



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director

Indiana Department of Child Services
Room E306 – MS47
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2738

317-234-KIDS
FAX: 317-234-4497

www.in.gov/dcs

Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757
Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

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Media Contact:

Brian Heinemann
Department of Child Services
Cell: 317-473-2416
Email: brian.heinemann@dcs.in.gov

DCS releases 2021 fatality report

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 30, 2022) – The Indiana Department of Child Services investigated 271 child deaths in 2021 and determined 60 were a result of abuse and neglect.

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana details the circumstances leading to each fatality and highlights the risk factors that put children in danger.

“The death of any child is a great loss for families and communities,” DCS Director Terry Stigdon said. “We need to be able to learn from this report and make meaningful and lasting change in order to increase awareness of the risk factors that lead to these tragedies.”

Improper sleeping arrangements, including co-sleeping, remain a leading contributor to infant fatalities. Other common risk factors listed in the report were substance abuse, failure to supervise a child (especially near a body of water) and driving while intoxicated.

DCS is legally required to review all child fatalities that fit under the following circumstances:

- For children under 3 years of age: the death is sudden, unexpected or unexplained, or involves allegations of abuse and neglect.
- For children age 3 or older: the death involves allegations of abuse or neglect.

The full report can be found [here](#).

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About Indiana DCS: *The Indiana Department of Child Services leads the state’s response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and facilitates child support payments. We consider the needs and values of all we serve in our efforts to protect children while keeping families together whenever possible. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service Kidsline: 800.840.8757 or 317.233.5437.*

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