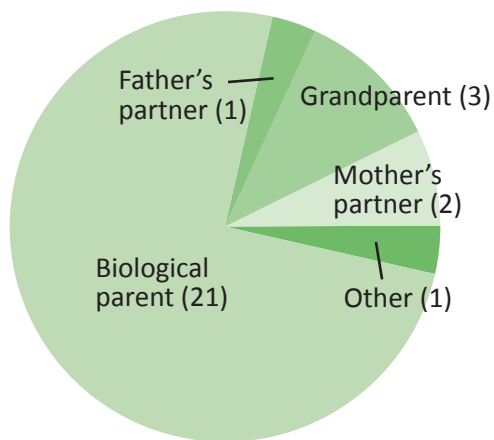
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

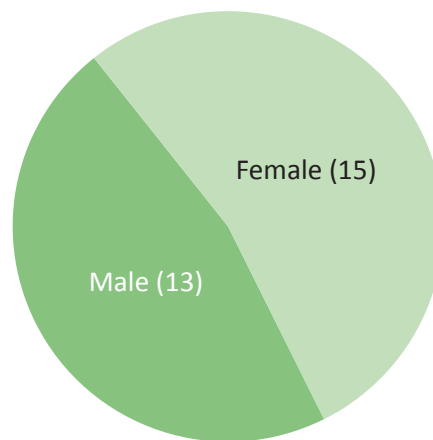
Age

Twenty to twenty-four years	3	11%
Twenty-five to twenty-nine years	7	25%
Thirty to thirty-four years	4	14%
Thirty-five to thirty-nine years	4	14%
Forty to forty-nine years	7	25%
Fifty or more years	3	11%
Total	28	100%

Relationship to child



Gender



Note: 28 perpetrators total; a child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 2.0

Neglect statistics: factors impacting child

Acutely ill in the two weeks before death	3
Delinquent or criminal history	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	5
History of intimate partner violence - unknown	1
History of receiving mental health services	3
History of substance abuse	1

Prior disability or chronic illness	5
Spent time in juvenile detention	1
Was on medication for mental illness	1
Was receiving mental health services	3
Residence overcrowded	1

Note: a child may have had more than one stress factor, if any.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1

Education level less than high school	1
Disability or chronic illness	3
History of child maltreatment as victim	2
History of intimate partner violence as victim	5
History of substance abuse	6
Unemployed	4
Insufficient income	4
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	1

Caregiver 2

History of child maltreatment as victim	2
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	1
History of substance abuse	5
Unemployed	2
Insufficient income	2
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	1

Note: a caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

