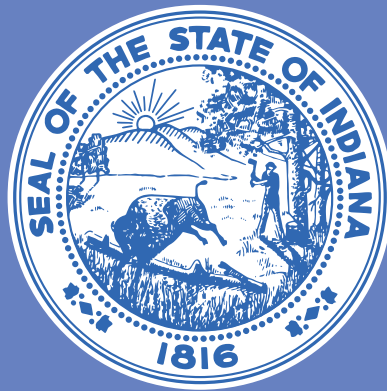


# 2022 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana



Calendar Year 2022

Published December 2023

# 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 2022.

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 multi-step process to ensure fair and unbiased decision-making. The decision to substantiate an allegation requires DCS to meet a legal threshold indicating the caregiver is responsible for the maltreatment.

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 not be clear.

# Executive Summary

In Calendar Year 2022, the Indiana Department of Child Services was called to investigate 308 child fatalities in which abuse or neglect was suspected to be a factor or which involved a child under age 3 whose death was sudden, unexpected or unexplained. This is up from 271 in Calendar Year 2021. Sixty-one (20%\*) of those deaths were determined to be a direct result of caregiver maltreatment.

Of the total fatalities covered by this report, 17 were due to abuse, and 44 were due to neglect.

Marion County recorded the state's highest number of child fatalities (12) caused by abuse or neglect.

Thirty-nine (64%) of the victims were male. Twenty-two (36%) were female. In 41 (67%) of the 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.

Thirteen of the victims (21%) included in this report were previously victims in a DCS case of substantiated abuse or neglect. This is a decrease from 25% in 2021.

The manner of death is taken from state death certificates. Death by weapon (including a body part, e.g., a closed fist) was the most common cause of death, listed as the primary factor in 22 (36%) of the cases. Thirty-one (51%) of deaths were accidental, 17 (28%) were due to homicide, and 11 (18%) were from undetermined causes.

In 46 cases (75%), the death occurred at the victim's own home.

The victim's biological parents were often deemed responsible for the child fatalities detailed in this report, accounting for 64 (80%) of the 80 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. The rates of disability or chronic illness, history of child maltreatment as a victim, substance use disorder, unemployment and insufficient income all increased in 2022 among caregivers involved in a child's death compared to 2021.

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. As a result, the individual numbers may not add up to 100%.

## Abuse and neglect fatalities by county

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Adams	0	1	1
Allen	0	3	3
Clark	1	1	2
Clay	0	2	2
Delaware	0	2	2
Fulton	1	1	2
Grant	1	2	3
Huntington	0	1	1
Jay	1	0	1
Johnson	0	1	1
Knox	0	3	3
Lake	4	3	7
LaPorte	0	2	2
Lawrence	1	0	1

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Madison	0	2	2
Marion	3	9	12
Porter	1	1	2
Posey	1	0	1
Pulaski	0	1	1
Randolph	0	1	1
Saint Joseph	0	1	1
Tippecanoe	0	1	1
Vanderburgh	1	3	4
Vigo	1	0	1
Warrick	0	2	2
Washington	1	0	1
Wayne	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>61</b>

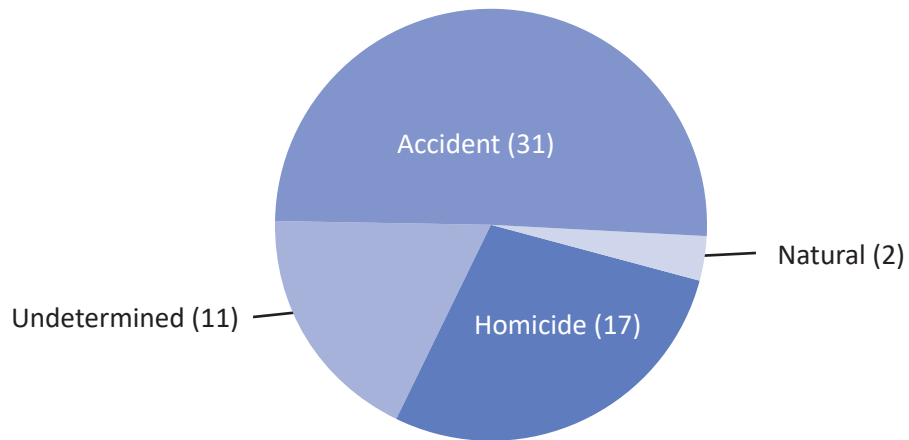
Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Assessment statistics for investigation by other agencies, all children

Investigation	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Coroner cases	17	43	60
Autopsies performed	17	43	60
Scene investigated by coroner	11	29	40
Scene investigated by law enforcement	17	44	61
Scene investigated by fire investigator	0	4	4
Emergency medical services was on scene	12	30	42
<b>All child fatalities</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>61</b>

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Manner of death, all children



Manner of death obtained from state death certificates.

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Primary cause of death, all children

Asphyxia	9
Diabetes	1
Drowning	9
Fire, burn, or electrocution	3
Malnutrition/dehydration	1
Motor vehicle and other transport	7
Other medical condition	1
Other perinatal condition	1
Pneumonia	1
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	6
Weapon, including body part	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Fatalities due to abuse

**Victim:** 3-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Mother, mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Mother, 0; mother's boyfriend, 1 (in Iowa)

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old girl died from multiple blunt-force injuries. She lived with her mother, sibling and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the child was fed and then told to get in the corner. The child would not stop crying, so the mother whipped the child with a belt. At some point, the mother's boyfriend began hitting the child and the child became unresponsive.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Babysitter

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 5-month-old boy died from a head injury. He lived with his parents and grandmother. On the day of the fatality, the child was being cared for by a babysitter. During the day, the babysitter provided pictures of the child to the parents, showing the child to be alert and in good health. Later that afternoon, the babysitter said the child vomited and then gasped for air. The babysitter called 911, and the child was unresponsive when first responders arrived. The babysitter tested positive for unprescribed Suboxone. The child was found to have several head injuries, including retinal hemorrhages.

**Victim:** 2-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Assessment of maltreatment allegations ongoing

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old boy died from blunt-force injuries. He lived with his parents and twin sibling. On the day of the fatality, the father was caring for the child. The father stated the child always cried when he did not get his way, and the father had to walk away so he would not hurt the child. The father said he fed and burped the child and placed him in the crib, and when he checked on him a short time later, he was unresponsive. The child was found to have rib fractures, multiple retinal hemorrhages, and injuries consistent with abusive head trauma.

**Victim:** 2-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old boy died from blunt-force injuries to the head. He lived with his parents. The father said that, on the day of the fatality, he was caring for the child when the child coughed, became agitated and gasped for air. 911 was contacted and the child was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The child had unexplained bruising on his head. The child had not been seen by a doctor since birth and was malnourished. At autopsy, the child was found to have head injuries consistent with shaken baby/impact syndrome.

**Victim:** 5-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 5-year-old boy died from blunt-force injuries. He lived with his mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the child was home with his mother and siblings. The mother called 911 and said the child had fallen. Upon arrival to the home, first responders found the child deceased. He was emaciated with bruising to his body. The child's siblings reported the mother withheld food and frequently beat the child.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old girl died from blunt-force injuries. She lived with her mother and grandmother. On the day of the fatality, the mother and child were at the child's father's house, where they had been staying for a few days. The child was found unresponsive in her crib after napping. At autopsy, the child was found to have multiple traumatic injuries. The parents denied knowledge of how the child sustained her injuries. They were the sole caregivers of the child in the days leading up to her death.

**Victim:** 23-day-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Ongoing CHINS case

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 23-day-old boy died from head injuries. He lived with his father and siblings. The father said that, on the day of the fatality, the child woke up crying, so he picked him up and bounced him up and down. The father said he changed the child's dirty diaper, then placed the child back down, propped up with a bottle. The father stated he later checked on the child and found him unresponsive. The father was the only caregiver and stated the child had not suffered any falls or accidents that would have caused the injuries.

**Victim:** 9-month-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2

**Circumstances:** A 9-month-old girl died from abusive head trauma. She lived with her parents, siblings and grandparent. On the day of the fatality, the child was being cared for by the father while the mother was at work. The father reported he slipped and fell while holding the child and the child became unresponsive. At autopsy, the child was found to have retinal hemorrhages, skull fractures and an acute brain injury, all consistent with abusive head trauma. The child was also found to have evidence of previous brain trauma and a healing rib fracture. The mother reported the child was in good health when she left for work and that the father was the sole caregiver at the time the child sustained her fatal injuries.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Assessment of maltreatment allegations ongoing

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Mother, mother's girlfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from blunt-force injuries. She lived with her mother and mother's girlfriend. The mother's girlfriend reported the child was behaving normally before she was placed down to sleep on the night before the fatality. The mother and her girlfriend woke the next morning and found the child unresponsive. 911 was contacted, and the child was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The child was found to have bruising and severe internal injuries. The mother and her girlfriend had no explanation for the injuries.



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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Ongoing program of Informal Adjustment

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Perpetrator:** Uncle

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from undetermined causes. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the child's uncle babysat her while the mother ran errands. The uncle stated the child kept screaming, but he was finally able to get her to go down for a nap; he placed the child in a portable crib and put a baby mattress over the top so she could not climb out. The uncle stated he checked on the child and found her deceased approximately two hours later and called 911 approximately one hour after that. At autopsy, the child was found to have blunt-force injuries to multiple parts of her body. The uncle tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and THC.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-month-old boy died from blunt-force injuries with a contributing factor of methamphetamine toxicity. He lived with his mother, siblings and mother's boyfriend. The mother stated her boyfriend had been the child's primary caregiver since she went back to work. On the day of the fatality, the child was sleeping in his car seat when the mother went to sleep. The child became fussy around midnight, and the mother's boyfriend fed and cared for the child. At some point, the boyfriend and the child went to sleep in the adult bed with the mother. The mother woke in the morning and found the child deceased. On the day of the fatality, the mother's boyfriend tested positive for amphetamine, methamphetamine and THC. At autopsy, the child was found to have bilateral subdural hematomas, a spinal cord hemorrhage and optic nerve sheath hemorrhage. The child's toxicology test was positive for amphetamine and methamphetamine.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old boy died from multiple injuries. He lived in the basement of his great-grandparents' home with his mother and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the incident, the

child was in the care of the mother's boyfriend while the mother was at work. The boyfriend stated he left the child unsupervised in the basement and returned to find him unresponsive. He said he slapped the child in the face to revive him, to no avail, then he removed the child's clothes and took him to an upstairs bathroom, where he splashed water on his face to revive him. When there was no change in the child's condition, he yelled for someone to call 911. The child died a few days later. His autopsy revealed brain injuries, intraretinal hemorrhages, spinal cord injuries, and multiple bruises and abrasions of the head, torso and extremities.

**Victim:** 5-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 5-year-old-boy was found deceased inside a suitcase in a rural wooded area. Several months later, the child was identified, and it was discovered that the child had previously lived with his mother and his mother's friend. The mother's friend stated she entered a room, observed the mother on top of the child with the child face down on a mattress, and the child was unresponsive. The friend said she helped the mother put the child in a suitcase, and then they dumped the suitcase in the woods.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Assessment of maltreatment allegations ongoing

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Mother, mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old-girl died from blunt-force injuries. She lived with her mother, mother's boyfriend and the boyfriend's children. A few days before the fatality, the child was observed by several individuals to have bruising to her face and a significant head injury. The mother provided inconsistent statements as to how the injuries occurred. On the day the child went to the hospital, the mother and boyfriend woke to find the child unresponsive with labored breathing. The mother attempted to wake her and flicked water on her face, but she remained unresponsive. The mother then went to work and left the child in the care of the boyfriend. Sometime later, the boyfriend advised the mother that the child needed to go to the hospital. At the hospital, the child was found to have brain injuries, bruises and a torn frenulum. She died a few days later. Her autopsy revealed a traumatic head injury, a fractured clavicle, abrasions and contusions. The mother tested positive for THC. The mother's boyfriend tested positive for THC, methamphetamine and amphetamine.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from undetermined causes. She lived with her parents and sibling. On the day of the incident, the child was in the care of her father while the mother was at work. The child was behaving normally when the mother left for work. A few hours later, the child's sibling called the mother, crying. The father grabbed the phone away from the sibling and hung up. The mother thought something was wrong, so she left work. Once home, the mother found the child unresponsive in bed. The child was taken to the hospital. Testing found retinal hemorrhages, a lacerated liver, a lacerated spleen and a diffuse brain injury. The child never regained consciousness and died a few days later.

**Victim:** 2-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old boy died from blunt-force injuries. He lived with his parents. On the day of the incident, the mother took a shower while the father cared for the child. When the mother returned, the father told her something was wrong with the child. They called 911. The child was taken to the hospital, where he was found to have fractured ribs, retinal hemorrhages and head trauma. He subsequently died from his injuries. The father later admitted to forcefully shaking the child because he kept crying and throwing up.

**Victim:** 1-year-old-boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died from blunt-force injuries. He lived with his mother. On the day of the fatality, the child was in the care of the mother's boyfriend at the mother's boyfriend's house. When the boyfriend returned the child to the mother, she noticed the child was cold and his lips were blue. The child was transported to the hospital and died the next day. The child was found to have unexplained burns on his face and legs and blunt-force injuries to his abdomen. The mother's boyfriend provided no plausible explanation for the child's injuries.

## Abuse statistics: demographic characteristics of the child



Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

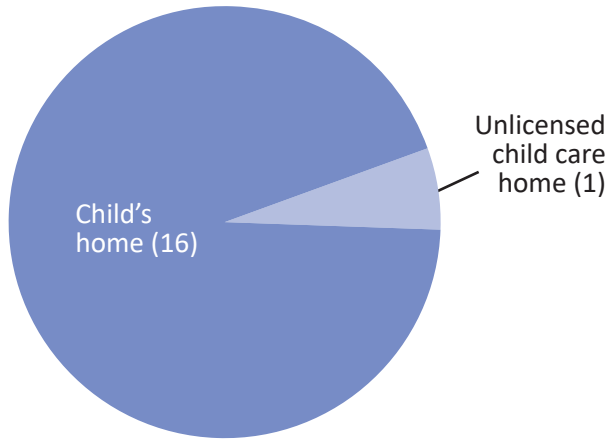
## Abuse statistics: characteristics of the case

Type of abuse	
Abusive head trauma	14
Asphyxiation/suffocation	1
Beating/kicking	4
Chronic battered child syndrome	1
Electrolyte imbalance	1

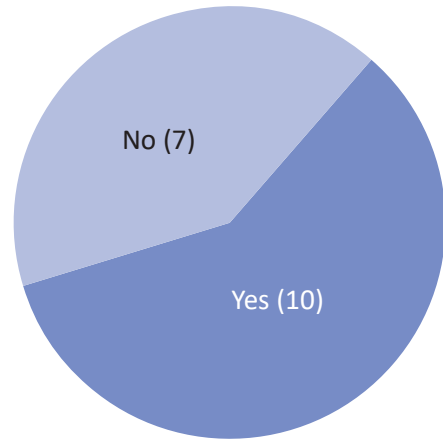
Source: Indiana Child Death Review form Note: A child might have experienced more than one type of abuse.

## Abuse statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident



Other children in household



Caregiver 1 employment status

Employed	10
On disability	1
Unemployed	3
Unknown	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

Caregiver 2 employment status

Employed	4
Unemployed	7
Unknown	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

Caregiver 1 education level

High school	3
College	1
Unknown	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

Caregiver 2 education level

High school	3
Unknown	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

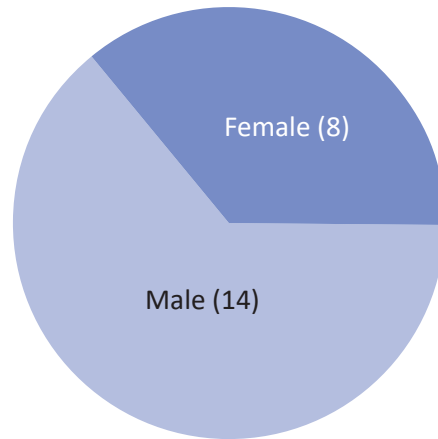
Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Abuse statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

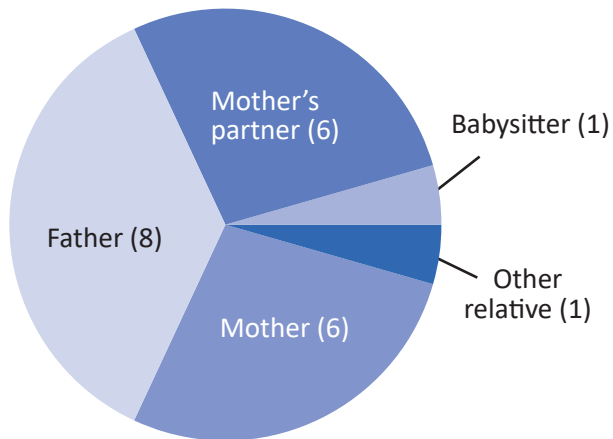
Age

Less than 20 years old	1
20-24 years old	6
25-29 years old	7
30-34 years old	6
35-39 years old	1
40-49 years old	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Gender



Relationship to child



Note: 22 perpetrators total; a child's death might have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Abuse statistics: known stress factors impacting child

History of child maltreatment as victim	3	History of homelessness	1
Residence overcrowded	1	Acutely ill in two weeks before death	3

Note: A child might have had more than one stress factor. Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Abuse statistics: known stress factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1		Caregiver 2	
Disability or chronic illness	2	Disability or chronic illness	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	6	History of child maltreatment as victim	3
History of intimate partner violence as victim	5	History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2
History of substance abuse	11	History of substance abuse	10
Unemployed	3	Unemployed	7
Insufficient income	6	Insufficient income	7
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: Indiana Child Death Review form

# Fatalities due to neglect

**Victim:** 2-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 0; mother, 1

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old boy died from severe malnourishment and intentional starvation.

He lived with his parents, siblings and uncle. On the day of the fatality, the mother woke to find the child deceased in his crib. The child was emaciated and pale. The mother stated she sometimes forgot to feed the child. The father could not remember the last time he fed the child. The father admitted he had a conversation with the mother about the child being starved, but they did not seek medical care for the child.

**Victim:** 1-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died from blunt-force injuries after being struck by a vehicle while unsupervised. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father was working in the garage while the child was in the house with the mother. The mother allowed the child to play outside unsupervised. The father backed his truck out of the garage, striking the child. The father was unable to see the child from inside the truck and did not know the child was outside.

**Victim:** 3-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old girl died from blunt-force injuries from a motor-vehicle collision. She lived with her mother. On the day of the fatality, the mother was driving on a two-lane interstate with inner and outer barriers. The child was restrained in a child-safety seat in the back seat. The mother stopped the vehicle, in the lane of travel, with no lights or flashers on. Witnesses saw the mother get out of the vehicle, look under the hood, and then return to the driver's seat. The mother's vehicle was struck by another vehicle, causing it to spin around. The mother was observed to have glassy and bloodshot eyes. She tested positive for THC and had a blood-alcohol level of 0.114%. The mother had never obtained a driver's license.



**Victim:** 1-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died from blunt-force injuries caused by a motor-vehicle collision. He lived with his parents. On the day of the fatality, the child was in a vehicle with his mother and father. The father was driving and became engaged in a high-speed pursuit with law enforcement. The father drove on the outside shoulder, traveling approximately 120 mph. The pursuit ended with the father's vehicle crashing into a semi-trailer. The mother and child died in the crash.

**Victim:** 12-day-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Ongoing CHINS case

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 2; mother, 2

**Circumstances:** A 12-day-old boy died from suffocation due to unsafe sleep. He lived with his father and grandparent. On the day of the fatality, the child and his father spent the night at the mother's residence. The mother slept with the child while the father slept in another room. The mother woke up and discovered she was lying on top of the child. The child was unresponsive and 911 was called. The court had ordered the father to prohibit the mother from having access to the child because of the mother's ongoing methamphetamine use. On the day of the child's death, both parents tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.

**Victim:** 13-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 4

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2

**Circumstances:** A 13-year-old boy died from diabetic ketoacidosis due to medical neglect. He lived with his mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the child had been unable to eat, drink, talk or walk without assistance. That night, the mother found the child deceased. The child had been ill for days, and his mother did not seek medical care. The child had not received insulin as prescribed. The mother had prior training on how to care for the child's diabetes and had a history of non-compliance.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 1-month-old girl died from suffocation due to unsafe sleep with illicit fentanyl as a contributing factor. She lived with her parents and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the father fed the child a bottle in the early morning hours and then placed her to sleep on an adult mattress with the child's mother and himself. The father woke later that morning to find the child lying against him, unresponsive. At autopsy, the child's toxicology test was positive for fentanyl. The father subsequently tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and fentanyl.

**Victim:** 2-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 1; mother, 1

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old girl died as a result of medical neglect. She lived with her parents and siblings. The child suffered from cystic fibrosis, and she had been very ill with pneumonia in the days leading up to the fatality, but the parents did not seek medical care. The family's home was observed to be an unsafe living environment. The parents had not been regularly taking the child to scheduled medical appointments or completing necessary lab tests. The child's doctor reported that without consistent medical care and medication compliance, cystic fibrosis could be deadly. At autopsy, the child was found to be dehydrated. The pathologist noted that the child would have been very ill with pneumonia but likely would have survived with timely medical care.

**Victim:** 5-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 7

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 1; mother, 0

**Circumstances:** A 5-year-old girl died from a gunshot wound to the head. She lived with her parents and 6-year-old sibling. On the day of the fatality, the father went to work, and the children were home with the mother. While the mother was napping, the sibling took a gun from the family's safe and accidentally shot the child. The sibling was able to remove the gun from the safe because the key was left in the lock.

**Victim:** 1-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died by drowning due to lack of supervision. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father took the child with him to a small shed on the family's property. The father allowed the child to play outside while he used the telephone inside the shed. At some point, the father realized the child had wandered off, so he retrieved the child and placed him back outside the shed. The father went back in and continued his calls. When he was done, he walked out and did not see the child. The father found the child in a pond 20 feet away. The pond was on the family's property, accessible from the area where the child had been playing.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from toxic effects of para-fluorofentanyl, heroin and xylazine. She lived with her mother and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the mother took an afternoon nap with the children. Two hours later, the child was found deceased in the mother's bed. The mother tested positive for THC and a heroin metabolite. The child's toxicology test was positive for caffeine, para-fluorofentanyl, morphine and 6-monoacetylmorphine (a heroin metabolite).

**Victim:** 3-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 0; mother, 2

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old girl died by drowning due to lack of supervision. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother reported she had been doing errands in the home and when she checked on the child, she could not find her. The child was later found in a pond near the family's home. Witnesses reported seeing the child outside, unattended, approximately two hours prior to the parents contacting 911. The parents tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Babysitter

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from asphyxiation while restrained in a car seat. She lived with her parents. On the day of the fatality, the child was being cared for by an unlicensed babysitter who was watching 32 children by herself. The babysitter routinely had older children place the child to sleep in a car seat. On the day of the child's death, a 7-year-old changed the child's diaper and placed the child in a car seat for her nap. Two hours later, the babysitter asked some older children to get the child, and they found her flipped over in the car seat, unresponsive, with the straps tight and the buckle close to her neck. The car seat the child was in did not belong to the child. While the children napped, the babysitter would routinely lay on a couch in a downstairs living room, where she sometimes fell asleep.

**Victim:** 4-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2

**Circumstances:** A 4-year-old girl died from blunt-force injuries. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother was driving a go-kart while the child was sitting on her lap. The child was not wearing a helmet. The mother was going approximately 45 mph when she hit a pothole and drove into the back of a parked vehicle. The child died from her injuries a short time later. The mother refused to submit to a drug screen, requiring law enforcement to obtain a search warrant. She tested positive for amphetamine, methamphetamine, THC, fentanyl and norfentanyl.

**Victim:** 6-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 6-month-old boy died from undetermined causes. He lived with his mother and siblings. The mother reported that, on the day of the fatality, she placed the child to sleep in a baby glider, took a nap, and woke two hours later to find the child still in the baby glider, unresponsive, with a blanket over his head. Law enforcement found the mother to be visibly impaired, and she tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine. At autopsy, the child was found to have blunt-force injuries to multiple areas. The mother was the sole caregiver of the child and denied knowledge of how the child sustained his injuries.

**Victim:** 8-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** An 8-month-old boy died from fentanyl toxicity. He lived with his parents. On the day of the fatality, the child was in the care of his father while the mother was at work. The father reported the child had been crawling around and he found him holding a piece of foil with a salt-like substance on it. The father stated he put the child down for a nap and, a few hours later, found him unresponsive. On the day of the child's death, the father tested positive for amphetamine, methamphetamine, fentanyl and norfentanyl. The child's toxicology test was positive for naloxone, para-fluorofentanyl and fentanyl.

**Victim:** 4-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Mother, mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 4-year-old boy died from injuries suffered when he was hit by a truck. He lived with his mother, sibling and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the family spent the night in a shop where the mother's boyfriend worked. The child was known to have a propensity to wander, and the mother and mother's boyfriend did not securely lock the door before going to bed. In the early morning hours, the child left the shop and wandered onto a highway where he was struck by a truck. The mother subsequently tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine. The mother's boyfriend refused to submit to a drug screen but was later arrested for possession of methamphetamine.

**Victim:** 7-month-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 7-month-old girl died by drowning due to lack of supervision. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother was giving the child a bath. The child was in the bathtub, in a seat designed to help babies sit upright. The mother went to another room, leaving the child alone. She had music playing loudly and couldn't hear the child. She returned several minutes later and found the child face down in the water. The mother admitted to smoking marijuana prior to the incident. The seat had a prominent warning label advising it was never to be used in or near water. A relative reported that he visited the home three to four weeks prior and found the child alone in the bathtub – half in the seat, half in the tub. He said he told the mother it was unsafe to leave the child alone in the bathtub.

**Victim:** 1-day-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 5

**Circumstances:** A 1-day-old boy died from complications of premature birth with contributing factors of maternal drug abuse and congenital anemia. The child never left the hospital after birth. He was born at 33 weeks' gestation, and his toxicology test was positive for fentanyl, norfentanyl, methadone, EDDP (a methadone metabolite), morphine, benzoylecgonine (a cocaine metabolite), 4-ANPP (used in the production of illicit fentanyl) and other non-contributory items. The mother had a long history of substance use and admitted to using illegal substances while she was pregnant. A week before the birth, she sought medical care for pregnancy complications and left the hospital against medical advice.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the family was at home preparing to leave for vacation. The mother went outside to put things in the vehicle while the father stayed inside with the children. The mother heard a loud bang. The father ran outside with the 2-year-old, and they transported him to the hospital. The father stated he was cleaning in the kitchen, heard the gunshot, and immediately ran toward the child. The father stated he had placed his gun in the child's diaper bag, which was unzipped and sitting on the floor. The father said the child got the gun out of the diaper bag and the gun went off. The mother stated she knew the father had placed the gun in the child's diaper bag and that the child would get into the diaper bag because he knew his drink and snacks were inside.

**Victim:** 4-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 5

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Mother, mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 4-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound to the head. He lived with his mother, sibling and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the mother and her boyfriend left the child and his younger sibling home alone. The mother and her boyfriend returned home, and the

mother, the child and his sibling went to an upstairs bedroom while the mother's boyfriend was downstairs. The mother took a nap. Shortly after she woke up, she observed the child holding the boyfriend's gun, and the gun went off. The mother and her boyfriend knew the gun was stored in the sibling's dollhouse. The child was able to access the loaded weapon, and no safety features were enabled on the gun.

**Victim:** 8-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** An 8-year-old boy died from ligature compression of the neck. He lived with his mother and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the child had to be picked up from an activity center because of behavior issues. The child's mother was at work, so her boyfriend brought the child home. He proceeded to lock the child in his bedroom. Approximately two hours later, the mother came home and found the child deceased with a plastic zip tie around his neck. Two months earlier, the child had received inpatient mental health treatment after making suicidal statements about choking himself. A safety plan was in place calling for the removal of anything that could be potentially harmful to the child. The mother's boyfriend reported that he knew the child needed to be checked on every several minutes, but he became sidetracked while playing a video game and failed to check on the child for about an hour and a half. He also said the zip ties belonged to him and that the child liked playing with the zip ties.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old boy died from fentanyl, dextromethorphan and doxylamine toxicity. He lived with his parents. On the evening of the fatality, the father was caring for the child while the mother was at school. The father stated he was in the adult bed with the child while the child watched his tablet. The father stated the child fell asleep, and then he fell asleep, waking a few hours later when someone knocked on the door. He then found the child unresponsive. Upon observing the home, law enforcement found a small piece of aluminum foil containing a rock-like substance next to pillows on the bed the child had been sleeping in. Law enforcement had the substance tested and it was determined to be fentanyl. The father refused to submit to a drug screen.

**Victim:** 5-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Uncle

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 5-year-old boy died by drowning. He lived with his parents, grandparents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, an adult uncle picked the child up and took him to an apartment-complex swimming pool. The uncle knew the child did not know how to swim. The uncle stated he left the child sitting on the edge of the pool while the uncle sat on a pool chair, facing away from the child, and talked on the phone. The uncle said that, at some point, he heard someone say a child was at the bottom of the pool. Surveillance video showed that the child walked around the pool, alone, several times and had no one around him when he jumped into the pool and never resurfaced. Approximately 10 minutes later, the uncle is seen jumping into the pool to retrieve the child.

**Victims:** 5-year-old boy, 2-year-old girl, 1-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victims:** 5-year-old boy, 4; 2-year-old girl, 3; 1-year-old boy, 2

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victims:** 5-year-old boy, 1; 2-year-old girl, 1; 1-year-old boy, 1

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 5-year-old boy, a 2-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy died by drowning. They lived with their father. On the evening of the fatality, the father told family members he was taking the children fishing at a lake. While at the lake, the father sat in his car and spoke with a friend on a video call. He showed his friend the children asleep in the car. The father and his friend's final communication was around midnight. At some point, family members reported the father and children missing. A few days later, they were all found deceased in the lake. The car was in neutral when it was pulled from the lake. At the father's autopsy, his blood alcohol content was 0.245%.

**Victim:** 1-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-month-old boy died from suffocation due to unsafe sleep. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother fed the child and placed him



to sleep on a separate mattress at the end of the parents' mattress. At some point, the mother had the 5-year-old sibling check on the child, but the sibling was unable to locate him. The parents did not check on the child at that time, instead going outside with the other children for approximately 30 minutes. When they came back inside, the mother checked on the child and found him on his stomach, face down on the mattress. The mattress was still in its original plastic wrap and covered with pillows, blankets, stuffed animals, toys and garbage bags. The mother said she knew the child was able to roll over, but she did not ensure his sleep space was safe.

**Victim:** 14-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 7

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 14-year-old boy died from acute fentanyl intoxication. He lived with his mother. On the day of the fatality, the mother noticed the child appeared to be impaired, and she was aware he had been snorting heroin. The child was impaired when he got into his mother's car, parked behind the family home. The mother said she left the child in the car and went inside to go to bed. She said she heard him snoring loudly, through an open window, around 3:30 a.m. The mother did not check on the child until 14 hours later, when she found him deceased in her parked car. The mother never sought treatment for the child, even though she was aware of him using illicit substances for at least two months prior to his death. The mother had a history of substance abuse and refused to submit to a drug screen.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound to the head. He lived with his parents and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the family was getting ready to leave the home and the parents had started to load the children in the vehicle. The father left his loaded gun in the cup holder of the vehicle while he went into the garage. The child was standing near the vehicle while his mother was putting his sibling in the car seat. A short time later, the parents heard a bang and realized the child had gotten the father's gun and accidentally shot himself.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old boy died from blunt-force injuries. He lived with his mother and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the mother was driving with the child in the vehicle. The car was overheating, so she parked at a shopping plaza. The mother and child got out, and the child began to bounce a basketball near the car. The mother got back in the car while the child continued to play outside the vehicle, unsupervised. Surveillance video showed the child wandering away while the mother remained inside the vehicle. He was sitting on his basketball near the road when he was struck by an unknown SUV, which did not stop. The mother stated that, at some point, she yelled for the child and went to look for him. She found him lying on the concrete, unresponsive.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old girl died from undetermined causes. She lived with her mother and siblings. The mother stated that, on the day of the fatality, the child would not quit crying, so she gave her a bath. After the bath, she aggressively rubbed lotion on the child and then aggressively rocked her while telling her to shut up and stop crying. When the child continued to cry, the mother struck her on the leg. She then placed the child on the couch and forcefully shoved a bottle in her mouth, causing her to make a gurgling sound. The child continued to cry, so the mother placed her toward the top of the couch and turned her to face the back, where the pillows would muffle the crying. The mother went to bed. When she woke up, she found the child unresponsive. The mother tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.

**Victim:** 10-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 10-month-old boy died from complications of drowning. He lived with his parents and siblings. The mother stated that, on the day before the fatality, the child was sticky, so she put him in the bathtub with the water running, but she did not plug the bathtub drain. She left him there while she performed household tasks. Later, she returned and found the washcloth had plugged the drain, and the child was lying face down in the water. He was transported to the hospital and died the next day.

**Victims:** 3-year-old girl, 3-month-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victims:** 3-year-old girl, 2; 3-month-old girl, 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victims:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old girl and a 3-month-old girl died from smoke inhalation. They lived with their mother and the 3-month-old girl's father. On the night of the fatality, the father was at work and the mother was home with the children. She put the children to bed and left them alone while she went to visit a neighbor. She could not see her home from the neighbor's home. Surveillance video revealed that an explosion occurred, and smoke was seen coming from the home approximately 10 minutes after the mother left. The children died in the fire. The neighbor said the mother brought marijuana to his home, and they were inside when the fire started. The fire marshal determined the fire originated in the living room, but the cause was unknown.

**Victim:** 18-day-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** An 18-day-old boy died from an undetermined cause with unsafe sleep as a contributing factor. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother woke and found the child unresponsive. He had been sleeping between the mother and an 8-year-old sibling on a twin bed. The mattress leaned to the right, which could have caused the child to roll into his sibling. The 8-year-old said the mother had the child sleep with him when she stayed up late. The mother tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and buprenorphine. The mother created the child's unsafe sleep conditions by placing him to sleep between two people, on a sloping bed, while the mother was impaired, with a pillow and comforter on each side of the child.

**Victim:** 6-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 6-year-old girl died from blunt-force injuries caused by a motor-vehicle collision. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the incident, the mother, the child and one of the siblings were at the mother's friend's house. While there, the mother drank alcoholic beverages. On the drive back home, the mother was in a single-car accident. She did not have a valid driver's

license, and her blood alcohol content was measured at 0.154% after the accident. The child was not restrained, sustained extensive injuries and died a few days later.

**Victim:** 2-month-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Assessments of maltreatment allegations ongoing

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 4

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 1; mother, 3

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old boy died from suffocation due to unsafe sleep. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father woke up and found the child unresponsive. The child had slept in an adult bed between his parents. The mother admitted she and the father had been informed of safe sleep practices by medical personnel, service providers and DCS on multiple occasions prior to the child's death. Police reports confirmed the mother's use of methamphetamine on the day before and the day after the child's death. The death was a direct result of the parents co-sleeping with the child.

**Victim:** 8-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** An 8-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and sibling. On the day of the fatality, he was left alone at home. When the parents and sibling returned, they found the child dead from a gunshot to the head. The child obtained a 9mm semi-automatic firearm from the parents' bedroom and apparently shot himself by accident. Several firearms were kept in the home with no safety precautions in place.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old boy died from fentanyl toxicity. He lived with his mother and siblings. On the night before the fatality, the father stayed at the child's home despite a no-contact order between the mother and father. The next morning, the father found the child deceased. The father refused to submit to a drug screen. The mother tested negative for all substances. The child's toxicology test showed a lethal amount of fentanyl. The father had been arrested for possession of fentanyl approximately one month prior.

**Victim:** 4-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Mother, mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Mother, 1; mother's boyfriend, 0

**Circumstances:** A 4-year-old boy died from fentanyl and cocaine toxicity. He lived with his mother, siblings and mother's boyfriend. On the morning of the fatality, the mother's boyfriend attempted to wake the child and found him deceased. The family's home was found to be very unsanitary and was later condemned by code enforcement. One of the child's siblings stated that the night prior to the fatality, the child got into the mother and boyfriend's "stuff," which was described as a white powder. The mother tested positive for cocaine and THC, and her boyfriend tested positive for fentanyl and THC. At autopsy, the child's toxicology test was positive for cocaine and fentanyl.

**Victim:** 6-year-old boy

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 2

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 3

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 6-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his mother and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the mother was downstairs while the child was upstairs in the mother's bedroom. The child was able to access the mother's gun and shot himself. The mother had previously been provided a gun safe and had been advised to keep the gun and gun safe out of reach of the children.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old boy died by drowning. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father was outside working, the mother was inside the home making lunch, and the child and his 3- and 5-year-old siblings were outside. One of the siblings went to the mother and said they could not find the child. The father found the child face down in a post hole measuring 22 inches across by 39 inches deep, with 10 inches of water in the bottom. The mother reported last seeing the child on the porch approximately 15 minutes before realizing the child was missing. The father reported the post holes were dug the day before, and they were working on filling them. The family's property had several large holes in the yard for the construction of a pole barn, creating a safety hazard for the children. The parents did not have direct supervision of the child.

**Victim:** 3-year-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** No open DCS involvement

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 2

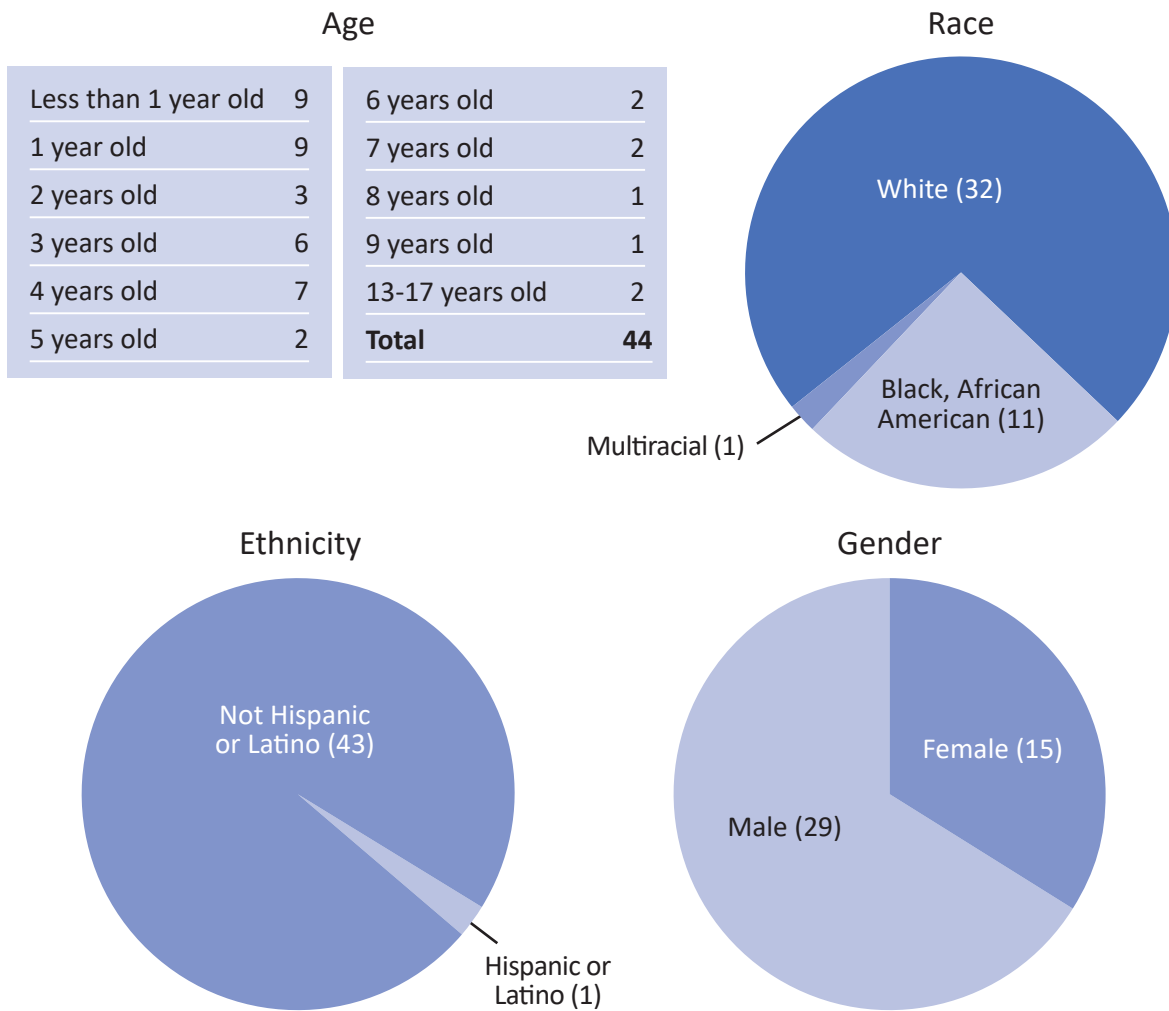
**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 1

**Perpetrators:** Two babysitters

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** First babysitter, 1; second babysitter, 1 (for the same incident)

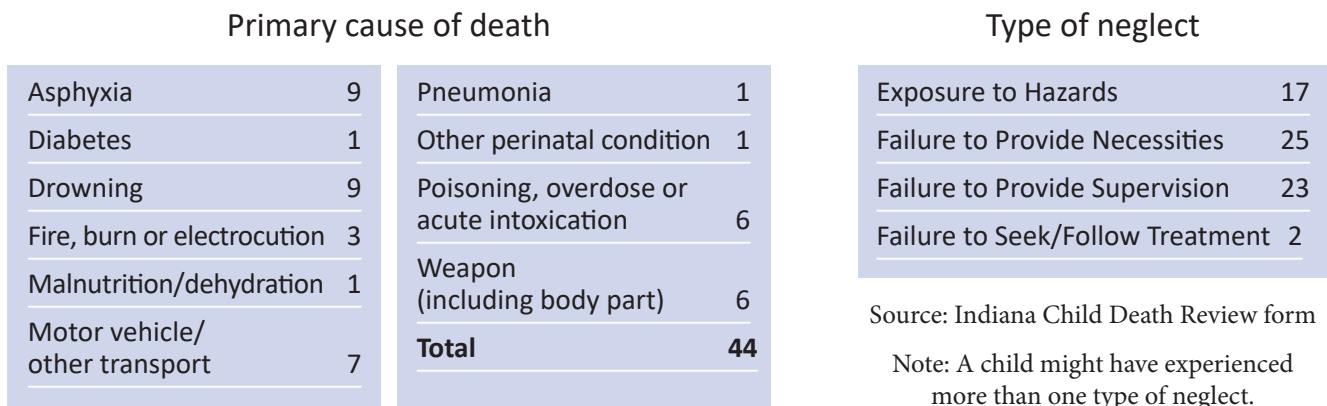
**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old girl died in a fire from burns and smoke inhalation. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the night prior to the fatality, the mother left the child and her siblings with two babysitters while she went to work. The child, the child's siblings, the babysitters and the babysitters' children all went to bed. The next morning, the babysitters' 6-year-old woke them and said he had used their lighter to set an upstairs mattress on fire. The babysitters saw that the upstairs of the home was engulfed by fire and smoke. They were unable to rescue the child. The 6-year-old who started the fire had previously started a fire with a lighter, and at least two lighters had been within reach of the child.

## Neglect statistics: demographic characteristics of the child



Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

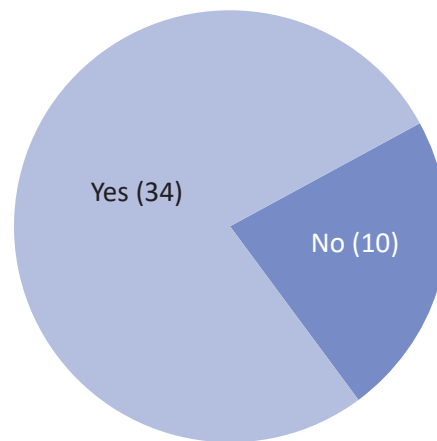
## Neglect statistics: characteristics of the case



## Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident	
Child's home	28
Child's home/driveway	1
Child's home/hospital	1
Child's home/pond	1
Recreational area	3
Rec area/relative's home	1
Relative's home	1
Roadway	6
Unlicensed child care home	2
Other	1

Other children in household



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

Caregiver 1 employment status	
Employed	12
Stay-at-home	7
Unemployed	16
Unknown	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

Caregiver 2 employment status	
Employed	17
Unemployed	8
Unknown	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

Caregiver 1 education level	
Less than high school	5
High school	5
College	2
Unknown	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

Caregiver 2 education level	
Less than high school	3
High school	5
College	1
Unknown	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

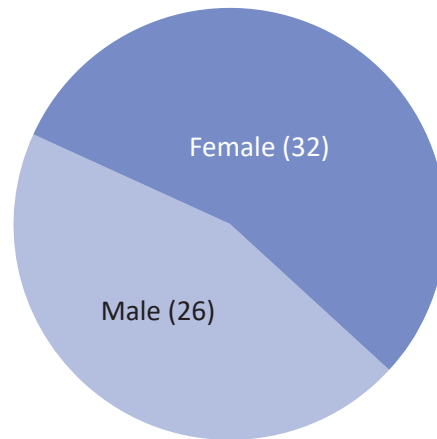


## Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

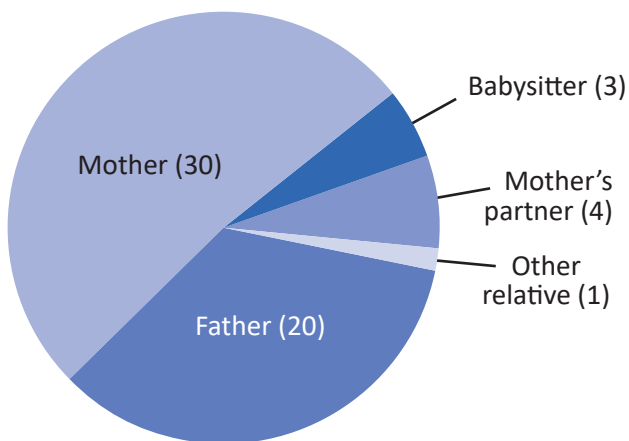
Age

Less than 20 years old	1
20-24 years old	10
25-29 years old	16
30-34 years old	15
35-39 years old	10
40-49 years old	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>

Gender



Relationship to child



Note: 58 perpetrators total; a child's death might have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Neglect statistics: known stress factors impacting child

Child had been homeless	1
Child had history of intimate partner violence - victim	1
Child had history of intimate partner violence - unknown	1
Child had history of receiving mental health services	2
Child had history of substance use or abuse	1
Child had prior disability or chronic illness	10
Child had problems in school	2
Child was acutely ill in the two weeks before death	3
Child was on medication for mental illness	1
Child was receiving mental health services	1
Child's biological parent was a first-generation immigrant	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	10
Issues prevented child from receiving mental health services	1
Residence overcrowded	1

Note: A child might have had more than one stress factor. Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Neglect statistics: known stress factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1		Caregiver 2	
Education level less than high school	5	Education level less than high school	3
Disability or chronic illness	11	Disability or chronic illness	6
History of child maltreatment as victim	13	History of child maltreatment as victim	6
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	1	History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	4
History of intimate partner violence as victim	8	History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of substance abuse	27	History of substance abuse	15
Unemployed	16	Unemployed	8
Insufficient income	16	Insufficient income	9
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: Indiana Child Death Review form

