

Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report of Child Fatalities

State Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007)

Protecting our children, families and future

Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report of Child Fatalities

2007



State of Indiana

Department of Child Services

Published March 2008



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Preface

Every year, the State of Indiana, through the Department of Child Services (DCS), reviews cases where there are allegations that child fatalities occurred because of abuse and / or neglect. If the circumstances surrounding the child's death appear to be sudden, unexpected, or unexplained, DCS will assess these deaths to ensure abuse or neglect has not occurred and will identify the ones in which it has. Abuse is defined in IC 31-34-1-2 as an act in which a "child's physical or mental health is seriously endangered due to injury by the act or omission of the child's physical or mental condition is seriously impaired or seriously endangered as a result of the inability, refusal, or neglect of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision." Legislative changes effective March 24, 2006 clarify the definition of custodian, which was amended to exclude unlicensed babysitters or unlicensed daycare providers (IC 31-9-2-31). This definition was in effect for the entire State Fiscal Year 2007 (SFY 2007), which is July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, and is one of the parameters for the child fatalities within this report.

This report highlights changes or trends from the previous year. This summary also includes a synopsis of data of all child abuse and/or neglect fatalities from SFY 2007, including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators and households of these fatalities. Through analysis of this year's report, the Department is able to identify the risk factors that are common elements relating to abuse and/or neglect. These risk factors are identified and summarized in the data portion of this report. This information can aid in the development of prevention and educational programs specific to the community affected, as well as the State of Indiana as a whole. The data is also used to evaluate, review, and modify policy, practice, and procedure where warranted.

The data assembled in this report is collected from multiple sources, including DCS records, death certificates, coroners' reports, and law enforcement records. It should be noted that DCS approved one assessment for SFY 2007 with an "indicated" finding. "Indicated" is a finding allowable by statute and defined in DCS policy as a situation when facts obtained during an assessment cannot be found to be substantiated or unsubstantiated. In addition, this finding is used when there are significant indications that a child may be at risk for child abuse and/or neglect or there is evidence of past maltreatment. This is typically not a finding that is applicable to fatality assessments; however, a specific prosecutor was unwilling to release his report and law enforcement records to DCS for use in the assessment of facts. As a result, crucial information needed to make a finding regarding the allegations of abuse and neglect in the death of a child was never received. Therefore, the presence or absence of child maltreatment was not able to be determined.

This process is a multi-layered review that occurs at both the county and state level. A team of professionals from the local county reviews the assessed fatality suspected to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. The local team reviews the evidence and recommendations provided by the local DCS office regarding the death and assesses if it was due to negligence or physical harm caused by a parent, guardian or custodian. After the local team reviews the assessment, it is forwarded to the DCS state fatality review team to provide a review of each case and make recommendations to the local DCS office regarding the assessment. The reports are finalized at the state office of the Department of Child Services and data is collected from the findings.

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Source: Department of Child Services

State of Indiana Mitchell E. Daniels Jr., Governor - James W. Payne, Director 402 West Washington Street. Room W392 / Indianapolis. IN 46204-2739



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This report provides demographic information resulting from child deaths that occurred and enhances these demographics with a description of the circumstances that led to the child's death. In turn, this information can yield prevention strategies that Indiana can implement to reduce the number of child fatalities.

Indiana law requires that anyone who suspects child abuse and/or neglect to make a report to DCS (IC 31-33-5-1). These community partnerships are a key element for protecting children in Indiana. Suspicions, initial reactions, and ongoing concerns are often voiced during the course of an assessment. Proactive, timely, and consistent reporting to DCS promotes efforts and programs for child safety within Indiana communities. DCS recognizes the value of community protection and encourages all members of the public to become partners with the Department.

Additional strategies to reduce the number of child deaths include recognition of the lethal consequences of Shaken Baby Syndrome and the incidence of blunt trauma-related injuries. Supervision is often a key issue in the prevention of a fatality. Whether a child is around water, equipment, or simply at home, age-appropriate supervision should never be compromised. Safe sleep practices can be critical in preventing child deaths. Sleeping environments for children must be constantly evaluated and re-evaluated for child safety that includes age, developmental level, etc. There are many local and state resources that can assist in providing cribs or consultation in developing a safe sleep environment based on the resources at hand.

The recognition of the prevalence of substance abuse is a key factor in preventing child deaths. Repeatedly, deaths have occurred from an adult sharing a bed with a child while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, driving with children in the car while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or simply supervising a child while impaired by substances. Also often deadly is allowing children to drink alcohol and not critically supervising children with a history of substance abuse.

This annual report focuses on the 36 deaths that occurred as a direct result of caregiver maltreatment during SFY 2007. These victims can no longer advocate for themselves. Thus, the Department has determined that their deaths and circumstances should be studied so Indiana can understand the factors that lead to child fatalities and apply those painful lessons learned. Whether it be from maltreatment, poor judgment, or lack of information and resources, many child deaths are preventable. These 36 children should be mourned, talked about, and acted upon in each community throughout the state.





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DCS Annual Child Fatality Report Executive Summary

There were 36 abuse and neglect fatalities substantiated in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007. Of these 36 fatalities, 17 (47.2%) were due to abuse and 19 (52.8%) were due to neglect. This reflects an overall decrease in the total number of fatalities from SFY 2006 in both abuse and neglect, with the largest decrease occurring in abuse. Child fatalities from abuse decreased by 13, dropping to 17 in SFY 2007 from 30 in SFY 2006. Similarly, child fatalities from neglect decreased by 4, decreasing to 19 in SFY 2007 from 23 in SFY 2006.

Nine of the total 36 child fatalities occurred in families with at least one prior child protective services substantiated investigation (i.e. in cases known to the state). This includes 4 of 17 abuse households and 5 of 19 neglect households. The prior substantiation may have involved the child fatality victim and/or another child in the household. This reflects a decrease of 2 "in the DCS system" deaths from SFY 2006, and an overall decrease of more that 50% since 2002.

Overall, the highest causes of all substantiated fatalities were asphyxiation / suffocation / strangulation, positional asphyxiation and skull fractures.

- Of the 5 abuse asphyxiation / suffocation / strangulation fatalities, there were 4 homicidal asphyxiation fatalities and 1 positional asphyxiation fatality.
- Of the 5 neglect positional asphyxiation fatalities, all involved environmental life / health-endangering situations.
- Of the 5 skull fracture fatalities there were 2 abuse skull fractures / brain damage (1 blunt force injury to the head and 1 Shaken Baby Syndrome), 2 skull fractures / internal injuries (1 blunt force injury to the head and abdomen and 1 multiple blunt force trauma due to airplane crash) and 1 blunt force injury to the head.
- There were 4 fatalities from Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- The 3 house fires were neglect fatalities involving environment life / health endangering situations.
- The 3 medical neglect fatalities included 1 acute anoxia (respirator dependent), 1 cardiac arrest (lack of seizure medication), and 1 sepsis.
- The 3 lack of supervision fatalities included 1 drowning, 1 drug- related conditions of child and 1 head injuries (struck by automobile).
- The 3 poisoning fatalities included 2 neglect poisonings (1 alcohol and 1 methadone) and 1 abuse (methadone).
- There were 2 gunshot wound fatalities (1 abuse and 1 neglect).
- The remaining 3 fatalities included 1 vehicular fatality, 1 multiple blunt force trauma fatality, and 1 drug exposed infant fatality.

While the total number of child fatalities (36) reflects a net decrease, there were also changes in the primary causes of death. The largest decreases were reflected in the number of child fatalities from drowning and vehicular accidents.

- Drowning deaths decreased by 6, with 1 in SFY 2007, down from 7 in SFY 2006.
- Vehicular deaths decreased by 4, with 1 in SFY 2007, down from 5 in SFY 2006.
- Shaken Baby Syndrome deaths decreased by 1, with 5 in SFY 2007, down from 6 in SFY 2006.
- Gun-related deaths decreased by 1, with 2 in SFY 2007, down from 3 in SFY 2006.

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• Stab wound deaths decreased by 1, with 0 in SFY 2007, down from 1 in SFY 2006.

Increases in the primary causes of death included house fires, poisonings and an asphyxiation / suffocation / strangulation.

- House fire deaths increased by 3, with 3 in SFY 2007, up from 0 in SFY 2006.
- Poisoning deaths increased by 2, with 3 in SFY 2007, up from 1 in SFY 2006.
- Asphyxiation / suffocation / strangulation death increased by 1, with 5 in SFY 2007, up from 4 in SFY 2006.

There were no changes in the primary causes of child deaths occurring as a result of medical neglect, positional asphyxiation and drug related conditions of the child in both SFY 2007 and SFY 2006.

- There were 3 medical neglect deaths in both SFY 2007 and SFY 2006.
- There were 5 positional asphyxiation deaths in both SFY 2007 and SFY 2006.
- There was 1 drug-related conditions of the child death in both SFY 2007 and SFY 2006.

Three of the 5 shaken baby deaths involved a male perpetrator who was the child's parent. Two of the perpetrators were unemployed. One of the 2 gun-related deaths involved parents experiencing marital problems. The gun-related deaths included 1 homicide and 1 accident involving an unsecured gun.

Drowning deaths decreased by 6, with 1 in SFY 2007, down from 7 in SFY 2006. The only drowning death in SFY 2007 involved a child playing in or near water while not adequately supervised.

Vehicular deaths decreased by 4, with 1 in SFY 2007, down from 5 in SFY 2006. As was true in prior years, the vehicular fatality involved alcohol use and restraints were present, but not used.

House fire deaths increased by 3, with 3 in SFY 2007, up from 0 in SFY 2006. Two siblings died in the one house fire which was the result of a person cooking while under the influence. The other involved a child placed in a life / health endangering situation where he was able to play with a lighter and start a fire.

Of the total 36 fatalities in SFY 2007, drugs or alcohol were factors in 39% of the fatalities. This reflects an increase from SFY 2006 when drugs or alcohol were involved in 17% of the total 53 fatalities. Specifically, 14 of the total 36 deaths for SFY 2007 had drug or alcohol involvement compared to 9 of the total 53 in SFY 2006.



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Fatalities due to physical abuse

Seventeen (17) deaths resulted from physical abuse in SFY 2007. Physical abuse resulting in asphyxiation / suffocation / strangulation and skull fracture were the primary causes of death. Asphyxiation / suffocation / strangulation included 1 abuse positional asphyxiation and 4 homicidal asphyxiations. Skull fracture fatalities included 2 skull fracture / internal injuries, 2 skull fracture / brain damage and 1 skull fracture blunt force injury to the head. The second leading cause of abuse deaths was brain damage from shaken baby syndrome, accounting for 4 of the deaths. The 3 remaining abuse fatalities resulted from gunshot wound (1), poisoning (1) and bone fracture / brain damage (1).

The following paragraphs provide summaries of the fatalities that resulted from physical abuse.

Deaths by abuse: (17)

- Four children, ages 8, 6, 4 and 2, were found dead due to homicidal asphyxia in their home. Their mother had been diagnosed with mental illness and had recently been hospitalized for treatment. She stopped taking her medications after being released from the hospital. Less than two weeks after her release, she systematically murdered her children based on delusions she was experiencing.
- A 17-month-old child was physically abused by the mother's boyfriend while the mother was at work. There were multiple reports that the mother was aware of the abuse in the home. The death was determined to be the result of blunt force injuries to the head and abdomen, and "battered child syndrome" was cited as a contributing factor in the death.
- A mother presented at doctor's office with an umbilical cord and placenta still attached, initially denying that she had given birth. The child was later found in her home wrapped in a towel and the cause of death was deemed positional asphyxia. This child also tested positive for methamphetamine.
- A 3-month-old child was taken to the emergency room due to breathing problems. While there were multiple other caregivers in the home at the time of the incident, the father later confessed to violently shaking the baby. The injuries were consistent with Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- A 2-year old child was brought to the hospital after mother found the child unconscious. The cause of death was later determined to be multiple blunt force trauma. The child was in the care of mother's boyfriend at the time of the incident, who denied any abuse. Mother's boyfriend had previous substantiated history for harming a former girlfriend's children.
- A 15-year old child was shot and killed by the child's step-father, before he took his own life. There had been some family discord in the household, and it is believed the stepfather was jealous of the close relationship between the mother and child.
- An 18-month-old child was poisoned by the mother with methadone. The child had been born positive for methadone exposure in utero, however, the mother was prescribed this substance. It is unknown how long the child was being poisoned or the mother's motive.
- A 6-week old child died following 3 days on life support after a diagnosis of Shaken Baby

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Source: Department of Child Services



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Syndrome. The baby's father was the sole caregiver at the time of the incident, and was never able to give a plausible explanation as to how this child might have sustained such extensive injuries, but did admit to slowly shaking the child.

- A 7-week old infant died due to injuries sustained from physical abuse. The parents reported that they awoke to find the infant unresponsive, approximately five hours after her last feeding. The parents were unable to provide an explanation that could account for the injuries which were described as blunt force injuries to the head and ribs.
- An 8-year-old child was taken by the father into a student airplane, in which he was learning to fly. The father crashed the plane into a known household and he also died. The parents were experiencing domestic issues related to their separation / divorce.
- An 18-month-old child was reported as suffering from Shaken Baby Syndrome and later died from thee injuries. This child was determined to have suffered blunt force injury of the head seemingly after the father became agitated with the child at mealtime.
- A 4-year-old child died of blunt force injury after being beaten by the mother's boyfriend. The mother observed the fatal beating and reportedly did not intervene.
- An 11-month-old child suffered from Shaken Baby Syndrome after being left in the care of mother's boyfriend. It was discovered that the mother was aware of previous injuries to the child and had commented about injuries all of her children had received while in the care of her boyfriend.
- An 11-month-old child was injured in the care of the mother's boyfriend. The mother returned home and found the child unresponsive. The injuries for the child were consistent with Shaken Baby Syndrome, and the boyfriend eventually admitted to shaking the child violently as the child would not stop crying.

Overall, physical abuse fatalities compared to last year decreased by 13, with 17 in SFY 2007, down from 30 in SFY 2006. The primary maltreatment types for physical abuse SFY2007 were categorized differently from those in SFY 2006. This was done in an effort to more accurately identify the primary cause of death. Therefore, comparisons between different child fatalities primary maltreatment types aren't an exact match from year to year.



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Fatalities due to neglect

There were 19 deaths resulting from neglect in SFY 2007. Positional asphyxiation was the primary cause of these deaths, accounting for 5 of the 19 neglect fatalities. House fires, medical neglect and lack of supervision rank as the second leading cause of neglect deaths, each accounting for 3 fatalities. The 5 remaining neglect fatalities were 2 poisoning (1 alcohol and 1 methadone), 1 vehicular, 1 drug exposed infant and 1 gunshot wound.

The following paragraphs provide summaries of the fatalities that resulted from neglect.

Deaths by neglect: (19)

- A 13-year-old child was transported to the hospital after being found unconscious during an overnight stay with an adult relative. The cause of death was multiple drug overdoses of prescription medications. It was later discovered that these prescriptions were taken from a household member and the child had taken these medicines on a previous occasion.
- A 4-month-old infant was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead. The father admitted to smoking marijuana before bed sharing with the infant. The father also admitted to smoking methamphetamine a day prior. The infant also tested positive for marijuana.
- A 15-month-old child died after wandering into the street and being struck by a car. The mother was in the same room as the child but failed to notice when the child exited the home. Various neighbors who were interviewed after the death reported having observed this child outside unsupervised on prior occasions.
- A 14-month-old child was brought to the ER due to breathing problems and died shortly thereafter. The child's mother reported that he might have had access to an unwashed syringe she used for her prescribed methadone treatments, as she left it within his reach after using it. The official cause of death was determined to be acute methadone intoxication.
- A 1-month-old infant and a 3-year old child were killed in a fire along with their father. Their father was cooking at approximately 3:30 AM while under the influence of substances. Toxicology report indicates that father had both marijuana and alcohol present in his system.
- An 18-month-old child was found in a backyard pool after getting out of the house. A relative was providing childcare at the time of the accident and thought the child was in a room in the house.
- An 8-year-old child who was developmentally disabled and handicapped was prescribed seizure medication that was not administered by the mother. She eventually died because of these seizures.
- A premature infant was born and died approximately 70 minutes after delivery. The mother was positive for both marijuana and cocaine at the time of delivery, and had admitted to a 20 year history of crack cocaine dependency. The mother's substance abuse was listed as a major contributing factor in the infant's prematurity.
- A 4-month-old child died after sleeping in bed with the mother and siblings after the mother

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had been drinking alcohol. Both a crib and a bassinet were available for the child to sleep in, but neither was used.

- A 5-week-old child died from sepsis caused by a severe diaper rash that was not treated by a medical professional. This child otherwise did not have any medical problems noted.
- A 5-month-old child was regularly laid to sleep in a twin bed. A family member recently moved into the home and his bags of clothes were placed in this child's room, surrounding the bed. The child rolled off the bed and suffocated on one of the bags of clothing.
- A 3-year-old child was left unattended while the father had fallen asleep on the couch, under the influence of illegal drugs. The child was able to access a loaded gun and shot himself in the chest. The father was not awakened by the sound of gunshot in the home.
- A 4-month-old child was suffocated by her father after being taken to bed with him while he was under the influence of alcohol. A bottle was propped for the baby and the father later woke to find the child unresponsive.
- A 14-year-old child suffered from cerebral palsy and was placed in a long-term care facility. A
 professional caretaker did not exercise caution and the child's ventilator was turned off. The
 child later died.
- A 5-year-old child started a fire in the home in which he and his mother's paramour died. The child had a known history with fire starting, yet it is suspected the child had access to the lighters in the home. Neighbors later reported seeing the child and sibling playing with fire in the yard.
- A 14-year-old died from alcohol poisoning after drinking alcohol provided by an adult in the home. The mother was not in the home at the time, but was aware alcohol was being provided to minors.
- A 2-year-old child was suffocated on a couch by a friend of the mother's after they had been smoking marijuana. The mother went to bed and the child shared a sleeping surface with this friend who was under the influence.
- A 6-year-old child died as a result of a vehicular accident in which she was a passenger in her father's vehicle. Her father had been drinking, and in addition to his impairment, the child had not been properly restrained, a likely side effect of the father's intoxication.

Overall, neglect deaths compared to last year decreased by 4, with 19 in SFY 2007, down from 23 in SFY 2006. Drowning deaths experienced the largest decrease of 5, with 1 in SFY 2007, down from 6 in SFY 2006. The second largest decrease occurred in vehicular deaths, with 1 in SFY 2007, down from 5 in SFY 2006. Unfortunately, positional asphyxiation deaths remained the same at 5 for each year as did medical neglect deaths at 3 for each year. Increases in the causes of neglect deaths included house fire deaths by 3 (3 in SFY 2007 and 0 in SFY 2006) and poisoning by 2 (2 in SFY 2007 and 0 in SFY 2006).



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Characteristics of Perpetrators

There were 21 identified abuse perpetrators and 22 identified neglect perpetrators for SFY 2007. Note: More than one perpetrator may be identified for each fatality.

Of the total 36 fatalities in SFY 2007, drugs or alcohol were factors in 39% of the fatalities. This reflects an increase from SFY 2006 when drugs or alcohol were involved in 17% of the total 53 fatalities. Specifically, 14 of the total 36 for SFY 2007 had drug or alcohol involvement compared to 9 of the total 53 in SFY 2006.

As was true in the previous year, the majority of abuse and neglect perpetrators for SFY 2007 were White. For abuse fatalities, White perpetrators comprised 16 (76%) of the 21 total abuse perpetrators and African American perpetrators comprised 5 (24%) of the 21 abuse perpetrators. For neglect fatalities, White perpetrators comprised 15 (68%) of the total 22 neglect perpetrators, and African American perpetrators comprised 7 (32%) of the total 22 neglect perpetrators.

As was true in past years, the majority of perpetrators were natural parents. 14 (67%) of the 21 abuse perpetrators, and 17 (77%) of the 22 neglect perpetrators were natural parents. This reflects an increase from SFY 2006 when 21, (55%) of the 38 abuse perpetrators were natural parents and a decrease from SFY 2006 when 23 (88%) of the 26 neglect perpetrators were natural parents.

11 (52%) of the 21 abuse perpetrators were male. As in prior years, the majority of neglect perpetrators were female, specifically 14 (64%) of the 22 in SFY 2007.

The majority of the perpetrators were under the age of 30. The prevalent age category of the perpetrators was in the range of 25-29 years of age for abuse, and in the range of 30-34 years of age for neglect. This reflects a shift from SFY 2006 when the prevalent age category of the perpetrators in both abuse and neglect were in the range of 20-24 years of age.

SFY 2007 fatality data indicated that 9 **abuse** perpetrators fell into the 25-29 year old range, followed by 7 perpetrators in the 20-24 year old range. Two perpetrators were in the 16-19 year old range as were two perpetrators in the 40-40 year old range. There was one abuse perpetrator in the 30-34 year old range.

SFY 2007 fatality data indicated that 5 **neglect** perpetrators were in the range of 30-34 years of age, followed by 4 perpetrators in the 20-24 year old range, and 4 perpetrators in the 40-49 year old range. The remaining neglect perpetrators were three in the 25-29 year old range, two perpetrators in the 16-19 year old range, two perpetrators in the 35-39 year old range, one in the 50+ year old range and one unknown.

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Household Characteristics

As in prior years, the majority of abuse and neglect occurred in two-parent households for SFY 2007. In abuse cases, 8 (47%) of the 17 abuse households were 2 parent households, while 7 (41%) were single parent households. The remaining 2 (12%) abuse households were extended family households. An extended family household refers to a family that includes in one household near relatives in addition to a single or two parent family structure. In neglect cases, 8 (42%) of the 19 neglect households were two parent households, while 6 (32%) were single parent households. The remaining 5 neglect households were 4 (21%) extended family households and 1 (5%) residential facility.

Twenty one (58%) of the total 36 fatalities occurred in households where there were other siblings in the family including 10 (59%) of the abuse households and 11 (58%) of the neglect households. This reflects a decrease from the prior year where 36 (68%) of the total 53 fatalities occurred in households where there were other siblings in the family.

Fatalities from both abuse and neglect with alcohol / drug involvement increased to 14 (including 4 abuse and 10 neglect) in SFY 2007, up from 9 (including 1 abuse and 8 neglect) in SFY 2006. This reflects a significant increase from SFY 2006 when 9 (16.9%) of the 53 total fatalities had alcohol / drug involvement compared to SFY 2007 when 14 (38.9%) of the 36 total fatalities had alcohol / drug involvement.

The most common stress factors ranked in order of frequency for abuse cases were:

- (1) Family Discord / Marital Problems;
- (2) Heavy Child Care responsibility:
- (3) Domestic Violence;
- (4) Lack Parenting Skills, and Unstable Living Conditions;
- (5) Language problem

The most common stress factors ranked in order of frequency for neglect cases were:

- (1) Family Discord / Marital Problems;
- (2) Lack Parenting Skills;
- (3) Insufficient Income, and Abused / Neglected as Children;
- (4) Drug Dependency, Pregnancy / New Child, and Unstable Living Conditions;
- (5) Overwhelming Child Care Obligations



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Characteristics of Victims

The data reflected in this report represents a stark reality about Hoosier children. Clearly our youngest, most vulnerable children are at higher risk. The following paragraphs describe further breakdowns of these numbers, but there is one characteristic that must be highlighted above all. 75% of all deaths for SFY 2007 occurred amongst children ages 5 and under, and further, 89% of these deaths occurred amongst children ages 8 and younger.

As was true in the prior year, the majority of abuse and neglect victims for SFY 2007 were under one year of age. However, SFY 2007 reflected a slight increase in victims under one year of age. Overall, child victims under one year of age comprised 14 (38.9%) of the total 36 fatalities in SFY 2007, compared to 19 (35.8%) of the total 53 fatalities in SFY 2006. Children within this age range accounted for 7 (41.2%) of the total 17 abuse deaths in SFY 2007, compared to 10 (33.3%) of the total abuse deaths in SFY 2006. Child victims under one year of age accounted for 7 (36.8%) of the total 19 neglect deaths in SFY 2007. This reflects a slight decrease from SFY 2006 which reported 9 (39.1%) within this age range of the total 23 neglect deaths.

As was true in the prior year, fatalities from both abuse and neglect occurred most often with White children (abuse 76.5% and neglect 57.9%). This year, African American children (abuse 17.6% and neglect 31.6%) comprise the second largest category followed by Multi-Racial children (abuse 5.9% and neglect 10.5%).

For abuse, White victims comprised 13 (76%) of the total 17 abuse cases, African American victims comprised 3 (18%) of the 17 cases and Multi-Racial victims comprised 1 (6%) of the total 17.

For neglect, White victims comprised 11 (58%) of the total 19 neglect cases, African American victims comprised 6 (32%) of these 19 cases and the Multi-Racial victims comprised 2 (10%) of the total 19 cases.

As has been true in most previous years, more male children died from abuse and more female children died from neglect. Male children accounted for 9 (52.9%) of the 17 abuse fatalities and female children accounted for 10 (52.6%) of the 19 neglect fatalities.





CHILD FATALITIES - ALL STATISTCS

County of Occurance For State Fiscal Year 2007

County	SFY 07		
	ABUSE	NEGLECT	TOTAL
Allen	0	2	2
Clark	1	0	1
Elkhart	5	1	6
Gibson	1	0	1
Henry	0	1	1
Howard	1	0	1
Jackson	0	1	1
Kosciusko	1	0	1
Lake	2	4	6
Laporte	1	1	2
Lawrence	1	0	1
Marion	2	3	5
Perry	0	1	1
Porter	1	0	1
St Joseph	0	1	1
Shelby	0	1	1
Vanderburgh	0	1	1
Vigo	1	1	2
Wayne	0	1	1
Statewide	17	19	36

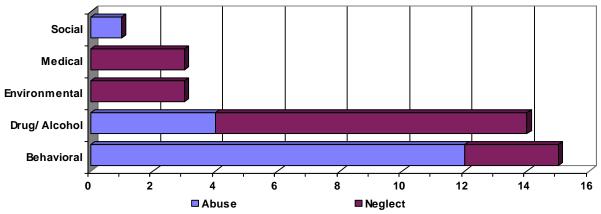
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Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



Breakdown of Primary Risk Factors Involved by Abuse or Neglect



Primary Risk Factors Involved

SFY 07	
Behavioral	15
Drug/ Alcohol	14
Medical	3
Environmental	3
Social	1
Total	36

Risk Factors Identified In Family

Prior to Death

SFY	07
Yes	21
No	15
Total	36

Risk Factors Identified in Community Prior to Death

SFY	′ 07
Yes	23
No	13
Total	36

Manner of Death Classification

Classification	Count
Homicide	17
Accident	13
Could not be determined	4
Pending Investigation	1
Natural	1
Total	36

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

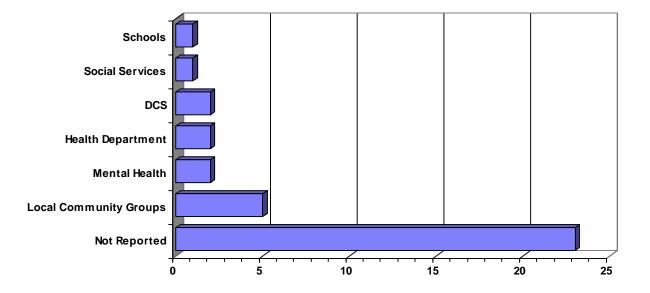


CHILD FATALITIES - ALL

Prevention Activities For All Child Fatalities

For State Fiscal Year 2007

Lead Organization for Prevention Activities



SFY 07	
Not Reported	23
Health Department	2
Social Services	1
Schools	1
Mental Health	2
Local Community Groups	5
DCS	2
Total	36

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CHILD FATALITIES - ALL

Investigation Statistics

For State Fiscal Year 2007

		SFY 07		
	ABUSE	NEGLECT	TOTAL	
Total Child Fatalities	17	19	36	
Coroner cases	17	19	36	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
Autopsies performed	17	17	34	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	100.0%	89.5%	94.4%	
Scene was investigated by Coroner	13	9	22	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	76.5%	47.4%	61.1%	
Scene was investigated by Law Enforcement	16	16	32	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	94.1%	84.2%	88.9%	
Scene was investigated by Fire Investigator	0	3	3	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	0.0%	15.8%	8.3%	
Emergency Medical Services was on scene	9	7	16	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	52.9%	36.8%	44.4%	
Scene was investigated by Other	15	16	31	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	88.2%	84.2%	86.1%	
Prior Substantiated CPS Investigations	4	5	9	
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	23.5%	26.3%	25.0%	
1 Prior	3	3	6	
2 Prior	0	1	1	
3 Prior	0	0	0	
4 Prior	1	1	2	
5 Prior	0	0	0	
6 Prior or More	0	0	0	
Number of Times not Available	0	0	0	

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



CHILD FATALITIES - ALL CHILD FATALITIES PRIMARY MALTREATMENT TYPE STATISTICS FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2007

		SFY 07				
	AB	ABUSE NEGLECT TO			TAL	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total Child Fatalities	17	100.0%	19	100.0%	36	100.0%
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation/ Strangulation	5	29.4%	0	0.0%	5	13.9%
Asphyxiation, Positional	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Homicidal Asphyxiation	4	23.5%	0	0.0%	4	11.1%
Bone Fracture / Brain Damage	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Multiple Blunt Force Injuries	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Brain Damage	4	23.5%	0	0.0%	4	11.1%
Shaken Baby Syndrome	4	23.5%	0	0.0%	4	11.1%
Drug exposed Infant	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Extreme Prematurity	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Environment Life/Health Endangering	0	0.0%	12	63.2%	12	33.3%
Asphyxiation, Positional	0	0.0%	5	26.3%	5	13.9%
Gunshot Wound	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
House Fire	0	0.0%	3	15.8%	3	8.3%
Poisoning (Alcohol)	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Poisoning (Methadone)	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Vehicular	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Gunshot Wound	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Gunshot Wound	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Lack of Supervision	0	0.0%	3	15.8%	3	8.3%
Drowning	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Drug-Related Conditions of Child	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Head Injuries (Struck by Automobile)	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Medical Neglect	0	0.0%	3	15.8%	3	8.3%
Acute Anoxia (Respirator Dependent)	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Cardiac Arrest (Lack of Seizure Medication)	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Sepsis	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	2.8%
Poisoning	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Poisoning (Methadone)	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Skull Fracture	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Blunt Force Injury to the Head	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Skull Fracture / Brain Damage	2	11.8%	0	0.0%	2	5.6%
Blunt Force Injury to the Head	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Shaken Baby Syndrome	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Skull Fracture / Internal Injuries	2	11.8%	0	0.0%	2	5.6%
Blunt Force Injury to the Head and abdomen	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Multiple Blunt Force Trauma (Airplane)	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%

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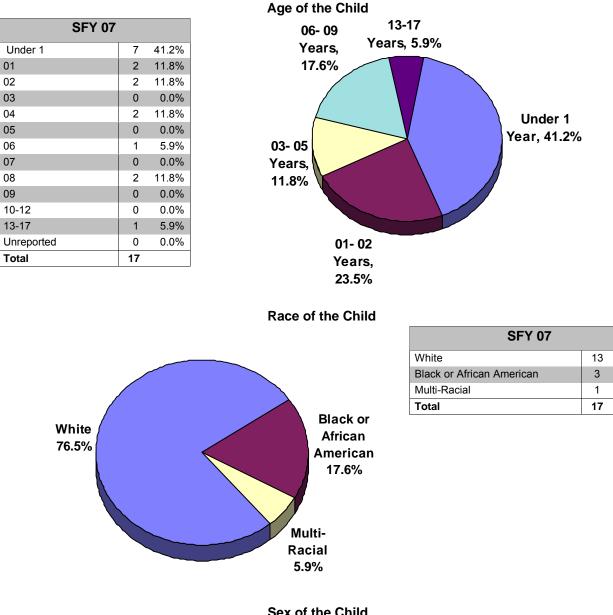


Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS Demographic Characteristics of the Child For State Fiscal Year 2007

During SFY 07, 17 out of 36 fatalities were due to abuse.



Sex of the office		
SFY 07		
Female	8	47.1%
Male	9	52.9%
Total	17	

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

State of Indiana Department of Child Services 402 West Washington Street, Room W392 / Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739 76.5%

17.6%

5.9%



CHILD FATILITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristics of the Case For State Fiscal Year 2007

Source of Report

SFY 07	
Coroner	1
Head Start	1
Hospital/ Clinic	1
Law Enforcement	12
Other	1
Public Social Agency	1
Total	17

Type of Physical Abuse*

SFY 07	
Bruises, Cuts, Welts	4
Bone Fractures	3
Skull Fracture	9
Internal Injury	3
Wounds, Punctures, Bites	1
Burns, Scalds	0
Poisoning	1
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation	5
Shaking/ Dislocation/ Sprains	0
Drowning	0
Inappropriate Discipline	3
Gunshot Wounds	1
Shaken Baby Syndrome	5
Alcohol Abused Child	0
Drug Abused Child	0

*May list more than one item for each fatality

Primary Cause of Death

SFY 07		
Primary Cause of Death	Count	
Shaken Baby Syndrome	5	
Homicidal Asphyxiation	4	
Blunt Force Injury to the Head	2	
Poisoning (Methadone)	1	
Multiple Blunt Force Trauma (Airplane)	1	
Multiple Blunt Force Injuries	1	
Gunshot Wound	1	
Blunt Force Injury to the Head and abdomen	1	
Asphyxiation, Positional	1	
Total	17	

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Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



CHILD FATILITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristics of the Household For State Fiscal Year 2007

Marital Status of Parents

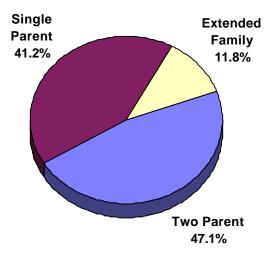
SFY 07	
Divorced	1
Living Together	9
Married	5
Single	2
Total	17

Other Siblings in the Family

SFY	07
Yes	10
No	7
Total	17

Type of Household Where Incident Occured

SFY 07	
Extended Family	2
Single Parent	7
Two Parent	8
Total	17



Male Caregiver's Primary Source of Income

SFY 07	
Unknown	2
Unemployed	5
Labor/Skilled	4
Labor/ Unskilled	1
Service Work	1
Clerical/Office	1
Management/Administration	2
Other	1
Total	17

Male Caregiver's Education

SFY 07	
High School Graduate	2
GED	1
Unknown	13
Partial High School	1
Total	17

Female Caregiver's Primary Source of Income

SFY 07	
Unknown	8
Unemployed	1
Labor/Skilled	1
Labor/ Unskilled	1
Service Work	1
Clerical/Office	3
Professional/ Technical	1
TANF	1
Total	17

Female Caregiver's Education

SFY 07	
High School Graduate	5
Unknown	10
Partial High School	2
Total	17

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Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

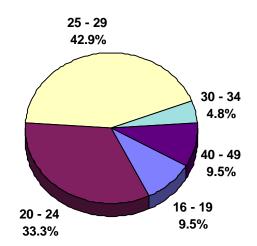


CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

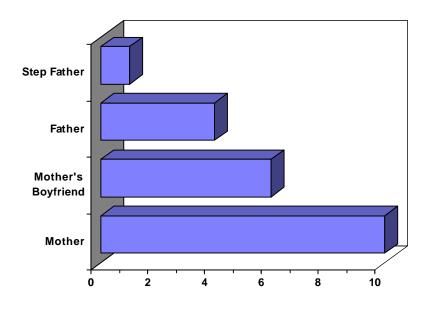
Demographic Characteristics of the Perpetrator For State Fiscal Year 2007

Age of Perpetrator*

SFY 07	
16 - 19	2
20 - 24	7
25 - 29	9
30 - 34	1
40 - 49	2
Total	21



Relationship of Perpetrator to Child*



10
6
4
1
21

Race of Perpetrator*	
SFY 07	
White	16
Black or African American	5
Total	21

Sex of Perpetrator* SFY 07	
Female	10
Male	11
Unknown	0
Total	21

*May list more than one perpetrator for each fatality

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

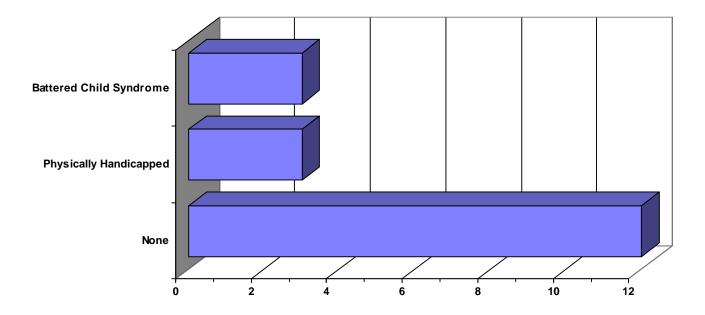


CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Victim Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2007

Victim's Stress Factors*

SFY 07	
ADD/ ADHD	0
Battered Child Syndrome	3
Behavior Problems	0
Chronic Illness	0
Drug Addiction/ Substance Abuse	0
Emotional Disturbance	0
Failure to Thrive	0
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0
Involved with Juvenile Court	0
Mental Retardation	0
Multiple Birth	0
None	12
Physically Handicapped	3
Premature Birth	0
School Related Problems	0
Suspected History of Neglect	0
Suspected History of Physical Abuse	0
Suspected History of Sexual Abuse	0
Total	18



*All statistics are listed by child. May list more than one item for each child.

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2007

Female Caregiver's Stress Factors* SFY 07

•••••	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	0
Alcoholism	0
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	0
Caring for Special Needs Child	0
Domestic Violence	4
Drug Dependency	2
Emotionally Disturbed	0
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	9
Heavy Child Care Reasons	4
Inadequate Housing	0
Incarceration	0
Insufficient Income	0
Job Related Problems	0
Lack Parenting Skills	5
Language Problem	2
Learning Disabled	0
Legal Problems	0
Mental Health Problems	4
None	1
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	0
Physical Health Problems	0
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	0
Pregnancy/ New child	2
Recent Relocation	0
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	0
Unstable Living Conditions	4
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	37

Male Caregiver's Stress Factors*

SFY 07	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	0
Alcoholism	1
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	3
Caring for Special Needs Child	0
Domestic Violence	5
Drug Dependency	1
Emotionally Disturbed	0
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	6
Heavy Child Care Reasons	7
Inadequate Housing	0
Incarceration	0
Insufficient Income	0
Job Related Problems	0
Lack Parenting Skills	3
Language Problem	4
Learning Disabled	0
Legal Problems	1
Mental Health Problems	0
None	0
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	0
Physical Health Problems	0
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	0
Pregnancy/ New child	1
Recent Relocation	0
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	1
Unstable Living Conditions	4
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	37

*All statistics are listed by child and may count one parent twice if two children died. Chart may list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.

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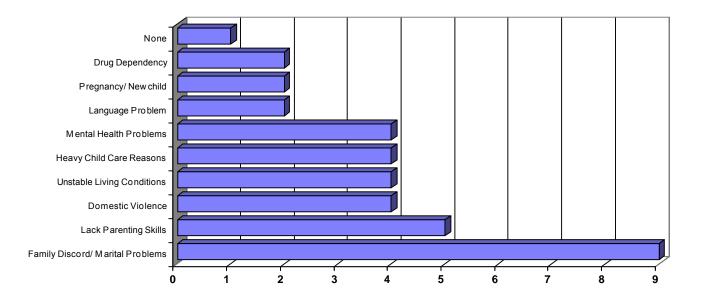


Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

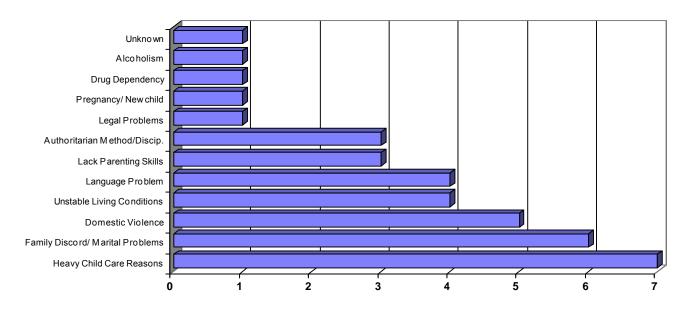


CHILD FATILITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2007

Breakdown of Top 10 Female Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



Breakdown of Top 10 Male Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



*All statistics are listed by child and chart may count one parent twice if two children died. Charts may list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.

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Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

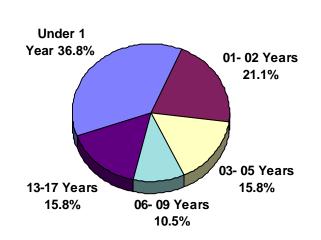


Demographic Characteristic of the Child For State Fiscal Year 2007

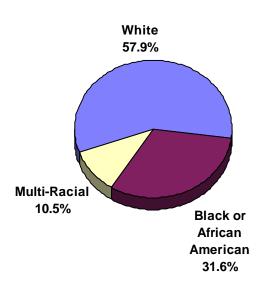
During SFY 07 19 of 36 fatalities were due to neglect.

SFY 07		
Under 1	7	36.8%
01	3	15.8%
02	1	5.3%
03	2	10.5%
04	0	0.0%
05	1	5.3%
06	1	5.3%
07	0	0.0%
08	1	5.3%
09	0	0.0%
10-12	0	0.0%
13-17	3	15.8%
Unreported	0	0.0%
Total	19	

Age of the Child



Race of the Child



SFY 07		
White	11	57.9%
Black or African American	6	31.6%
Multi-Racial	2	10.5%
Total	19	

Sex of the Child

SFY 0	7	
Female	10	52.6%
Male	9	47.4%
Total	19	

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



Demographic Characteristic of the Case For State Fiscal Year 2007

Source of Report

SFY 07	
Coroner	3
Friend/Neighbor	1
Hospital/ Clinic	6
Law Enforcement	6
Other	2
Public Social Agency	1
Total	19

Type of Neglect*

SFY 07	
Lack of Supervision	8
Failure to Thrive	0
Malnutrition	0
Medical Neglect	4
Educational Neglect	1
Abandonment	0
Close Confinement	0
Lock in/ out	0
Lack Food, Shelter, Clothing	0
Environment Life/health Danger	15
Poor Hygiene	0
Drug Abuse	0
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0

*May list more than one item for each fatality

Primary Cause of Death

SFY 07	
Primary Cause of Death	Count
Asphyxiation, Positional	5
House Fire	3
Vehicular	1
Sepsis	1
Poisoning (Methadone)	1
Poisoning (Alcohol)	1
Head Injuries (Struck by Automobile)	1
Gunshot Wound	1
Extreme Prematurity	1
Drug-Related Conditions of Child	1
Drowning	1
Cardiac Arrest (Lack of Seizure Medication)	1
Acute Anoxia (Respirator Dependent)	1
Total	19

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



Demographic Charateristic of the Household For State Fiscal Year 2007

Marital Status of Parents

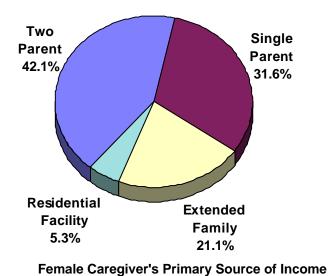
SFY 07	
Living Together	3
Married	7
Separated	1
Single	8
Total	19

Other Siblings in the Family

SFY	07
Yes	11
No	8
Total	19

Type of Household Where Incident Occured

SFY 07	
Extended Family	4
Residential Facility	1
Single Parent	6
Two Parent	8
Total	19



SFY 07

Female Caregiver's Education SFY 07

2

5

3

4

1

1

3

19

2 5

1

1

8

2

19

Unknown

Unemployed

Labor/Skilled

Service Work

Clerical/Office

Elementary

Unknown

Total

High School Graduate Partial College

Technical/Vocational

Partial High School

TANF

Total

Labor/ Unskilled

Male Caregiver's Primary Source of Income

SFY 07	
Unknown	10
Unemployed	2
Labor/Skilled	2
Labor/ Unskilled	2
Service Work	1
Professional/ Technical	1
TANF	1
Total	19

Male Caregiver's Education

SFY 07	
Elementary	1
High School Graduate	4
Unknown	13
Partial High School	1
Total	19

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

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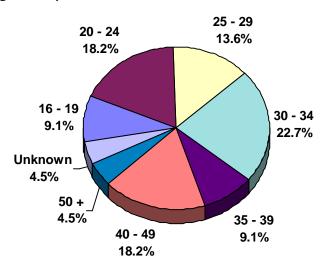
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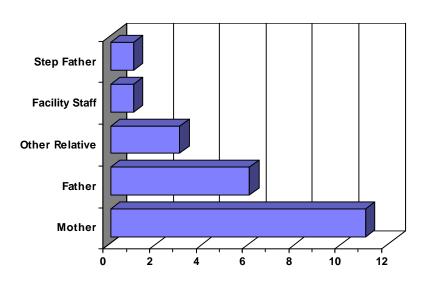
Demographic Characteristic of the Perpetrator For State Fiscal Year 2007

Age of Perpetrator*

SFY 07		
16 - 19	2	
20 - 24	4	
25 - 29	3	
30 - 34	5	
35 - 39	2	
40 - 49	4	
50 +	1	
Unknown	1	
Total	22	



Relationship of Perpetrator to Child*



SFY 07	
Mother	11
Father	6
Step Father	1
Other Relative	3
Facility Staff	1
Total	22

Race of Perpetrator*	
SFY 07	
White	15
Black or African American	7
Total	22

Sex of Perpetrator*

SFY	07
Female	14
Male	8
Total	22

*May list more than one perpetrator for each fatality

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



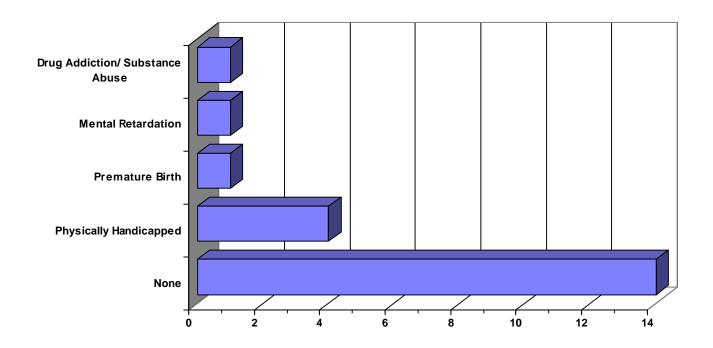
Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



Victim Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2007

Victim's Stress Factors*

SFY 07		
ADD/ ADHD	0	
Battered Child Syndrome	0	
Behavior Problems	0	
Chronic Illness	0	
Drug Addiction/ Substance Abuse	1	
Emotional Disturbance	0	
Failure to Thrive	0	
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0	
Involved with Juvenile Court	0	
Mental Retardation	1	
Multiple Birth	0	
None	14	
Physically Handicapped	4	
Premature Birth	1	
School Related Problems	0	
Suspected History of Neglect	0	
Suspected History of Physical Abuse	0	
Suspected History of Sexual Abuse	0	
Total	21	



*All statistics are listed by child. May list more than one item for each individual.

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports



CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTCS Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2007

Male Caregiver's Stress Factors* 2007

2007	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	0
Alcoholism	2
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	0
Caring for Special Needs Child	0
Domestic Violence	0
Drug Dependency	1
Emotionally Disturbed	0
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	2
Heavy Child Care Reasons	0
Inadequate Housing	1
Incarceration	1
Insufficient Income	1
Job Related Problems	2
Lack Parenting Skills	3
Language Problem	0
Learning Disabled	0
Legal Problems	1
Mental Health Problems	0
None	2
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	0
Physical Health Problems	0
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	0
Pregnancy/ New child	0
Recent Relocation	1
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	10
Unstable Living Conditions	1
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	28

Female Caregiver's Stress Factors*

2007	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	0
Alcoholism	2
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	0
Caring for Special Needs Child	0
Domestic Violence	1
Drug Dependency	2
Emotionally Disturbed	0
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	5
Heavy Child Care Reasons	3
Inadequate Housing	1
Incarceration	0
Insufficient Income	3
Job Related Problems	0
Lack Parenting Skills	3
Language Problem	0
Learning Disabled	0
Legal Problems	0
Mental Health Problems	2
None	7
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	0
Physical Health Problems	0
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	0
Pregnancy/ New child	3
Recent Relocation	1
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	0
Unstable Living Conditions	2
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	35

*All statistics are listed by child and may count one parent twice if two children died. Chart may list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.

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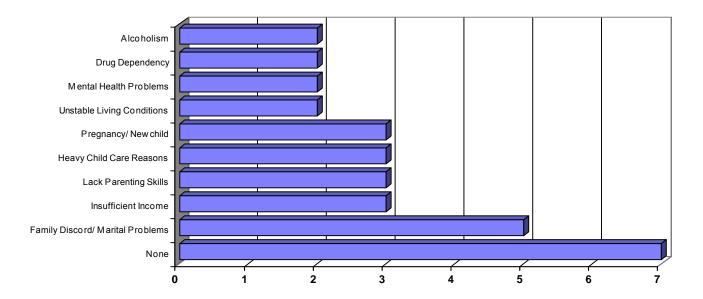


Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

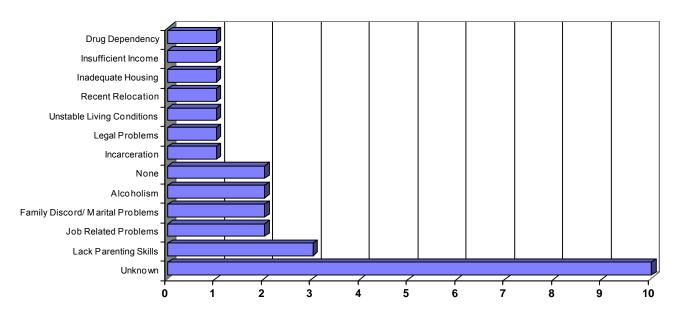


CHILD FATILITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2007

Breakdown of Top 10 Female Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



Breakdown of Top 10 Male Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



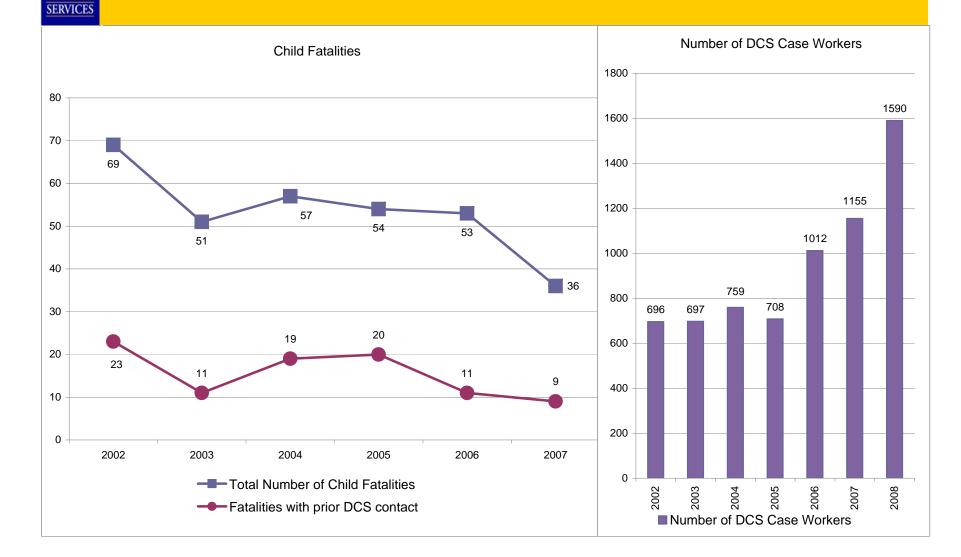
*All statistics are listed by child and chart may count one parent twice if two children died. Chart may list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.

Prepared by: Office of Data Management Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Source: Department of Child Services Child Fatality Review Reports

Department of Child Services Child Fatalities and Caseworkers: Yearly Comparisons



Prepared by: Office of Data Management

INDIAN/

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD

Source: Department of Child Services



State of Indiana Mitchell E. Daniels Jr., Governor - James W. Payne, Director 402 West Washington Street. Room W392 / Indianapolis. IN 46204-2739