

2020 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana



Calendar Year 2020

Published December 2021

Preface

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana is the state's official record of child deaths determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect. The following contains data from calendar year 2020.

DCS completes a review of all child fatalities that fit the following circumstances:

- Children under age 3: The child's death is sudden, unexpected or unexplained, or there are allegations of abuse or neglect.
- Children age 3 or older: The child's death involves allegations of abuse or neglect.

This report identifies common risk factors in fatalities resulting from abuse or neglect. DCS encourages communities to reference this report when considering prevention, educational and service programs. The data is also used to evaluate, review and modify DCS policy, practice and procedure when warranted.

Each fatality investigation involves a multistep process to ensure fair and unbiased decision making. Every death DCS is required by statute to investigate is reviewed at both the county and state level. A team of professionals from the county where the death occurred first determines whether it is believed to be a 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 be unclear.

Executive Summary

In calendar year 2020, the Indiana Department of Child Services was called to investigate 281 child fatalities in which abuse or neglect was suspected to be a factor. This is up from 276 in calendar year 2019. Fifty (18%) of those deaths were determined to be a direct result of caregiver maltreatment. That's down from 61 deaths caused by maltreatment in 2019

Of the total fatalities covered by this report, 22 were due to abuse, and 28 were due to neglect.

In 31 (62%) of the 50 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 and Lake counties recorded the state's highest number of child fatalities (7 each) caused by abuse or neglect.

Seventeen (34%) of the fatalities covered in this report were determined to be accidental; 22 (44%) were declared homicides. The manner of death in seven (14%) of the fatalities was listed as unknown/ could not be determined. Four fatalities (8%) were deemed the result of natural causes. Thirteen of the 50 victims (26%) included in this report were previously victims in a DCS case of substantiated abuse or neglect. In one case, the previous substantiated abuse or neglect occurred in another state.

Of the 50 victims, 20 (40%) were female and 30 (60%) were male. Death by weapon (including a body part; e.g., a closed fist) was the most common cause of death, listed in 25 (50%) of the cases as the primary factor. The manner of death is obtained from state death certificates.

In 78% of cases, 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 48 (81%) of the 59 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
Allen	0	1	1
Blackford	0	2	2
Cass	0	1	1
Crawford	0	1	1
Daviess	1	0	1
Dearborn	0	1	1
Elkhart	1	0	1
Grant	1	1	2
Hamilton	1	0	1
Hendricks	2	0	2
Henry	0	1	1
Howard	1	0	1
Jackson	0	1	1
Jay	0	1	1
Kosciusko	0	2	2

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Lake	4	3	7
Madison	1	0	1
Marion	2	5	7
Miami	1	0	1
Monroe	0	1	1
St. Joseph	1	1	2
Tippecanoe	0	1	1
Tipton	0	1	1
Vanderburgh	2	1	3
Vermillion	0	1	1
Vigo	3	1	4
Wabash	1	0	1
Wells	0	1	1
Total	22	28	50

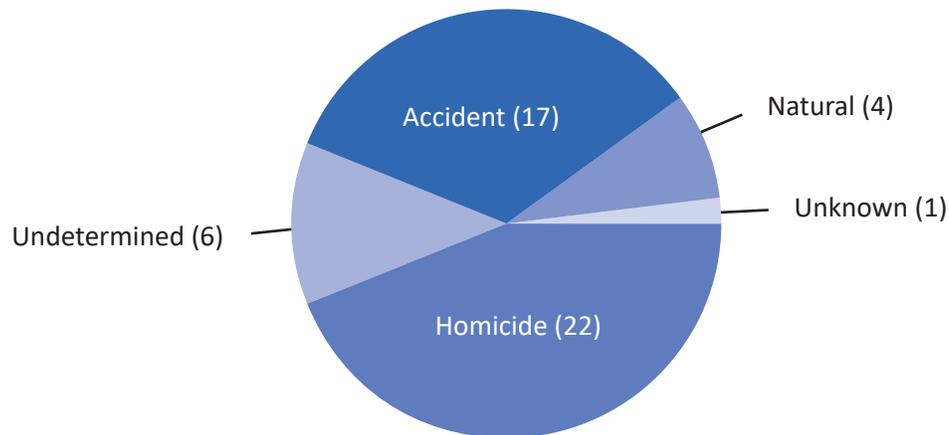
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Assessment statistics for investigation by other agencies, all children

Investigation	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Coroner cases	22	28	50
Autopsies performed	20	25	45
Scene investigated by coroner	10	14	24
Scene investigated by law enforcement	19	22	41
Scene investigated by fire investigator	0	0	0
Emergency medical services was on scene	16	26	42
All child fatalities	22	28	50

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Manner of death, all children



Manner of death obtained from state death certificates.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Primary cause of death, all children

Animal bite or attack	1	2%
Asphyxia	3	6%
Asthma	1	2%
Drowning	6	12%
Fire, burn or electrocution	1	2%
Malnutrition and/or dehydration	2	4%
Motor vehicle or other transport	4	8%
Other	1	2%
Other medical condition	3	6%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	3	6%
Weapon, including body part	25	50%
Total	50	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Fatalities due to abuse

Victim: 11-month-old girl

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of incident leading to the fatality: No

Circumstances: An 11-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother reported she checked on the child in the early morning hours and found her unresponsive. The parents were the sole caregivers of the child. The parents denied knowledge of how the child sustained her fatal injuries.

Victim: 3-month-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died from abusive head trauma. The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the mother woke up and found the child deceased. The child had multiple injuries. The father admitted to punching and throwing the child while the mother was away from the home. The mother did not check on the child for more than 15 hours after returning home. The parents admitted to methamphetamine and heroin use. Additionally, the child's toxicology was positive for nicotine and methamphetamine.

Victim: 5-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 5-year-old boy died of exsanguination, head and lung injury and blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother, siblings and other relatives. On the day of the child's death, the mother worked while her boyfriend watched her children. The boyfriend contacted the mother several hours after she left for work and reported the child was vomiting. 911 was called and the child was declared deceased. The child was observed to have several injuries, including a bite mark. The boyfriend admitted to biting the child but disclosed no cause for the child's other injuries. The child was observed to be healthy and active prior to the mother going to work.

Victim: 3-month-old girl

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her parents and an older sibling. On the day of the incident, the child had been with the father and sibling all day

while the mother worked. When the mother returned home from work, she immediately noticed the child had labored breathing. The child was taken to the hospital and was found to have a bruise consistent with squeezing and brain injuries consistent with the child being shaken from front to back. The father admitted to causing the bruise on the child's leg.

Victim: 11-month-old girl

Perpetrators: Mother, mother's boyfriend

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: An 11-month-old girl died from blunt-force trauma, suffocation and strangulation. The child lived with her mother, mother's boyfriend and mother's boyfriend's family. On the day of the child's death, the mother's boyfriend took the child into the bathroom and injured the child. The mother was aware of this but did not seek medical care for the child and instead fell asleep with the child. When the mother woke up, the child was not breathing. The child was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead. The mother admitted the boyfriend had previously abused the child on several occasions.

Victim: 8-year-old girl

Perpetrators: Mother, mother's boyfriend

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: An 8-year-old girl died from multiple blunt-force injuries. The child lived with her mother, siblings and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the child's death, the child got in trouble for lying. The mother and the mother's boyfriend struck the child with jumper cables and then placed her in a bathtub. A short time later, the child was found unresponsive.

Victim: 1-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother, a sibling and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the child's death, the mother, the child, the sibling and the mother's boyfriend had been running errands. Upon returning home, the mother's boyfriend took the child inside. The mother did not immediately go into the home. When she did, she found the child unresponsive in his high chair. The child was found to have abusive head trauma and later died from his injuries. The mother's boyfriend provided several different stories as to how the child was injured but admitted to knowing the child was limp and unresponsive when he put him in the high chair. Video surveillance outside of the home revealed the child was alert and well prior to the mother's boyfriend taking the child into the home.

Victim: 4-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Father, father's girlfriend

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: Yes

In foster care at time of fatality: Yes*

Circumstances: A 4-year-old boy died from respiratory failure due to traumatic brain injury. The child lived with his father and father's girlfriend. The child was brought to the hospital with head trauma and several injuries at various stages of healing. The child's father provided inconsistent stories as to how the child sustained the injuries but admitted he had been too rough with the child. The father's girlfriend admitted she had observed the father physically abuse the child on more than six different occasions.

**The child was not in foster care when he received his life-threatening injuries but was in foster care when he succumbed to his injuries.*

Victim: 1-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother, father and younger sibling. The child presented to the hospital with head injuries and retinal hemorrhages. The child's mother admitted to shaking the child three times when the child was aggravating her, citing stress as a contributing factor.

Victim: 7-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 7-year-old boy died from multiple gunshot wounds. The child lived with his mother. The day of the child's death, relatives called law enforcement for a welfare check after not being able to get in contact with the mother. Law enforcement arrived and found the child and the child's mother deceased. It was determined the mother shot the child several times and then shot herself. The mother and the father had been going through a long legal custody battle regarding the child.

Victim: 3-month-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his parents and sibling. On the day of the child's death, the child was being cared for by the father while the mother was working. The father reported finding the child deceased in a bouncy seat from unknown causes. The father tested positive for THC and alcohol and admitted to using THC while caring for the child. The father denied knowledge of how the child sustained the injuries. The father was the sole caregiver of the child at the time the child was injured.

Victim: 7-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 7-year-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his father. On the day of the child's death, the father became angry with the child and admitted to hitting the child in the head with his hand several times. The father said the child became unresponsive, and he attempted to revive the child by splashing water on his face and then took the child to every room in the house prior to calling 911. The father tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and THC.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died of complications of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother and her mother's boyfriend. On the day of the child's death, the mother went to work and left the child in the care of her boyfriend. Several hours later, the mother's boyfriend reported the child had collapsed. He later admitted he became frustrated with the child and hit her in the head before throwing her. The mother's boyfriend reported he "lost it" and could not handle the child's crying.

Victim: 10-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 10-year-old boy died from head trauma. The child lived with his parents and two siblings. On the day of the child's death, the mother was getting ready for work when she heard the father say he had killed the child. The mother ran to check on the child and observed a knife in the child's head. The mother feared for her other children and took them to a neighbor's home until law enforcement arrived. The child's father was shot and killed by law enforcement.

Victim: 15-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 15-year-old girl died from a gunshot wound. The child lived with her father and an adult sibling. Law enforcement was called to the home for a welfare check, and they found the child, the child's sibling and the child's father deceased at their home. An investigation found that the father killed the child and the child's sibling prior to killing himself. No motive was determined.

Victim: 4-month-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 4-month-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his mother, his father and three siblings. On the day of the child's death, the mother went to work and left the father to care for the children. The mother later received a call from the father stating the child was not breathing. The father reported he found the child unresponsive after the child had fallen off the bed. Medical professionals reported the injuries were not consistent with a fall from a bed.

Victim: 3-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 3-year-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother. On the day the child sustained her injuries, she was visiting her father at his home. The father dropped the child off at the hospital and left. The child was unresponsive upon arrival to the hospital and had injuries consistent with being assaulted. The child later died from her injuries. The father provided the mother with several different stories about how the child sustained her injuries but did admit to disciplining the child for urinating on herself.

Victim: 10-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: Yes

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 10-year-old boy is presumed dead after being assaulted by his father. The child lived with his mother and sibling. On the day the child presumably died, he was visiting his father at his father's home. The father contacted two acquaintances and told them he killed the child. Law enforcement attempted to complete a welfare check, but the father and the child were gone. Evidence was found in the father's home consistent with an assault. Video was obtained from the father's cell phone showing the father abusing the child. The father was later apprehended in another state. The child's remains had not been located as of the writing of this report.

Victim: 2-month-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 2-month-old boy died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his parents and grandmother. On the day of the child's death, the father was caring for the child. The father reported he fell asleep with the child, and upon waking found the child deceased. It was later discov-

ered the child died of acute injuries to his head. The child was found to also have healing injuries to his head. The father had a history of aggression and was the sole caregiver of the child when the child died.

Victim: 2-month-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 2-month-old boy died from complications of blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the mother left the child in the care of the child's father. A sibling heard the child crying, and after the father tended to the child, the child started crying louder and was found unresponsive shortly after. The child was noted to be healthy and behaving normally before the mother left the home. The father was the sole caregiver of the child at the time the child became unresponsive.

Victim: 4-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Grandmother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 4-year-old boy drowned. The child lived with his grandparents, who were also his guardians. On the day of the child's death, the grandfather left the home to run errands. A short time later, the grandmother called and stated the child was dead. The grandmother later admitted she drowned the child in the bathtub. The grandmother had recently been suffering from mental health issues and had been hospitalized shortly before the child's death. The grandmother had never previously harmed the child or threatened harm to the child.

Victim: 10-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Sister, sister-in-law

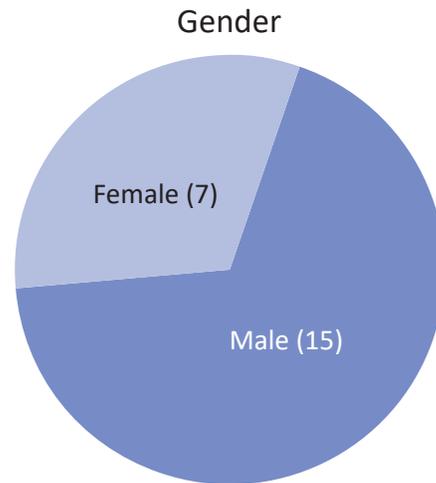
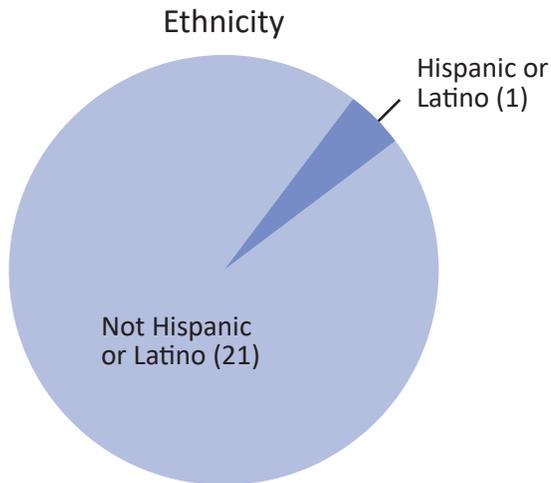
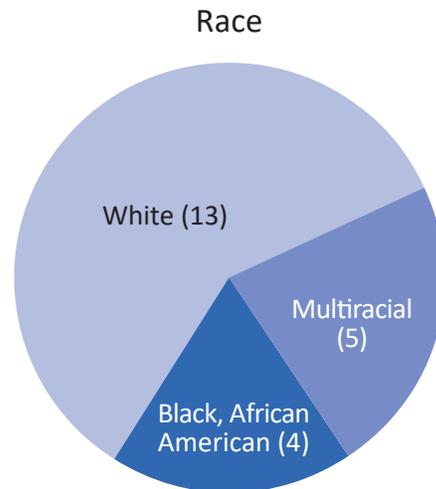
Prior removal of the victim by DCS: Yes

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 10-year-old boy died from dislocation of vertebrae due to blunt-force trauma. The child lived with his sister, his sister's wife and his nephew. On the day of the child's death, the child was found deceased in his bed. The child was heavily bruised and had deep wounds on multiple areas of his body. The child was found to have foundation makeup on his face that appeared to be used to disguise the severity of his facial wounds. The child's caregivers reported the child sustained his injuries in two separate dirt bike accidents. Further investigation found that the dirt bike the child was alleged to have driven was inoperable. Neighbors and witnesses reported never seeing the child ride a dirt bike and said they rarely saw the child outside of the home. A forensic pathologist determined the injuries were consistent with purposely inflicted injuries.

Abuse statistics: demographic characteristics of the child

Age		
Less than 1 year old	8	36%
1 year old	3	14%
3 years old	1	5%
4 years old	1	5%
5 years old	2	9%
7 years old	2	9%
8 years old	1	5%
10-12 years old	3	14%
13-17 years old	1	5%
Total	22	100%



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the case

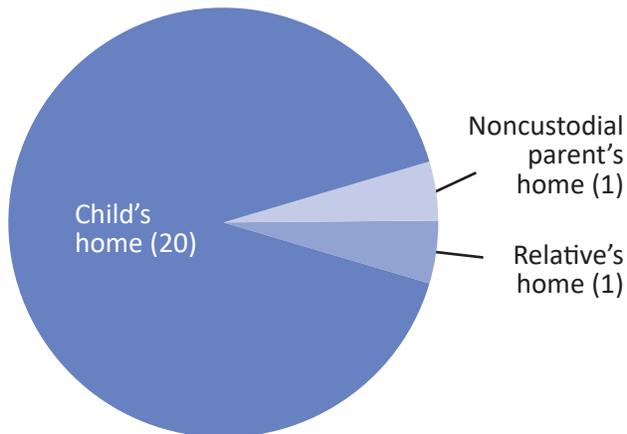
Type of abuse		
Abusive head trauma	14	64%
Beating/kicking	3	14%
Blunt force trauma to abdomen	1	5%
Chronic battered child syndrome	1	5%
Drowning	1	5%

Type of abuse, continued		
Exsanguination, head and lung injury	1	5%
Gunshot wounds	2	9%
Suffocation	1	5%

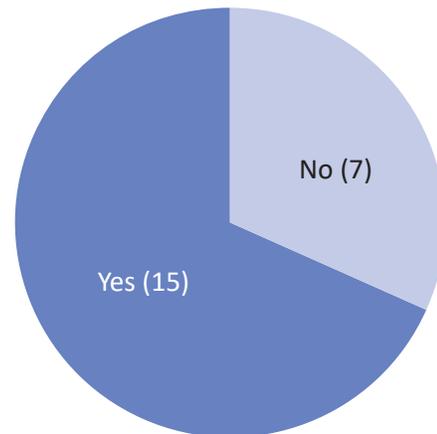
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data Note: A child might have experienced more than one type of abuse.

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident



Other children in household



Caregiver 1 employment status

Employed	11	50%
On disability	1	5%
Retired	1	5%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	8	36%
Unknown	1	5%
Total	22	100%

Caregiver 2 employment status

Employed	6	29%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	1	5%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	10	48%
Unknown	4	19%
Total	21	100%

Caregiver 1 education level

Less than high school	1	5%
High school	5	23%
College	1	5%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	15	68%
Total	22	100%

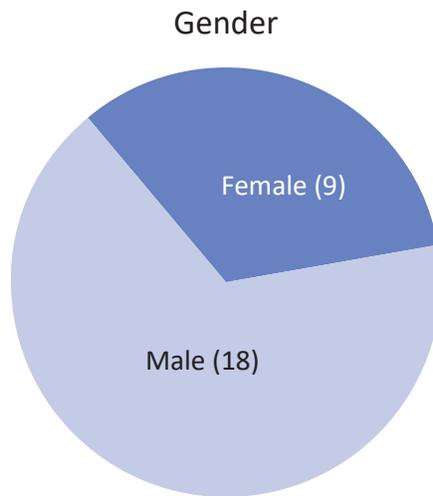
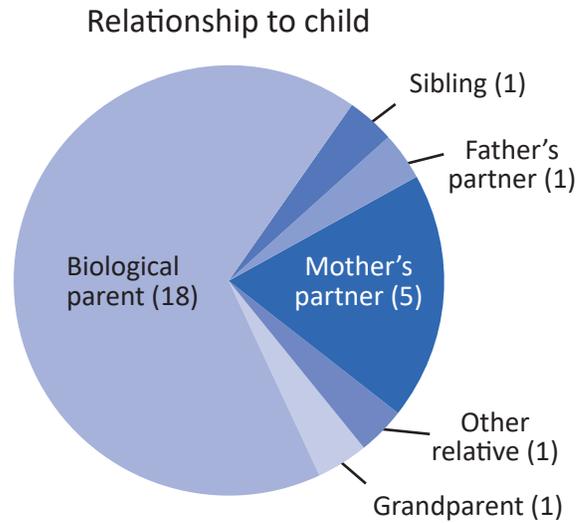
Caregiver 2 education level

Less than high school	1	5%
High school	4	19%
College	0	0%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	16	76%
Total	21	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Abuse statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

Age		
16-19 years old	1	4%
20-24 years old	6	22%
25-29 years old	12	44%
30-34 years old	4	155%
35-39 years old	1	4%
40-49 years old	2	7%
Fifty or older	1	4%
Total	27	100%



Note: 27 perpetrators total; a child's death might have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Abuse statistics: factors impacting child

Acutely ill in the two weeks before death	3	History of receiving mental health services	1
At least one parent who was first-generation immigrant	2	Prior disability or chronic illness	3
History of child maltreatment as victim	5	Problems in school	2
History of intimate partner violence - unknown	3	Had been homeless	1
History of intimate partner violence as victim	1	On medication for mental illness	1
		Receiving mental health services	1
		Residence overcrowded	1

Note: A child might have had more than one stress factor. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Abuse statistics: factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1		Caregiver 2	
Education level less than high school	1	Education level less than high school	1
Disability or chronic illness	3	Disability or chronic illness	2
History of child maltreatment as victim	4	History of child maltreatment as victim	3
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2	History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	5
History of intimate partner violence as victim	6	History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of substance abuse	9	History of substance abuse	8
Unemployed	8	Unemployed	10
Insufficient income	12	Insufficient income	11
Language problem	1	Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	2	New residence in past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	1	Residence overcrowded	1

Note: A caregiver might have had more than one stress factor. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Fatalities due to neglect

Victim: 4-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Father, father's girlfriend

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 4-year-old boy died of complications of severe dehydration and malnutrition. The child lived with his father, a sibling, the father's girlfriend and her children. The father and his girlfriend were the primary caregivers of the child. The child died suddenly at home. The child weighed 33 pounds 10 months prior to his death, and at the time of his death, his weight had dropped to 25 pounds. Recovered text messages between the father and his girlfriend revealed they were aware the child looked unwell, but still never sought medical care.

Victim: 3-month-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died of acute methamphetamine intoxication. The child lived with his parents. The day of the child's death, he was found unresponsive in the home. Drug paraphernalia was found in the home. The parents tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.

Victim: 26-day-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 26-day-old boy died of injuries caused by a dog attack. The child lived with his mother and older sibling. On the day of the child's death, the child was left alone on the mother's bed and was attacked by the family dog. The dog had previously scratched the child in the face and had also injured the older sibling. The mother said the dog was jealous of the child. The mother did not take the steps necessary to protect the child from the dog.

Victim: 3-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: Yes

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 3-year-old boy died of methadone intoxication. The child lived with his mother and siblings. The mother was prescribed methadone, which was required to be kept in a locked bag and away from children. On the day of the child's death, the mother and the child went to bed. A couple of hours later, the mother found the child unresponsive. The mother admitted she left her methadone on the living room floor, unlocked, and did not take the steps necessary to protect the child from accessing the methadone.

Victim: 4-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 4-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 father was wrestling with the child on the bed when the father's gun, being worn on his waist, accidentally discharged, resulting in the child being shot. The father admitted to drinking alcohol prior to the incident and subsequently tested positive for THC and alcohol (0.115% blood alcohol content).

Victim: 6-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 6-year-old girl died from blunt-force injuries from a motor vehicle crash. The child lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the accident, the child had been riding in a car driven by her father. The accident was caused by the father running a stop sign. The child was not restrained and was ejected from the vehicle. The father did not have a valid driver's license.

Victim: 5-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Aunt

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 5-year-old boy drowned. His aunt took the child and several other children to a lake to swim. The aunt's attention was diverted from the children, who were swimming for five to 10 minutes. The aunt did not see the child and started searching, finding the child unresponsive in the water approximately 30 minutes later. Earlier in the day, while at the aunt's home, the child had gone missing for approximately 30 minutes before he was located.

Victim: 2-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 2-year-old boy drowned. The child, his parents and a younger sibling were at a lake with several other people. The child had been playing in the shallow part of the lake with a personal flotation device on. The family decided to pack up and leave, and the mother removed the child's flotation device so the child could use the bathroom and put on dry clothes. The child then went back to play in the sand near the water without his flotation device. The mother did not accompany the child but stayed in the pavilion area to feed the younger sibling while the father was changing clothes. She told the boy not to go in the water but allowed him to return to the sandy area beside the water.

When the father came out of the bathroom, he was unable to find the child. The child was later found floating in the pond.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 2-year-old girl drowned. The child lived with her parents, a sibling, the parents' roommate and the roommate's six children. On the day of the child's death, the mother and roommate were inside the home, and the father was working on a car in the driveway. The children were playing outside in the front yard. At some point, it was noticed the child was missing. The parents immediately went to the lake, located 54 feet from their home, and found the child floating in the water. No one could remember when they had last seen the child prior to the child being found in the lake.

Victim: 1-month-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old boy died of cardiopulmonary arrest in an unsafe sleeping environment. On the day of the child's death, the father fed the child while sitting in a recliner. The father fell asleep in the recliner while holding the child on his chest. The father was later awakened by a relative who noticed the father's arm was covering the child's face. The child was deceased. The father tested positive for amphetamine, methamphetamine and THC.

Victim: 3-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 3-year-old boy drowned. The child lived with his parents. On the day of the child's death, the mother left the child unsupervised in the living room and left the front door open. The father eventually asked about the child's whereabouts, and the child was found unresponsive in a neighbor's swimming pool.

Victim: 4-month-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 4-month-old boy asphyxiated. The child lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the child's 11-year-old sibling woke up and found the child deceased on the couch where the two children regularly slept. The child's 11-year-old sibling and 12-year-old sibling

had been caring for the baby in shifts, overnight and in the mornings. The child's 11-year-old sibling reported he tried to get the parents' attention on numerous occasions when he could not calm the baby down; however, the parents did not respond. The child's siblings said they were overwhelmed and afraid of the child's father. The child's parents stayed on one level of the house, while the child and siblings were on another level of the house, and rarely checked on the baby to ensure his needs were met. The 11-year-old sibling admitted to covering the child's mouth and nose in the past when the child would not stop crying but denied doing this on the day of the child's death.

Victim: 25-day-old boy

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 25-day-old boy died from probable suffocation due to unsafe sleeping conditions. The child lived with his parents. The child's father admitted to drinking approximately 10 or 11 beers and the mother admitted to drinking four vodka cocktails while caring for the child. The child was found deceased in an adult bed, lying between his parents, with his head toward the foot of the bed. The father remembered holding the child while feeding him but did not remember placing the child in the adult bed.

Victims: 6-year-old boy, 5-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 6-year-old boy and a 5-year-old girl died from blunt-force trauma due to a motor vehicle crash. The children lived with their mother and sibling. On the day of the children's death, their father picked them up from the mother's house. While driving, the children's father crossed the center line and collided head-on with a semitrailer. The father tested positive for methamphetamine and THC. He admitted to using methamphetamine, hydrocodone and THC prior to picking up the children. He also admitted to pulling over prior to the accident because he felt strange, then decided to continue driving home.

Victim: 8-month-old girl

Perpetrator: Father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: An 8-month-old girl died from a gunshot wound. The child lived with her parents, sibling and grandmother. On the day of the child's death, the child's mother dropped the father and child off at a friend's house while the mother went to work. The father initially stated there was a drive-by shooting, which resulted in the child being shot. The father later admitted to finding a gun in the couch cushions when looking for his cellphone. He handled the gun and caused the gun to discharge, striking the child in the head. The father was deemed negligent in handling the gun in the presence of the child.

Victim: 1-year-old boy

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. The child lived with his parents and 4-year-old sibling. On the day of the child's death, the child and his sibling were watching television on the parents' bed. The 4-year-old sibling found a gun and shot the child in the head. Drug paraphernalia, two guns and evidence of drug dealing were found in the home within reach of the children.

Victim: 7-day-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 7-day-old girl died from acute methamphetamine/amphetamine intoxication. The child lived with her mother, siblings, grandparent, and minor aunt and uncle. On the day of the child's death, the mother found the child unresponsive in the child's Pack 'n Play. The mother submitted to a drug screen and tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine. The mother breast-fed the child knowing she had used methamphetamine and amphetamine.

Victim: 1-month-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 30-day-old girl asphyxiated. The child lived with her mother, a sibling and the mother's boyfriend. On the morning of the child's death, the mother's boyfriend returned home after working the night shift and woke up the mother. The mother reported she checked on the child and found the child's sibling sleeping on top of the child. The mother reported she had been sleeping on the couch with the child and the child's sibling. The mother reported the child slept near her and the sibling slept on the opposite end of the couch. The mother's boyfriend's statement regarding where the mother had been sleeping on the couch was inconsistent with the mother's statement. The mother submitted to a drug screen and tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and fentanyl.

Victim: 1-month-old girl

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-month-old girl died from complications of malnutrition, premature birth and methadone exposure. The child lived with her parents. On the day of the child's death, the mother and father had been running errands while the child remained in the car seat with a

blanket over the car seat. Once back home, the father left and the mother stayed home with the child. Upon returning home, the father noticed the child was still in the car seat with the blanket over it. When the father was ready to go to bed, he picked the child up and noticed she was not breathing. The child was found to be severely malnourished, and the mother admitted she had not taken the child to follow-up doctor's appointments. The mother breastfed the child even though she took methadone daily, resulting in the child testing positive for methadone at the time of her death.

Victim: 2-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 2-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. The child lived with his mother, his sibling and his mother's boyfriend. On the day of the child's death, the mother was feeding the sibling and heard a loud noise. The mother reported she found the child lying on the kitchen floor. The mother reported the child had shot himself with her gun, which was left inside her purse and within reach of the child.

Victim: 2-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 2-year-old girl died from blunt-force trauma. The child lived with her mother and a sibling. On the day of the child's death, the mother left the children with a relative while she ran errands. The mother admitted to drinking approximately three to four shots of liquor before picking up the children and two other individuals. The mother drove at a high rate of speed and became involved in a single-car accident, causing the vehicle to flip two to three times. The child and the child's sibling had been in the front seat of the vehicle and were not properly restrained. The mother's toxicology report was positive for alcohol and THC.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

Perpetrators: Mother, father

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: Yes

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl drowned. The child lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the child's death, the father played basketball at home with relatives while the child rode her tricycle nearby. The mother came outside and the father noticed he could not see the child. The mother found the child unresponsive in the family's pool. The mother reported she forgot to remove the pool ladder, giving the child access to the pool.

Victim: 10-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 10-year-old girl died from diabetic ketoacidosis. The child lived with her mother and siblings. At every doctor's appointment, the child's doctor instructed the mother to check the child's urine for ketones if her blood sugar tested over 300 or if she was ill. The child had been vomiting and unable to eat for at least two days prior to her death. The child's mother was aware of the protocol to be used if the child was sick, but that protocol was ignored. On the day prior to the child's death, her blood sugar was over 600. Diabetic ketoacidosis is caused by a complete lack of insulin or inadequate insulin levels associated with stress or severe illness. In the days leading up to the child's death, the mother failed to check the child's ketones and seek medical care. The child had been prescribed fast-acting insulin, which could be given depending how many carbohydrates she ate. The mother stated they did not keep track of the child's carbohydrate intake.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died from complications of chronic lung disease. The child lived with her mother and siblings. The child was born extremely premature and was dependent on a tracheostomy to breathe. A cardiac apnea monitor and pulse oximeter were used to monitor the child's vitals, and if the vitals were unstable, the machines sounded an alarm. The child's pulmonologist reported having recently told the mother the child needed to be on a ventilator any time she slept. On the day of the child's death, the mother did not check on her for more than four hours after waking up. When she did check on her, the child was unresponsive. A review of the machines revealed the child's cardiac apnea monitor had not been used for several months and the ventilator had not been used for 12 days prior to the child's death. On the day of her death, the child was not connected to any of the monitors or the ventilator; therefore, no alarm sounded to alert the mother when the child was in distress.

Victim: 7-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 7-year-old girl died from asthma. The child lived with her mother and grandmother. The child was diagnosed with moderate persistent allergic asthma and was prescribed five different medications. Two of the prescribed medications were to be taken twice a day, two were to be taken once a day, and one was to be used in a nebulizer machine as needed. On the day of the child's death, she had taken only one of her daily medications. The mother had a history of failing

to comply with doctor's orders regarding the child's medical care. The night of the child's death, she had allegedly taken multiple breathing treatments in a short amount of time and the mother refused to seek medical care for the child. Several hours later, the child woke up in distress and 911 was contacted after the child became unresponsive.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

Perpetrator: Mother

Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died from complications of burns. The child lived with her mother, siblings and stepfather. On the day of the child's death, the child became unresponsive at home and was transported to the hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. The child was observed to have burns on more than 20% of her body. The mother reported that four to five days prior, the child sustained the burns when the mother gave the child a bath in the kitchen sink. The mother reported the child turned on the hot water while the mother turned around to grab a towel. The mother said that when she dried the child, the child's skin immediately peeled off. The mother did not seek medical care for the child until immediately prior to the child's death.

Victim: 15-year-old boy

Perpetrator: Mother

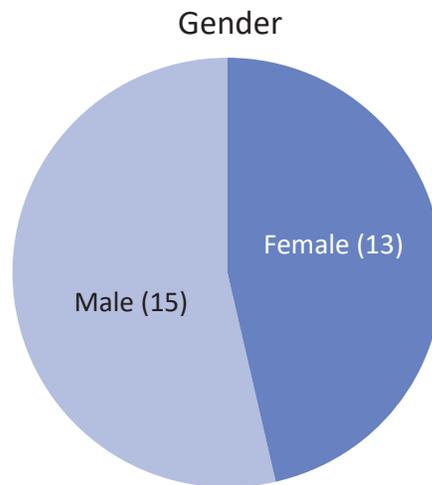
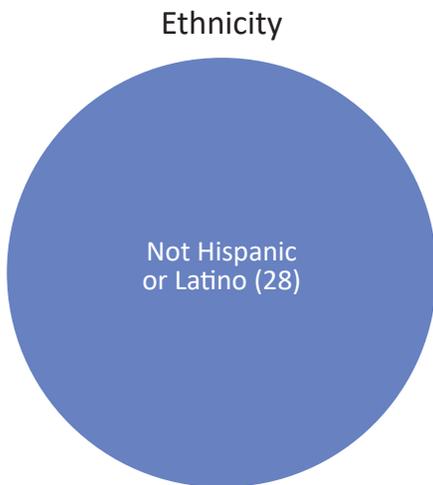
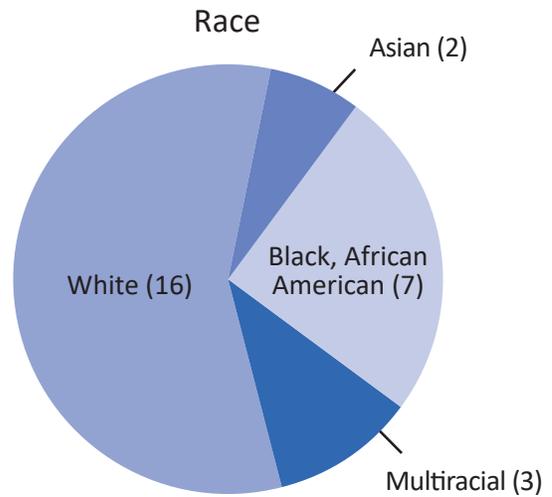
Prior removal of the victim by DCS: No

In foster care at time of fatality: No

Circumstances: A 15-year-old boy died from complications of cerebral palsy. The child lived with his mother, siblings and stepfather. The child was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and could not speak or walk. The child was dependent on a feeding tube and was to be given six cartons of nutrition each day. At the time of the child's death, the mother reported having fed him only once in the previous 24 hours. The child had several infected bed sores, was severely malnourished and weighed only 21 pounds at the time of his death. The child had not been seen by a medical provider for approximately a year and a half, at which time the child had been referred to a gastrointestinal doctor and physical therapist. The child's mother did not comply with recommendations from medical providers. The child was also prescribed medication his mother had not been providing.

Neglect statistics: demographic characteristics of the child

Age		
Less than 1 year old	9	32%
1 year old	5	18%
2 years old	3	11%
3 years old	2	7%
4 years old	2	7%
5 years old	2	7%
6 years old	2	7%
7 years old	1	4%
10-12 years old	1	4%
13-17 years old	1	4%
Total	28	100%



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the case

Primary cause of death		
Animal bite or attack	1	4%
Asphyxia	3	11%
Asthma	1	4%
Drowning	5	18%
Fire, burn or electrocution	1	4%
Malnutrition/dehydration	2	7%
Motor vehicle/other transport	4	14%
Other	1	4%
Other medical condition	3	11%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	3	11%
Weapon, including body part	4	14%
Total	28	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Type of neglect		
Shooting	4	14%
Exposure (heat or cold)	1	4%
Unsafe sleep environment	7	25%
Vehicle accident	6	21%
Drug exposure	4	14%
Asphyxia	3	11%
Lack of medical care	14	50%
Drowning	5	18%
Lack of supervision	6	21%
Lack of sober caregiver	9	22%
Animal attack	1	4%

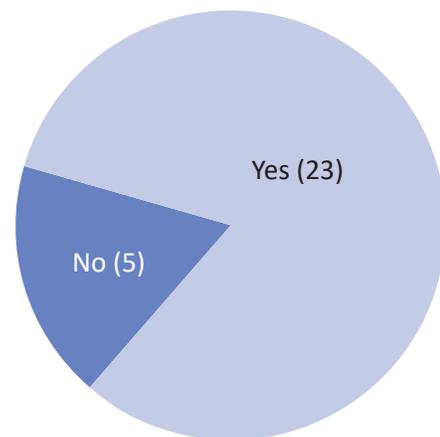
Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Note: A child might have experienced more than one type of neglect.

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident		
Child's home	19	68%
Friend's home	3	11%
Other recreation area	1	4%
Relative's home	1	4%
Roadway	4	14%
Total	28	100%

Other children in household



Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

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

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household, continued

Caregiver 1 employment status		
Employed	6	21%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	2	7%
Unemployed	12	43%
Unknown	8	29%
Total	28	100%

Caregiver 2 employment status		
Employed	11	52%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	3	14%
Unknown	7	33%
Total	21	100%

Caregiver 1 education level		
Less than high school	2	7%
High school	6	21%
College	1	4%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	19	68%
Total	28	100%

Caregiver 2 education level		
Less than high school	1	5%
High school	4	19%
College	0	0%
Post-graduate	0	0%
Unknown	16	76%
Total	21	100%

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

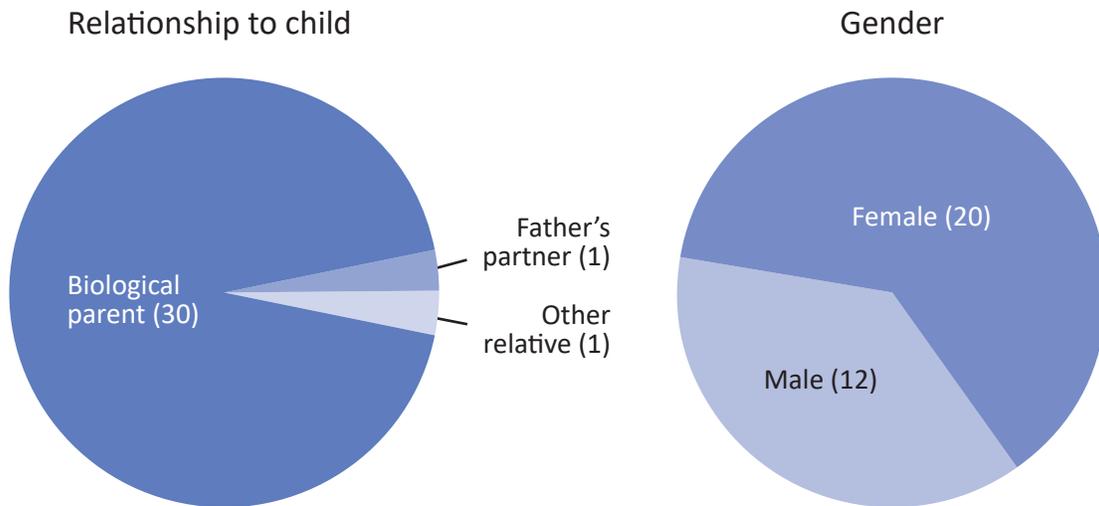
Age

20-24 years old	7	22%
25-29 years old	7	22%
30-34 years old	8	25%
35-39 years old	7	22%
40-49 years old	3	9%
Total	32	100%

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

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator, continued



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

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Neglect statistics: factors impacting child

Acutely ill in the two weeks before death	4
At least one parent who was a first-generation immigrant	2
History of child maltreatment as victim	8
History of intimate partner violence – unknown	2
Prior disability or chronic illness	5

Note: A child might have had more than one stress factor. Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

Neglect statistics: factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1	
Education level less than high school	2
Disability or chronic illness	2
History of child maltreatment as victim	8
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2
History of intimate partner violence as victim	8
History of substance abuse	13
Unemployed	12
Insufficient income	10
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	3

Caregiver 2	
Education level less than high school	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	2
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	4
History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of substance abuse	10
Unemployed	3
Insufficient income	6
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	3

Note: A caregiver might have had more than one stress factor.

Source: MAGIK Monthly Data

