



# Protecting our Children, Families, and Future

## The Role of Child Protective Services

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) is charged with protecting Indiana's children from abuse or neglect. In order to fulfill this mission, DCs partners with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing and stable homes for children.

DCS protects children and strengthens families through services that focus on family support and preservation. The Department administers child support, child protection, adoption, and foster care throughout the State of Indiana.

DCS believes the most desirable place for children to grow up is with their families provided their families are able to offer safe homes. To that end, DCS first seeks to maintain children in their homes and also seeks to return children who have been removed from their homes to their families by providing services to the child and family.

Helping to keep children safe is everyone's responsibility but all too often family members, neighbors, friends, and strangers who see the warning signs do nothing to help. Unfortunately, more than 17,000 Indiana children suffer from abuse or neglect each year. That's 1,400 per month and 48 children per day.

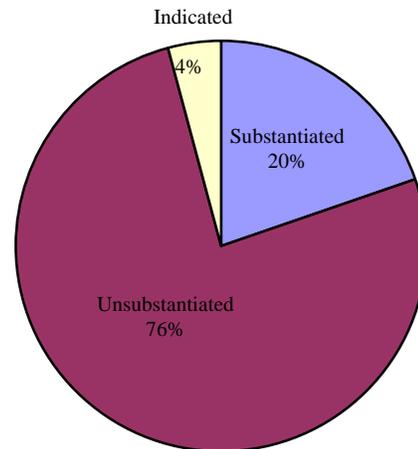
We cannot help the children who have been hurt in the past, but we can change how lives are affected in the present and in the future. Indiana law requires anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect to report it to authorities.

**To report child abuse or neglect, call our toll-free, 24-hour, statewide hotline at 1-800-800-5556.**

## Abuse & Neglect: SFY 2008 Statistics

*46 children died from abuse & neglect  
17,529 cases substantiated*

### Substantiated, Unsubstantiated, & Indicated Cases



## Transforming Indiana's Child Welfare System

### Changes since 2005:

- Senate Bill 529 established Department of Child Services as an official state agency;
- Over 800 caseworkers have been hired, bringing the total of caseworkers statewide to 1,600;
- DCS meets a nationally recognized standards for average caseloads: 12 new assessments and 17 ongoing assessments per case workers per month;
- Staff are required to do 12 weeks of training and mentoring before handling cases;
- Staff track activities and outcomes through Practice Indicator Reports;
- Reorganization of the number of Regions from 8 to 18;
- All services are paid by the State instead of at the County level

***“Our new crew is reshaping government to make sure that Hoosier children who need the state's protection receive it, and children who are entitled to financial support get it.”***

***–Governor Mitch Daniels  
January 2005***

### **Policy and Operational Changes:**

- The DCS administration created a “practice model” that describes the practice principles and essential skills needed to effectively implement its vision, mission and values. Indiana adopted a practice model based on family engagement and involvement, using the cornerstone of Child and Family Team Meetings.
- DCS trains all caseworkers, supervisors and managers on the five core skills: teaming, engaging, assessing, planning, and intervening (TEAPI). Training is provided by DCS and Indiana University Partnership trainers who were initially trained by the Child Welfare Policy & Practice Group.
- Quality Service Reviews (QSR) – this review process assesses the quality of case practice and corresponding status of the children and family. The reviews occur for each region in the state every 18 months. They provide caseworkers and supervisors individualized feedback on case practice strengths and weaknesses. They also provide managers and staff a larger, aggregated assessment of case practice in their region.
- Practice Indicator Reports - track activities and outcome in a manner consistent with reporting required by the Federal Government. The Practice Indicators are prepared and then reviewed by DCS Field Operations management and staff every month.
- Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) unit- created in January 2007, the Quality Service Review (QSR) protocol, which measures safety, permanency, well-being, independent living and the practice model skills of TEAPI. The Protocol measures both the elements used by the Federal Government to measure child welfare systems and the specific skills in the practice model needed to achieve better outcomes for children and families.
- Regions-DCS reorganized the regional structure from 7 regions plus the stand alone Marion County to 18 regions with Marion and Lake Counties being their own region. This allows local offices to access broader services in a cost-effective manner,

providing necessary services to children and families.

- Community Partners- DCS has 8 contracts with Community partners at both the state and local levels that serve the 18 regions. Some local partners are, but are not limited to, the local offices of the state agencies, the DCS provider network, schools, social services agencies, health care providers, public health, hospitals, child care providers, community mental health agencies, child abuse prevention agencies, the faith-based community, city and county government, law enforcement agencies, and food pantries
- Training – all FCMs are trained on the Practice Model and TEAPI. All new case managers have a Mentor through their first 3 months.

### **Local prevention strategies and Kids First Trust Fund**

Local prevention strategies are crucial because they address issues and help provide solutions that are important in each community. Kids First Trust Fund:

- Increased Child Abuse Prevention Services to more than \$57,000,000
- \$200,000 towards media prevention campaigns

### **Healthy Families**

Healthy Families Indiana is a voluntary home visitation program designed to promote healthy families and healthy children through a variety of services including child development, access to health care and parent education. It is hoped that these efforts will help reduce child abuse and neglect, childhood health problems and juvenile delinquency.

Healthy Families works:

- 56 Healthy Family Indiana sites are providing services children and families in all 92 counties
- 16,716 families received home visiting services
- Over 99% of the families served had no reported incidences of substantiated abuse or neglect while in the program despite the fact they were at a higher risk and a home visitor was making regular visits.

### **Regional Services Councils**

The State of Indiana is responsible to ensure that there are programs, services and placement for Indiana's most vulnerable and needy children and families. Since January 1, 2009, the State pays for

those programs, services and placements, and recognizes that local involvement in the evaluation, contracting and implementation of the service delivery systems is critical.

The Regional Service Councils meet to coordinate service capacity, delivery, and effectiveness. Depending on the size the region, the Regional Service Councils vary in size.

Councils generally consist of the Regional Manager, Judges having juvenile jurisdiction, local directors, Family Case Manager Supervisors,

Family Case Managers, licensed Foster Parents, Guardian ad Litem/CASA, prosecuting attorney, and a resident of the region who has received services through DCS and parent if not of age.

### Child Welfare Information

Reports of child abuse and neglect are confidential in Indiana under IC 31-33-18, except when a child's death is caused by abuse or neglect. DCS is as open and as transparent as the law allows



A child is counted in only one category per investigation using the old Federal Hierarchy of Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, then Neglect.

## **What *You* Can Do**

Report child abuse or neglect

*Call 1-800-800-5556*

Be a mentor to a child

Participate in Healthy Families Indiana

*[www.IN.gov/dcs/2459.htm](http://www.IN.gov/dcs/2459.htm)*

Adopt a child or become a foster parent

*Call 1-888-25-Adopt*

Get involved in children's services at your local level;  
contact the Local DCS Office in your County to find out how.

*[www.IN.gov/dcs/2372.htm](http://www.IN.gov/dcs/2372.htm)*

To Report Child Abuse or Neglect Call Toll-Free  
**1-800-800-5556**