2019 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana



Calendar Year 2019

Published December 2020

Preface

The following report details child deaths that were determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect during Calendar Year 2019.

Inclusion in this report does not necessarily indicate a caregiver intentionally caused a child's death, though that is apparent in some of the fatalities. Instead, the annual Indiana DCS Child Fatality Report seeks to raise awareness of perennial issues that result in the tragic loss of Hoosier children in hopes of spurring community action.

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 to determine if abuse or neglect has occurred.

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 report identifies common risk factors in abuse- and/or neglect-related fatalities. We encourage communities to reference this report when considering 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.

Deciding whether to substantiate an allegation of abuse or neglect is never left to one individual. Each fatality is reviewed at both the county and state levels. A team of professionals from the county where the death occurred first determines whether it is believed to be the result of abuse or neglect. Following the local county's recommendation, an independent team of DCS personnel provides a supplementary review. This ensures personal biases do not impact decisions and provides the chance for ample discussion of cases in which the circumstances surrounding the death might not be clear.

Executive Summary

In CY 2019, the Indiana Department of Child Services was called to investigate 276 child fatalities in which abuse or neglect was suspected to be a factor. This is up from 242 in CY 2018. Sixty-one (22%) of the CY 2019 deaths investigated were determined to be a direct result of caregiver maltreatment.

Of the total fatalities covered by this report, 18 were due to abuse and 43 were due to neglect.

In 47 (77%) of the 61 fatalities, 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.

Marion County recorded the state's highest number of child fatalities (13) caused by abuse or neglect.

Twenty-seven (44%) of the fatalities covered in this report were determined to be accidental; 22 (36%) were declared homicides. The manner of death in seven (11%) of the fatalities was listed as unknown/could not be determined. Five fatalities (8%) were deemed the result of natural causes. Twelve of the 61 victims (19%) included in this report had prior substantiated history with DCS.

Of the 61 victims, 30 (49%) were female and 31 (51%) were male. Death by weapon (including a body part; e.g., a closed fist) was the most common cause of death, listed in 21 (34%) of the cases as the primary factor. The manner of death is obtained from state death certificates.

In the majority of cases, 43 or 70%, the death occurred in the victim's own home.

The victim's biological parents were often deemed responsible for the child fatalities detailed in this report, accounting for 58 (76%) of the 76 alleged perpetrators. Some cases cite multiple perpetrators as responsible for the death of the same child.

In some cases, caregiver stressors were determined to play a role in the death of a child. Insufficient income, unemployment and substance abuse were frequently cited as stress factors among caregivers.

Abuse and neglect fatalities by county

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Adams	0	2	2
Allen	0	4	4
Boone	0	3	3
Clark	0	1	1
Delaware	2	0	2
Elkhart	0	2	2
Grant	1	1	2
Hamilton	0	1	1
Hendricks	0	1	1
Jackson	1	0	1
Jasper	0	1	1
Koskiusko	0	3	3
Lake	3	1	4
LaPorte	1	1	2
Lawrence	0	1	1

County	Abuse	Neglect	Tota
Marion	7	6	13
Marshall	0	1	1
Martin	1	0	1
Miami	0	2	2
Monroe	0	2	2
Morgan	0	1	1
Noble	0	1	1
Saint Joseph	0	2	2
Steuben	0	1	1
Tippecanoe	0	1	1
Vanderburgh	0	1	1
Vigo	0	2	2
Warrick	0	1	1
Wayne	1	0	1
Wells	1	0	1
Total	18	43	61

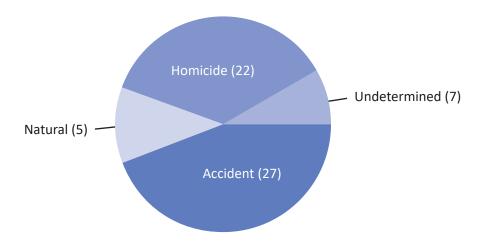
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Assessment statistics for investigation by other agencies, all children

Investigation	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Coroner cases	18	43	61
Autopsies performed	18	38	56
Scene investigated by coroner	6	22	28
Scene investigated by law enforcement	17	35	52
Scene investigated by fire investigator	0	1	1
Emergency medical services was on scene	12	35	47
All child fatalities	18	43	61

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

Total	61	100%
Weapon, including body part	21	34%
Unknown	1	2%
Undetermined	1	2%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	4	7%
Other medical condition	5	8%
Other	1	2%
Motor vehicle and other transport	6	10%
Malnutrition/dehydration	1	2%
Fire, burn or electrocution	2	3%
Exposure	3	5%
Drowning	7	11%
Asthma	2	3%
Asphyxia	7	11%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Fatalities due to abuse

Victim: 15-year-old boy Perpetrator: Grandmother Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 15-year-old boy died of a gunshot wound. The child lived with his grandmother, who was also his guardian. The child's grandmother had health issues and had become concerned about who would care for the child once she passed away. The child's grandmother shot the child, called 911, then shot herself. The incident was determined to be a murder/suicide at the hands of the grandmother.

Victim: 1-month-old boy Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old boy died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his parents and sibling. The day of the fatality, the child and his sibling were in the care of their father while their mother was working. The father contacted the mother and told her the child was fussy, not eating and looked pale. The mother left work to come home, where she found the child to be unresponsive. The mother and father transported the child to the hospital. The child had a fractured rib, a brain bleed and retinal hemorrhages. Doctors indicated the injuries were consistent with abusive head trauma. The child's sibling and uncle (also a minor) reported they had observed the father shaking the child. The father was the only caregiver home when the child sustained his injuries.

Victim: 14-year-old girl **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 14-year-old girl died of gunshot wounds. Emergency services were contacted regarding three deaths. An investigation revealed the child's father killed the child's mother and the child before killing himself.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend **Prior removal by DCS:** No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother, sibling and her mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the child was being cared for by her mother's boyfriend while her mother was at work. The mother's boyfriend called 911 and reported the child had fallen out of the crib. The child was transported to the hospital and underwent emergency brain surgery. Doctors determined the child's injuries were not consistent with a fall from a crib onto a carpeted floor. The child had sustained a fracture five weeks prior while in the care of the mother's boyfriend. At that time, the mother's boyfriend alleged the child had fallen off the couch.

Victim: 3-month-old girl Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old girl died of complications from burns. The child lived with her mother. The mother reported the child had previously fallen from her stroller and injured her arm. The mother reported she had been applying a topical cold/hot muscle cream to the child's arm. The mother reported the child had not eaten for several days, and she had not sought medical care for the child. The mother reported on the day of the fatality, the child looked blue, her face looked sunburned, and she had marks on her arms. The mother reported she was the child's only caregiver. The child had burns on her face, neck, torso and arms as well as other injuries including fractures.

Victim: 10-year-old girl Perpetrator: Stepmother Prior removal by DCS: Yes

Circumstances: A 10-year-old girl asphyxiated. The child lived with her father, stepmother and six other children. The stepmother called law enforcement and reported the child missing. The father was an over-the-road truck driver and was not home at the time. The other children reported the decedent had been grounded to her bedroom for approximately two weeks prior to her being reported missing. The stepmother eventually admitted to killing the child by choking her with her hands and tying something around her neck. The child was found deceased in a trash bag in a shed located in the family's backyard.

Victim: 12-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Father, father's girlfriend

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 12-year-old boy died of complications of malnutrition, dehydration and multiple soft tissue injuries. The child lived in a motel room with his father, his father's girlfriend and three other children. On the day of the child's death, the father took the child to the hospital and reported the child had fallen in the shower. The child was unresponsive and was noted to be emaciated and covered with bruises. Law enforcement found a surveillance camera in the bathroom of the motel room. The surveillance camera showed the child chained in the bathtub on multiple occasions. An electric dog shock collar, restraint cuffs, cords and chains were also found in the motel room. Additional images were recovered showing the father on camera, looking in the bathroom mirror while the child was behind him, chained to the bathtub. The father's girlfriend admitted the father hit the child with several different objects, shocked the child with the shock collar and chained the child to the bathtub.

Victim: 1-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Babysitter, babysitter's boyfriend

Prior removal by DCS: Previously removed by a child protection agency in another state. **Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died of complications of blunt-force trauma to the head. The boy and his sibling had been living with a babysitter and her boyfriend for approximately five

weeks while their mother was without stable housing. On the day of the child's death, the babysitter contacted her boyfriend after she found the child, unresponsive. The babysitter's boyfriend returned home, and the child was eventually taken to the hospital after attempts to revive him were unsuccessful. The babysitter reported the child fell and hit his head on a carpeted floor. The child had multiple contusions and underwent brain surgery but was ultimately taken off life support because of irreversible brain damage.

Victim: 1-month-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend **Prior removal by DCS:** No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old boy died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother, her boyfriend and a sibling. On the day of the child's death, the mother went to work and left the child with her boyfriend. The mother was contacted at work and advised to return home. Once at home, the mother found the child unresponsive. The mother's boyfriend admitted to jerking the child. The mother's boyfriend submitted to a drug screen and tested positive for methamphetamine.

Victim: 2-month-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, mother's boyfriend

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 2-month-old boy suffocated. The child had never been removed from the home by DCS. The child lived with his mother and her boyfriend. On the day of the child's death, the child had been cared for by his mother's boyfriend while she was at work. The mother returned home from work and found the child unresponsive. The mother's boyfriend admitted to placing the child into the bassinet, face down, and pushing his head into a pillow until the child stopped crying. The mother admitted to previously observing her boyfriend pick the child up aggressively and push the child's face into the covers to make the child stop crying.

Victim: 1-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend **Prior removal by DCS:** Yes

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother and her boyfriend. On the day of the child's death, in the early morning hours, the mother saw her boyfriend holding the child and then placing the child in bed. The mother went back to sleep and was later awakened by her boyfriend, who said he thought he was having a heart attack. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was called, and the mother's boyfriend was advised he was having a panic attack. Shortly after EMS walked out of the home, the mother's boyfriend told the mother to check on the child. The mother found the child, unresponsive, and took the child outside to EMS, which was still on the scene. The child died of his injuries the next day.

Victim: 5-month-old girl **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: Yes

Circumstances: A 5-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child had been removed from the home by DCS and was in foster care. On the day of the child's death, she was on visitation with her parents at a department store. The child soiled her diaper, and her father took the child into the bathroom to change her. As soon as her father changed the child's diaper, the child soiled her new diaper. The father yelled for the mother to bring another diaper and then stated the child was not breathing. The child was found to have severe head injuries. Several people described the child as being fine prior to going into the bathroom.

Victim: 29-day-old boy **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 29-day-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his parents and their roommate. On the day of the child's death, the child was in the care of his father while his mother ran errands. When the mother returned to the home, the child was unresponsive. The child was transported to the hospital, where he later died. The child had a fractured arm and injuries consistent with abusive head trauma.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend **Prior removal by DCS:** No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother and her mother's boyfriend. On the day of the child's death, the child was left in the care of the mother's boyfriend while the mother worked. The mother's boyfriend found the child, unresponsive, and 911 was contacted. The child was transported to the hospital with bruises and bite marks on multiple areas of her body. The mother's boyfriend admitted to becoming frustrated with the child and gave inconsistent statements about how the child sustained her injuries.

Victim: 3-month-old boy Perpetrator: Uncle's girlfriend Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died from a gunshot wound. The child lived with his mother, grandmother, uncle and his uncle's girlfriend. On the day of the child's death, the mother left to run errands and left the child in the care of the grandmother. The uncle and his girlfriend began to argue, and the uncle's girlfriend shot the uncle. The uncle's girlfriend then shot the grandmother and the child.

Victim: 1-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, mother's boyfriend

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother. On the night of the child's death, the child, his mother, her boyfriend and her boyfriend's child were staying at a rented home together. The mother went to bed and left her son in the care of her boyfriend. The boyfriend reported the child fell down the stairs and vomited. The mother wanted to take him to the hospital, but the boyfriend talked her out of it. The child went to sleep and was later found, deceased. The mother and the mother's boyfriend provided inconsistent stories regarding the sequence of events surrounding the child's death.

Victim: 6-month-old girl

Perpetrators: Mother, mother's boyfriend

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 6-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother and older sibling. On the night before the child's death, the sibling went to the father's house while the mother, the child and the mother's boyfriend went to buy synthetic marijuana. They returned to the mother's boyfriend's home, and the child was placed to sleep around 11 p.m. The mother stated she woke up around 2 p.m. the next day and discovered the child, deceased. The mother and the mother's boyfriend gave inconsistent stories regarding the events leading up to the child's death. At the child's autopsy, it was discovered child had sustained trauma consistent with shaken baby syndrome. The child's toxicology was positive for synthetic marijuana.

Victim: 1-month-old girl **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother, father, grandmother, siblings and cousin. On the day of the child's death, the father cared for the children while the mother was at work. The grandmother was home, but she was sleeping after having worked the night shift. The father reported the child slept with him in the adult bed. He said he went to the restroom, heard the child start crying, then stop. The father reported he was in the restroom for about two minutes. He said when he returned to the bedroom, he found the child on the floor, gasping for air. She then went limp. 911 was called; the child died at the hospital. She was found to have sustained multiple head injuries and fractures.

Victim: 6-month-old girl **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: Yes

Circumstances: A 6-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child was returned to mother's care for a trial home visit. The father was not to have unsupervised contact with the child. After

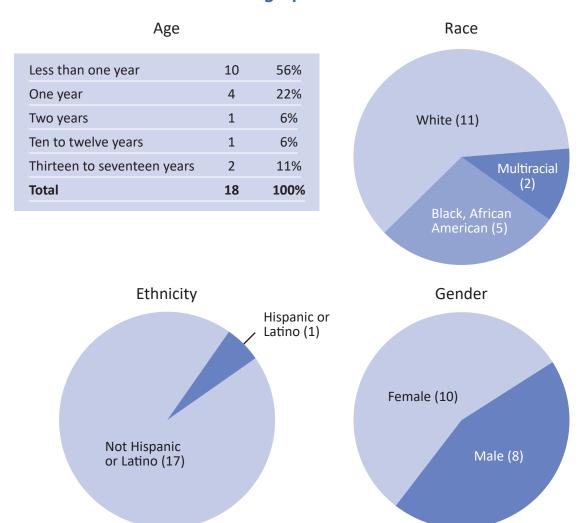
the child's death, the mother admitted to allowing the father to live in the home after the children were returned to her care. On the day of the child's death, the mother left the children in the care of the father while she ran errands. At some point, the mother received a phone call from the father advising the child was not moving. The mother did not believe the father, thinking he was just trying to get her to return home. On her way home, she received a text message from the father advising he had left the child home alone. When she got home, the mother found the child, deceased. The mother admitted to observing the father shake the child and threaten the child in the past. The child was found to have sustained head injuries and multiple fractures. The father denied being in the home on the day of the child's death and denied harming the child.

Victim: 5-month-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend **Prior removal by DCS:** No

Circumstances: A 5-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother and siblings. Early the morning of the child's death, her mother picked up her boyfriend and returned home. He was drunk and struck the mother in the mouth during an argument. They later fell asleep. Later in the day, the mother took a shower, leaving the sleeping child in the middle of the adult bed while her boyfriend watched TV in the living room. When the mother got out of the shower, she noticed the child had a bruise on her ear and was breathing abnormally. The mother called 911, and the child died at the hospital several days later. The mother and her boyfriend both tested positive for cocaine. The mother's boyfriend eventually admitted he grabbed the child while her mother was in the shower because the child was crying. He said he accidentally dropped the child, and she hit her head on the bassinet. He said he thought she was fine, so he placed her back in bed.

Abuse statistics: demographic characteristics of the child



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

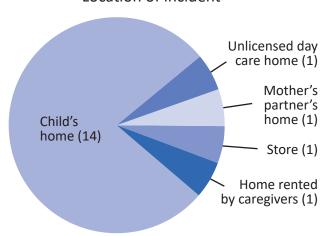
Abuse statistics: characteristics of the case

12	57%
1	5%
3	14%
1	5%
3	14%
1	5%
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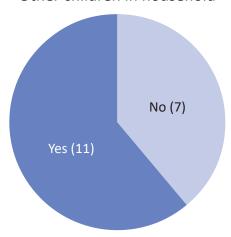
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0. Note: a child might have experienced more than one type of abuse.

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident



Other children in household



Caregiver 1 employment status		
7	39%	
0	0%	
0	0%	
0	0%	
7	39%	
4	22%	
18	100%	
	7 0 0 0 0 7 4	

Caregiver 2 employment	tstatus	
Employed	5	31%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	8	50%
Unknown	3	19%
Total	16	100%

1	6%
5	28%
1	6%
0	0%
11	61%
18	100%
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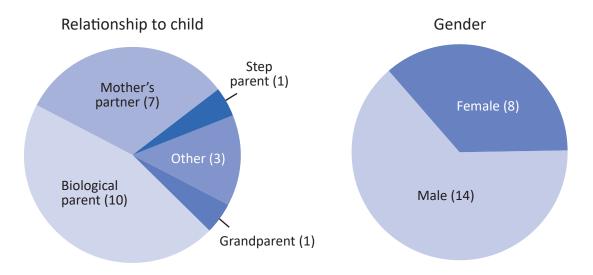
1	6%
6	38%
0	0%
0	0%
9	56%
16	100%
	6 0 0 9

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

Age

Sixteen to nineteen years	1	5%
Twenty to twenty-four years	11	50%
Twenty-five to twenty-nine years	2	9%
Thirty to thirty-four years	3	14%
Thirty-five to thirty-nine years	1	5%
Fifty or more years	4	18%
Total	22	100%



Note: 22 perpetrators total; a child's death might 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	1
History of intimate partner	
violence - unknown	2

History of child maltreatment as victim	6
Prior disability or chronic illness	1

Note: a child might 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
Disability or chronic illness	2
History of child maltreatment as victim	6
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2
History of intimate partner violence as victim	2
History of substance abuse	5
Unemployed	7
Insufficient income	9
New residence in past 30 days	3

Education level less than high school	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	3
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	3
History of substance abuse	9
Unemployed	8
Insufficient income	7
New residence in past 30 days	3

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

Fatalities due to neglect

Victim: 1-year-old boy Perpetrators: Mother, father Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy died of complications from burns. The child lived with his parents. The morning of the child's death, he was in a walker at home when he pulled down a bowl of boiling water his mother had heated to wash dishes. The child sustained third-degree burns to his chin, chest, abdomen, arms and legs. The parents used home remedies to treat the child's burns. Later that night, the child started having shallow breathing and then stopped breathing. 911 was called, and the child was transported to the hospital. A doctor stated if the child had received prompt medical care, the child would have survived.

Victim: 1-month-old girl Perpetrators: Mother, father Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old girl died of positional asphyxiation. The child lived with her parents and a family friend. The mother, father and family friend reportedly drank alcohol from 12:30 -1:30 a.m. and went to bed around 5 a.m. the morning of the fatality. When the father woke up at 1 p.m., he found the child next to him in bed. The mother was asleep in a chair in another room. Neither parent could recall how the child had gotten into the bed, when the child was last fed or when the mother moved from the bed to the chair. The parents tested positive for THC. No criminal charges have been filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated the allegations against the parents.

Victim: 13-year-old girl Perpetrator: Mother Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 13-year-old girl died of exacerbation of asthma. The child lived with her mother, siblings and maternal uncles. The night of the fatality, the child had stayed all night at a friend's house. Around midnight, the child became short of breath, and her asthma inhaler was empty. The friend's mother called 911, and the child collapsed. The child never regained consciousness. The child had been diagnosed with asthma several years prior, and an ambulance had been called to the home several times because the child was in respiratory distress and did not have asthma medication. Each time the ambulance responded to the home, a breathing treatment was given, and it was recommended the child go to the hospital. Each time, the mother refused. Nine months prior to the child's death, an ambulance was called to the home twice in one day because the child was having trouble breathing. At the time the child died, her medication, which was to be taken daily, had not been filled for 9 months. The child had full medical coverage.

Victim: 14-year-old boy Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 14-year-old boy died from complications of Fentanyl intoxication. The child lived with his mother, stepfather, siblings and stepsiblings. The night of the fatality, the child, the child's siblings and the child's mother were talking in the child's bedroom. The child lay down while the mother continued to talk to the siblings in the same room. The mother reported shortly after, the child looked very pale and was found unresponsive. 911 was contacted, and the child was admitted to the hospital, where he later died. On the day of the child's death, the mother tested positive for THC and Fentanyl. At autopsy, the child also tested positive for Fentanyl. Subsequent to the child's death, the mother and the youngest sibling both tested positive for trace amounts of heroin. The mother testing positive for the same substances as her children, on two separate occasions, indicating a pattern of the mother using substances with her children.

Victim: 3-month-old boy **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died of asphyxiation while co-sleeping. The child lived with his parents and a sibling. The day of the child's death, the father took the child to bed with him. The father reported the child's head was placed on a pillow, and the blankets were covering the child and the father with their heads exposed. The boy's mother slept on the sofa in the living room. She woke up a few hours later and found the child, deceased, in bed with his father. The father tested positive for methamphetamine and THC.

Victim: 1-year-old girl
Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died from complications of drowning. The child lived with her parents and five siblings. The day of the child's death, the father went to work, and the mother remained home with the children. The mother placed the child in a bathtub containing approximately 3 inches of water and then left the child alone to check on the other children. The mother stated she left the child alone for approximately three minutes, and when she returned, the child was face down in the bathtub.

Victim: 1-month-old boy Perpetrator: Mother Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old boy died of an undetermined cause in unsafe sleeping conditions. The child lived with his mother, grandparents and one sibling. The day of the child's death, his mother fell asleep sitting up on the couch, while holding him. She woke up two hours later and found his head

turned into her arm. He was unresponsive. The mother submitted to a drug screen and tested positive

for methamphetamine. An autopsy showed the child had a healed fracture that suggested a past intentional injury. The child also had a hemorrhage that could have occurred at childbirth or from trauma. The pathologist noted the findings but determined these injuries did not cause the child's death.

Victim: 3-year-old girl, 5-year-old girl **Perpetrator:** Foster mother/mother

Prior removal by DCS: Yes

Circumstances: A 3-year-old girl and a 5-year-old girl drowned. The 3-year-old child was in foster care at the time of her death. The 5-year-old had been removed and previously adopted by the family that was fostering the 3-year-old. The day of the children's deaths, the children had been playing outside with other children. The foster mother (of the 3-year-old)/mother (of the 5-year-old) reported she checked on the children and then went inside to use the bathroom. When she went back outside, the children were gone. The children were found in a nearby pond.

Victim: A 15-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, stepfather **Prior removal by DCS:** No

Circumstances: A 15-year-old boy overdosed on Fentanyl and heroin. The child lived with his mother, stepfather and two siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child was found, unresponsive, in his bed by his stepfather. It was reported the stepfather kept a plate with heroin on it in the bedroom closet, and the mother and stepfather believed someone had been using the drugs. The mother tested positive for Fentanyl and heroin. After the child's death, the stepfather fled the state.

Victim: 2-year-old boy Perpetrator: Mother Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 2-year-old boy died of a gunshot wound. The child lived with his mother, father and sibling. The mother left her loaded handgun lying on top of a toy box near the bed, and the child shot himself while unattended. The mother's handgun did not have a safety mechanism.

Victim: 2-year-old boy **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 2-year-old boy drowned. The child lived with his mother, father and two siblings. On the day of the child's death, the mother was at work and the child was home with his father. The father left the child inside the house while he sat outside, near the front door of the home to wait for the older children to return home from school. The father went inside the house to check on the child but could not find him. The father found the child, unresponsive, in the backyard swimming pool. The pool had a fence with gate on it, but the gate was not locked.

Victim: 1-year-old girl **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl drowned. The child lived with her mother, two siblings and grand-parents. On the day of the child's death, the family had been swimming in the backyard pool. Later that day, the mother was sitting on the porch while the grandparents were in different areas of the yard. After approximately 10 minutes, the mother asked the whereabouts of the child. Family members started looking, and the child was found, unresponsive, in the family's pool. The swimming pool had a gate on it, but the gate was broken and did not have a lock. The mother submitted to a drug screen and tested positive for oxycodone not prescribed to her.

Victim: 4-month-old boy Perpetrator: Mother Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 4-month-old boy's death was ruled a sudden unexpected infant death that occurred in an unsafe sleep environment. The child lived with his parents and two siblings. The night prior to the child's death, his parents had attended an event and consumed alcohol while the children were left with a babysitter. The parents returned home, and the boy was asleep in his crib. At some point during the night, he woke up and his mother placed the child in bed between her and the father to breastfeed. When the mother woke up several hours later, the child was found, unresponsive, face down between the parents. The mother said she usually breastfed the child with the child being on the outer edge of the bed and not between the parents. Based on tests following the death, law enforcement estimated the mother's blood-alcohol content would have been .20 percent at the time she returned home.

Victim: 11-year-old boy Perpetrator: Brother Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: An 11-year-old boy died of a gunshot wound. The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child's 5-year-old sibling accessed a shotgun kept in an unlocked gun cabinet in the children's bedroom. The gun cabinet also contained other firearms and toys. The 5-year-old child shot his brother as the brother was walking toward him.

Victim: 2-year-old girl Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 2-year-old girl died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her parents, a sibling and grandparents. On the day of the child's death, the father and child were in the family's garage. The child wandered out of the garage and into the street. The child was hit by a passing vehicle approximately 235 feet from the child's residence. The driver of the vehicle was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Victim: 3-month-old girl Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old girl died from exposure. The child lived with her parents and sibling. The mother and child were reported missing the day of the child's death. The mother and child were located several hours later, parked in front of a stranger's home. The child was found deceased on the floorboard of the passenger side of the vehicle, and the mother was found unconscious in the driver's seat. The temperature inside the vehicle was 23.4 degrees. A bottle of liquor was found inside the vehicle, and the mother's blood-alcohol content was .228 percent.

Victim: 1-year-old boy Perpetrator: Grandfather Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy drowned. The child lived with his parents and sibling. On the day of the child's death, the child was being cared for by his grandfather. The grandfather completed household chores and realized he had not seen the child for approximately 15 minutes. The grandfather found the child floating in the backyard pool. The sliding door to the home led to the deck of the pool. There was no gate or fence preventing the child from entering the pool.

Victim: 3-week-old boy **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-week-old boy suffocated while in unsafe sleeping conditions. The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the morning of the child's death, the father left for work and shortly after, the mother fell asleep on the couch while feeding the child a bottle. The mother woke up over five hours later when awakened by the child's 3-year-old sibling. The mother found the child deceased on the couch. The mother submitted to a drug screen and tested positive for anti-anxiety medication not prescribed to her.

Victim: 11-year-old boy **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: An 11-year-old boy died of diabetes. The child lived with his mother and siblings. The child had been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes approximately three years prior to his death. The child was insulin-dependent and his mother had received education regarding the symptoms of diabetic ketoacidosis. The child had been ill for at least two days prior to his death. The child was described as being lethargic, pale and unable to eat. The mother never sought medical care for the child and was unable to say when the child had last received insulin. On the day of the child's death, the child was found deceased in the home, and his blood sugar level was approximately four times the normal range for a child his age.

Victim: 5-month-old girl Perpetrator: Babysitter Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 5-month-old girl died of medical complications. The child lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child was left with a babysitter around 8 a.m. At 11 a.m., the babysitter attempted to feed the child, but the child would not eat or respond. The babysitter placed the child on the couch and did not seek medical care for the child. At 4 p.m., the child's mother contacted the babysitter, and the babysitter reported the child had been sleeping all day. The child was also not eating and had labored breathing. The child's mother called 911. A pediatric specialist reported the child more than likely would have survived if medical care had been sought at 11 a.m. when the babysitter first observed the child in distress.

Victim: 2-month-old girl **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 2-month-old girl died of methamphetamine intoxication. The child lived with her parents. On the day of the child's death, the child had been sleeping with the parents when she was found unresponsive. The mother later admitted to breastfeeding the child after smoking methamphetamine, knowing that methamphetamine could be transferred to the child.

Victim: 3-year-old boy **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-year-old boy died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child was at a farm watching his father and older brother bale hay. The child was last seen sitting on a bale of wrapped hay, while the brother worked the bale wrapper. The father backed up a skid loader and ran over the child.

Victim: 15-year-old **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 15-year-old-boy died of synthetic opioid toxicity. The child lived with his mother and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child was found unresponsive in the home, and his mother was observed to be under the influence of substances. The child had a history of substance abuse, and the mother had previously signed a safety plan agreeing to ensure the child was supervised at all times and did not have access to medication, alcohol or sharp objects. The child's mother was prescribed buprenorphine, and several of the pills were missing from the prescription bottle.

Victim: 16-year-old girl
Perpetrators: Mother, father
Prior removal by DCS: Yes

Circumstances: A 16-year-old-girl died of asthma. The child lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child reportedly had an asthma attack at home. The child did not consistently take her daily asthma medication, and the nebulizer (used for breathing treatments) was dirty and did not have the required mask. The family's home was observed to have many triggers for people with asthma: trash throughout the home, a roach infestation, molded food, and rancid water in the sink. The parents had a history of non-compliance with the child's medical appointments and had been educated regarding asthma triggers on several occasions. The parents tested positive for methamphetamine, and evidence of drug paraphernalia was found in the home.

Victim: 8-year-old girl Perpetrators: Mother, father Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: An 8-year-old girl died of a gunshot wound. The child lived with her parents and 3-year-old sibling. On the day of the child's death, the children were inside the home with their father. The mother was smoking marijuana in a vehicle outside the home. The mother heard gunshots and ran into the house, where she observed the father running toward their bedroom. The child was found shot in the head, and the mother transported the child to a nearby fire station. The father fled the home with the 3-year-old sibling. Marijuana and cocaine were found in the home. The father owned the gun, which was generally stored in a closet or under a pillow on the adult bed. It was determined the child was accidentally shot by the 3-year-old sibling after the sibling found the weapon located under a pillow on the adult bed.

Victim: 1-month-old girl
Perpetrator: Mother
Prior removal by DCS: N

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old girl died of positional/traumatic asphyxia. The child lived with her parents. On the day of the child's death, the mother fell asleep with the child on a couch. The father woke up and observed the mother in the adult bed with him, but the child was not in the crib. The father found the child, deceased, on the couch. The mother provided inconsistent stories regarding the circumstances surrounding the child's death. The mother tested positive for alcohol and admitted to smoking marijuana. The mother was criminally charged as a result of the child child's death. DCS substantiated the allegations against the mother.

Victim: 1-year-old girl Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died of heat exposure. The child lived with her parents. Video surveillance shows on the day of the child's death, the mother left the child in her vehicle with the win-

dows rolled up for several hours while she was inside a friend's home. The mother was observed to return to the vehicle and drive away. The mother then picked up a friend and drove to a store, where the mother discovered the child was deceased in the back of the vehicle. The child was transported to the hospital, and her body temperature was documented to be 105 degrees. The mother tested positive for several substances, including cocaine.

Victim: 26-day-old boy Perpetrators: Mother, father Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 26-day-old boy suffocated. The child lived with his parents, an older sibling and a grandfather. On the day of the child's death, the child was found unresponsive after sleeping with the parents in their bed. The father stated when he found the child, the child's face was in a blanket. Mother admitted to drinking beer before going to bed the night prior to the child's death. The father refused to submit to a drug screen, and the mother tested positive for THC.

Victim: 5-month-old boy **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 5-month-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child was in a bouncy seat in the driveway of the family's home while the mother cleaned up the yard. The child's father returned home and drove over the child. The father submitted to a drug screen and tested positive for multiple substances, including methamphetamine and morphine.

Victim: 2-month-old girl **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 2-month-old girl died of positional asphyxia. The child lived with her parents and a grandparent. On the day of the child's death, the child was found unresponsive on the floor, where she had been sleeping with her parents. Her mother had placed the child to sleep on the floor with her and the father. The mother was unable to describe how she placed the child on the floor or how the child was positioned when she was found unresponsive. The mother exhibited slurred speech and nodded off during questioning. Both parents tested positive for substances including methamphetamine and cocaine.

Victim: 5-month-boy **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 5-month-old boy died of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother. On

the day of the child's death, his mother woke up and found the child unresponsive on her bedroom floor. The mother had a relative over to visit the night before the child's death, and they drank alcohol and used marijuana. She said she could not remember anything that occurred after she went to bed. The relative said the child was awake and crying when he left early in the morning. The boy's mother denied knowledge of how the child was injured.

Victim: 1-month-old boy Perpetrators: Mother, father Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old boy's death was ruled a sudden unexpected infant death that occurred while he was in an unsafe sleep environment The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child was found unresponsive under the blankets at the foot of his parents' bed. The parents had no knowledge of the child being in their bed and were unable to say who placed the child in their bed. The parents admitted to drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana the night prior to the child's death. The parents submitted to drug screens and tested positive for THC and cocaine.

Victim: 1-month-old girl Perpetrators: Mother, father Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old girl died of undetermined causes. The child lived with her parents and sibling. On the night prior to the child's death, the mother placed the child to sleep on an adult bed and then went downstairs with the father. The mother and father drank alcohol and smoked marijuana until the early morning hours before falling asleep downstairs. When the mother woke up, she found the child face down on a plastic bag on the floor of the parents' bedroom. The parents reported the child must have fallen off of the adult bed, which was over a foot off the ground, and then crawled over to the plastic bag, which was 11 feet away. The parents submitted to drug screens and tested positive for THC.

Victim: 3-year-old boy Perpetrators: Mother, father Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-year-old boy drowned. The child lived with his parents and sibling. On the day of the child's death, the parents reported the children ate lunch and then took a nap in the living room. The parents were awake in the home while the children were napping. The mother noticed the back sliding glass door was open, and the parents immediately went to the lake located behind their home to look for the child. The father found the child unresponsive in the lake. The father tested positive for THC. The mother tested positive for THC and methamphetamine.

Victim: 3-year-old boy **Perpetrator:** Father

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 3-year-old boy died of exposure. The child lived with his parents and an older sibling. On the day of the child's death, the child's father placed the child in his vehicle, in a car seat behind the driver's seat. The father went to work and forgot to drop the child off at daycare. Several hours later, he went to the child's daycare to pick the child up. Once at the daycare, the father went to adjust the straps on the child's car seat, as he would usually do prior to going inside to get the child, and found the child unresponsive. The child's mother reported she was usually the one to drop the child off at daycare, but the father had dropped him off in the past.

Victim: 5-year-old boy, 3-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 5-year-old and 3-year-old died of blunt-force trauma. They lived with their parents and siblings. On the day of their deaths, the children were in their mother's care while their father was at work. After lunch, the mother decided to take a nap while the 5-year-old and 3-year old played outside without supervision. The children wandered over to a neighboring farm, where they were run over by a truck.

Victim: 1-day-old girl **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

Circumstances: A 1-day-old girl died of exsanguination due to unattended premature delivery and maternal narcotic abuse. The mother went into labor at home and delivered the child in a toilet. The mother left the child in the toilet, and the child was not removed until the child's father returned home several minutes later. The parents did not call 911, and the mother cleaned up her home prior to the child being transported to the hospital. The parents did not take the child to a hospital located minutes from their home, instead taking the child to a hospital located more than 20 minutes away. On the day of the child's death, the mother tested positive for heroin metabolites and morphine. The child, who was 26 weeks gestation, also tested positive for morphine. Medical records confirmed the child was not given the medication.

Victim: 4-month-old girl **Perpetrator:** Mother

Prior removal by DCS: No

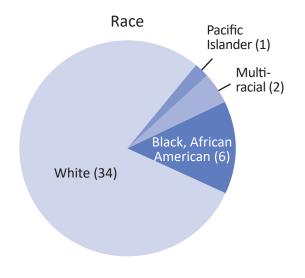
Circumstances: A 4 month-old-girl's death was ruled a sudden unexpected infant death that occurred while she was in an unsafe sleep environment. She lived with her mother, a sibling and a roommate. On the day of the child's death, the mother's roommate returned home and saw the mother crying. The roommate checked on the child and found her, face down and unresponsive, on the mother's bed. 911 was contacted, and the child was transported to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. It was determined she had been dead for several hours. The mother was observed to be under the influence of substances, and drug paraphernalia was found in the home. She tested positive for THC and methamphetamine.

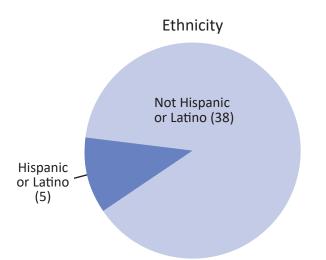
Victim: 3-year-old girl
Perpetrator: Mother
Prior removal by DCS: No

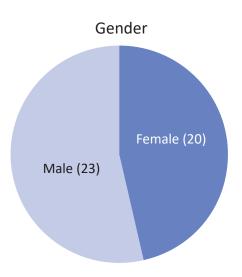
Circumstances: A 3-year-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the child's death, her mother was driving with the child and a sibling in the car. The mother's car ran off the roadway, hit a utility pole and rolled several times. The child was pronounced dead at the scene. Law enforcement obtained the car's electronic control module, which showed the mother was driving 92 miles per hour and was not applying brakes for the three seconds prior to airbag deployment.

Neglect statistics: demographic characteristics of the child

Total	5 43	100%
Ten to twelve years	3	7% 12%
Eight years	1	2%
Five years	2	5%
Three years	6	14%
Two years	3	7%
One year	5	12%
Less than one year	18	42%







Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the case

Primary cause of death		
Asphyxia	7	16%
Asthma	2	5%
Drowning	7	16%
Exposure	3	7%
Fire, burn or electrocution	1	2%
Malnutrition/dehydration	1	2%
Motor vehicle/other transport	6	14%
Other	1	2%
Other medical condition	5	12%
Poisoning, overdose or		
acute intoxication	4	9%
Undetermined	2	5%
Weapon, including body part	4	9%
Total	43	100%

Type of neglect		
Shooting	6	14%
Exposure (heat or cold)	3	7%
Unsafe sleep environment	10	23%
Vehicle accident	6	14%
Drug exposure	8	19%
Bodily trauma	3	7%
Lack of medical care	17	40%
Suffocation	2	5%
Lack of supervision	11	26%
Lack of sober caregiver	13	30%

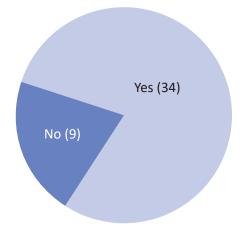
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0 Note: a child might have experienced more than one type of neglect.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident		
Child's home	29	67%
Daycare	1	2%
Farm	3	7%
Friend's home	1	2%
Hotel	1	2%
Licensed foster home	1	2%
Other parking area	1	2%
Place of work	1	2%
Relative's home	3	7%
Roadway	1	2%
Witness's home	1	2%
Total	43	100%

Other children in household



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

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

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household, continued

status	
17	40%
0	0%
0	0%
8	19%
14	33%
4	9%
43	100%
	0 0 8 14 4

Caregiver 2 employme	nt status	
Employed	24	69%
On disability	1	3%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	8	23%
Unknown	2	6%
Total	35	100%

7	16%
6	14%
2	5%
1	2%
27	63%
43	100%
	6 2 1 27

Caregiver 2 education level		
Less than high school	5	14%
High school	4	11%
College	4	11%
Post-graduate	1	3%
Unknown	21	60%
Total	35	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

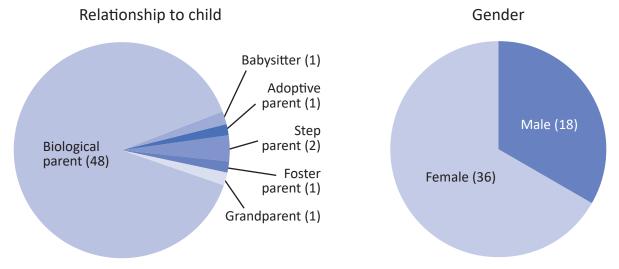
Age

Total	54	100%
Fifty or more years	1	2%
Forty to forty-nine years	7	13%
Thirty-five to thirty-nine years	11	20%
Thirty to thirty-four years	14	26%
Twenty-five to twenty-nine years	14	26%
Twenty to twenty-four years	5	9%
Sixteen to nineteen years	2	4%

Note: 54 perpetrators total; a child's death might have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 2.0

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator, continued



Note: 54 perpetrators total; a child's death might 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	5
At least one parent who was a first-generation immigrant	1
Delinquent or criminal history	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	6
History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of receiving mental health services	1

4
5
1
1
1
1
1

Note: a child might 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	7
Disability or chronic illness	2
History of child maltreatment as victim	3
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	1
History of intimate partner violence as victim	5
History of substance abuse	25
Unemployed	14
Insufficient income	20
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	4
Residence overcrowded	1

Caregiver 2	
Education level less than high school	5
Disability or chronic illness	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	1
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	6
History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of substance abuse	19
Unemployed	8
Insufficient income	12
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	4
Residence overcrowded	1

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

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data, Version 1.0

