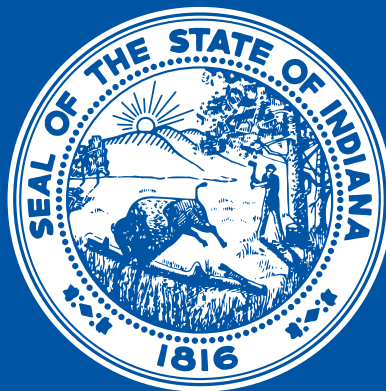


# **2016 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana**



**State Fiscal Year 2016**  
(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

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# Preface

**P**er the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) policy, DCS completes a review of all child fatalities in the following circumstances:

1. For children under the age of one, if the circumstances surrounding the child's death are reported to be sudden, unexpected or unexplained, or if there are allegations of abuse or neglect; and
2. For children age one or older, if the circumstances surrounding the child's death involve allegations of abuse or neglect.

DCS will assess the fatality in question to determine if abuse or neglect has occurred and therefore should be substantiated.

Abuse is defined in Indiana Code 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 parent, guardian, or custodian.

Neglect is defined in Indiana Code 31-34-1-1 as an act in which a 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.

DCS collects and analyzes this data to create an annual Child Fatality Report (Report).

This Report, abridged in the Executive Summary (Summary), illustrates changes or trends in the number of fatalities from the previous year. The Summary also includes a synopsis of data for all substantiated child abuse or neglect fatalities for that State Fiscal Year (SFY), including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators, and households impacted by these fatalities. The report augments the demographics with a description of the maltreatment that led to the child's death.

Through analysis of the report, DCS identifies the risk factors that are common elements related to abuse and/or neglect fatalities. This information can aid in the development of prevention, educational and service programs specific for the communities affected and the State as a whole. The data is also used to evaluate, review, and modify DCS policy, practice and procedure where warranted. The data assembled in the report is collected from multiple sources, including DCS records, death certificates, coroners' reports, autopsy reports, and law enforcement records.

Each fatality identified undergoes a multi-layered review process that occurs at both the county and state level. A team of professionals from the local county reviews the assessed fatality alleged to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. A local multi-disciplinary team examines the evidence and recommendations provided by the local DCS staff regarding each death. After the local team reviews the assessment, a team of DCS personnel provides a supplementary review of each case.





# General SFY 2016 Child Abuse and Neglect Comments

**T**his report focuses on the deaths that were substantiated as a direct result of caregiver maltreatment or neglect during SFY 2016. The Indiana Department of Child Services mourns the loss of each of these children and hopes thorough study of the circumstances leading to these tragedies can aid in their prevention. Whether from maltreatment, poor judgment and/or lack of information and resources, many child deaths are preventable.

The report is compiled using data from the DCS database; this system categorizes fatalities by the major category of death and provides detailed information about cause of death to gain a clearer picture of the types of abuse and neglect that ultimately resulted in the loss of a child.





# DCS Annual Child Fatality Report Executive Summary

In SFY 2016, 59 child fatalities were substantiated for abuse or neglect during the fatality review process – a decrease from 77 substantiated abuse/neglect child deaths in last year’s report. Of the total fatalities covered by this report, 24 were due to abuse, and 35 were due to neglect.

In fatality cases involving abuse, 21 of the 24 (88 percent\*) children were 3 years old or younger. In those involving neglect, 25 of the 35 (71 percent) children were 3 years of age or younger. This finding demonstrates a consistent trend (nationally and in Indiana) that young children are at the highest risk of abuse or neglect.

Marion County recorded the most child deaths caused by abuse or neglect of any Indiana County (14 fatalities) in the time period studied; the next-highest areas reporting fatalities were Allen, Elkhart and Tippecanoe counties, which reported three fatalities each.

25 of the fatalities (42 percent) covered in this report were determined to be accidental; 24 (41 percent) were declared homicides. An additional four fatalities (7 percent) were listed as the result of natural causes, and the manner of death was undetermined for six (10 percent) children. Nine had prior substantiated DCS history.

Head trauma was cited mostly commonly in abuse-related child fatalities\*\*, listed in 22 deaths (92 percent) in this report. Beating/kicking was connected to seven (29 percent of deaths), and gunshot wounds were listed as a contributing factor in two (8 percent) deaths.

Motor vehicle accidents (12 cases) were the highest cause of neglect-related deaths (34 percent). Meanwhile, asphyxia (8 cases, 23 percent) and drowning (six cases, 17 percent) were the next-most common causes of neglect-related deaths.

Biological parents were most often deemed responsible for the child fatalities detailed in this report. There were 33 perpetrators cited in abuse-related fatalities; of them, 20 (61 percent) were biological parents. There were 47 perpetrators cited in neglect-related fatalities; of them, 33 (70 percent) were biological parents.

In some cases, caregiver stressors were determined to play a role in the death of a child. Insufficient income was cited most commonly, denoted in 37 of the 55 cases. A history of substance abuse by the caregiver was the next-highest category, factoring into 21 child fatalities.

*\* Percentages are rounded.*

*\*\* A child who died from abuse sometimes is subjected to more than one type of trauma. There are 31 abuse-related causes cited in the 24 abuse-related deaths covered by this report.*

*Updated 9/19/18.*







# Fatalities Due to Abuse

**A** 1-month-old child died as a result of multiple blunt force traumatic injuries, non-accidental. The child's father woke up in the morning to care for the child while the mother slept after working third shift. While in the care of Father, the child suffered injuries doctors indicated were caused by a violent acceleration-deceleration mechanism, with force that a reasonable caretaker would have recognized as dangerous to an infant. Father denied causing injuries to the child, indicating the child was fine during a feeding and that he then observed the child to be unresponsive when changing his diaper. Doctors were able to determine that medical attention was not sought immediately, given the child's state when brought to the hospital, and indicated the child's injuries might have been mitigated had immediate medical attention been provided. Father was charged with murder, neglect of a dependent resulting in death and battery with death of a person less than 14. The father was found guilty of neglect of a dependent resulting in death. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering as well as abusive head trauma, bruises/cuts/welts, bone fracture, and death due to physical abuse against father.

- A 4-month-old child died as a result of blunt force traumatic injuries of the head. The child was in the care of his father while the mother was at work. On the day of the fatal incident, the father was watching the child, and the child went unresponsive. Instead of calling emergency medical services, Father called a friend to the home, and medical services were not contacted until the friend arrived. The father denied any falls or injuries, but medical tests showed a subdural hematoma and other injuries related to trauma. Father was charged with murder, battery resulting in death to a person less than 14 years of age and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. Father pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in death. The other charges were dropped, and he was sentenced to 30 years in prison. DCS substantiated medical neglect, abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the father.
- A 2-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt force traumatic injuries. The child resided at home with his mother and siblings. Mother's boyfriend visited the home frequently and often cared for the children while the mother was at work. Mother's boyfriend admitted that he "lost it" with the child when the child smeared feces on the wall, and he repeatedly punched the child in the chest while simultaneously hitting the child with a flip flop. The mother's boyfriend stated the child was crawling on the floor, and he pushed the child. The child fell back and hit his head on the floor. Mother's boyfriend admitted to hitting the child everywhere on his body. Mother's boyfriend said the mother also beat the child. This was confirmed by statements from the child's siblings. Mother admitted that when she arrived home from work to see the child cold and limp, she did not seek emergency medical treatment immediately because she knew paramedics would question the bruises on the child's body. Mother was charged with two counts of neglect of a dependent resulting in death, battery resulting in death to a person less than 14 years or age and neglect of a dependent. She pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in death and was sentenced to 20 years. Mother's boyfriend was charged with murder, neglect of a dependent resulting in death, battery resulting in death to a person less than 14 years of age and neglect of a dependent. He pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 65 years. DCS substantiated medical neglect, close confine-



## Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

ment and death due to neglect against the mother and bruises, cuts and welts, abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the mother's boyfriend.

- A 3-year-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. The child became unresponsive while at his babysitter's home and was taken to the hospital by EMS. At the hospital, the child was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma and subarachnoid hemorrhage and was found to have retinal hemorrhages. He was later found to be brain dead and was subsequently removed from treatment. Riley Hospital for Children child abuse physicians indicated the child's injuries would have required a fast acceleration and deceleration or large impact and would have occurred shortly before the child became unresponsive. The child had been ill several days prior to becoming unresponsive and had previously hit his head on the ground at his grandmother's home; however, Riley Hospital physicians indicated even if the child had been injured during that fall, the injuries he presented with on the day of the fatal incident would not occur from simply reinjuring himself. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the child's babysitter.
- A 9-month-old child died as a result of blunt force traumatic injuries of the head. The child was dropped off at her babysitter's house by her mother. While at the babysitter's home, the child was crying a lot and then fell asleep. The babysitter indicated the child then woke up, played, later became fussy and would not stop crying. The babysitter indicated she placed the child into her bouncy chair and began to clean, later finding the child struggling to breathe. The coroner indicated the child's injuries were due to blunt force trauma to the head caused by an individual. At this time, no one has been charged with the child's death. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the babysitter.
- A 3-year-old child died as a result of complications of non-accidental trauma to the head. The child resided with his father, sister and father's live-in girlfriend. While the child's father worked, the child was babysat by the father's live-in girlfriend. The child became unresponsive one afternoon while the father was at work, and the girlfriend alleged the child had hit his head on the family's large fish tank. Doctors determined the child had injuries indicative of chronic abuse and that the head injuries, which were ultimately fatal, were in no way caused by falling onto a fish tank. In addition to the child's physical injuries, the child was also determined to be malnourished. The child's sister disclosed ongoing physical abuse at the hands of the live-in girlfriend. The live-in girlfriend was charged with murder, aggravated battery causing death and neglect of a dependent causing death. She was found guilty of all charges. She was sentenced to 67 years in prison. The father was charged with neglect of a dependent and pleaded guilty to the charge. He was sentenced to 750 days in prison. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering, malnutrition, lack of food, shelter, clothing, medical neglect and death due to neglect against Father. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma, bruises, cuts, welts, internal injuries and death due to physical abuse against the live-in girlfriend.
- A 6-month-old child died as a result of blunt force traumatic injury to the head. The child had been sick for about three weeks. He had been to the hospital twice, most recently the early morning hours the date of the fatal incident. After being examined by a physician and



## Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

returning home, the mother left the child with the father to take their roommate to work. When the father was home with the child, the child became unresponsive. The child suffered a skull fracture, old and new hematomas on the brain and bilateral retinal hemorrhaging. The parents were unable to give a plausible explanation for the child's injuries. Father was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death, battery resulting in death with a person less than 14 years, neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury, battery resulting in serious injury to a person under 14 and battery on a person less than 14 years old in which the child suffers bodily injury. DCS substantiated bone fracture, abusive head trauma, and death due to physical abuse against the mother and father.

- A 2-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt force traumatic injuries to the head. The child resided in a foster home. The child was taken to the hospital after becoming unresponsive while in the care of the foster mother. At the hospital, the child was found to have subdural hematomas and multiple contusions. The foster parents failed to provide a plausible reason for the child's injuries. There were no charges filed in this case. DCS substantiated bruises, cuts, welts, abusive head trauma, internal injury and death due to physical abuse against foster mother and foster father.
- A 6-month-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. After the child's autopsy showed multiple skull fractures, the child's father admitted he had thrown the child into her crib because of frustration and anger, as well as feelings of stress from financial strain and the responsibilities of caring for the child. Father then went to the bathroom wondering if he had severely injured the child, indicating when he returned, he observed the child's lips to be blue. Father was charged with and found guilty of battery causing death. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to neglect against father.
- A 2-month-old died as a result of blunt force traumatic injuries of the head. The child was home with her father while her mother was at work. Father admitted he became angry with the child for crying and might have shaken her too hard. Father admitted he shook the child to get her to stop crying, and when she did not stop crying, he threw her across the room onto a wicker chair. Father reported the child hit the chair and fell out onto the hardwood floor. It was immediately after this the father found the child was not breathing properly. Father was charged with and pleaded guilty to battery causing death of a child and was awaiting sentencing at the time of this report. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against father.
- A 1-month-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. Father was caring for the child while mother was at a festival. Father initially stated he tripped over either the family cat or the child's stroller wheel while holding the child when he went to answer the door and that the child was unresponsive. Father indicated he did not believe the child had hit the floor from the fall and that he had cradled her. The child presented with fresh bleeding to her brain, and doctors indicated it was unlikely the fall the father had described would cause the injuries the child had sustained. Father later admitted to holding the child while she was crying and rocking her, stating he could feel himself losing control and when he "came to," he realized he was rocking the child harder than he should have been. Mother



## Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

indicated she had concerns for Father around the child, such as having seen Father flick water into the child's face and mouth to watch her choke and catch her breath. Mother had observed Father forcefully toss the child onto the couch from a few inches into the air. Father was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and battery resulting in death of a person less than 14. He was found guilty on both charges and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Mother was not charged as a result of this incident. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the father as well as environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against the mother.

- A 2-month-old child died as a result of blunt force traumatic injuries, non-accidental. The child resided with her mother, father and sibling. Father was caring for the children while mother was recovering from an outpatient surgical procedure. Father indicated he went to the bathroom, leaving the child and her sibling to play momentarily when he heard a noise where the children were. Father stated when he returned, the child's eye was puffy, and he assumed the child's sibling had hit the child while they were playing. Several hours later, while Mother was feeding the child, Mother noticed something was wrong with the child, that she was spitting up and her foot was twitching. Father later admitted it was possible he had shaken the child back and forth and been too rough with the child when she was crying. Father was charged with neglect of a dependent and battery on a child under 14 resulting in serious bodily injury. Father pleaded guilty to battery resulting in death of a person less than 14 years of age. He was sentenced to 17.5 years in prison. DCS substantiated medical neglect, abusive head trauma, and death due to physical abuse against Father.
- A 5-month-old child died as a result of multiple blunt force traumatic injuries, non-accidental. Father was caring for the child while mother was at work. The child was taken to the hospital, unresponsive, with head injuries. Father initially stated he found the child in his crib, unresponsive, but later admitted the child woke up fussy and that he could not get the child to calm down. Father admitted he got upset with the child, that he smacked the child across his face, grabbed the child by his throat and then slapped him more. Father admitted when he put the child down, the child was still crying, so he slammed the child down into his crib. He then picked the child back up and shook the child until he was limp, had stopped crying and was no longer breathing. Father was charged with battery causing serious bodily injury and aggravated battery. Father was found guilty and sentenced to 30 years in prison. DCS substantiated internal injury, inappropriate discipline, bruises/cuts/welts, bone fracture, abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against Father.
- An 8-month-old child died as a result of closed head injuries, child abuse with contusion of cervical dorsal root ganglia as a contributing factor. The child was brought to daycare by her mother. The daycare worker stated she played with the child prior to putting her to sleep for a nap. The daycare worker stated approximately 10 minutes after the child woke up, she fell back to sleep and would not wake up. The child was taken to the hospital, where it was found she had traumatic brain injury, pulmonary infiltrates, traumatic retinopathy and anemia. The medical examiner indicated the child's injuries, which were a result of child abuse, would have presented symptoms shortly after the injury was received. The babysitter was charged with aggravated battery, neglect of a dependent



## Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

resulting in death and battery resulting in death to a person less than 14 years of age. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering, abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the child's babysitter.

- A 2-year-old child died as a result of blunt force injuries of the head. The child was in the care of the mother's boyfriend while the mother was at work. The boyfriend stated the child fell while she was in the shower. However, the mother indicated the boyfriend had been sending her text messages informing her that the child had wet the bed earlier in the day, that the boyfriend had beaten her with a brush so hard he had broken the brush and that he would continue to do so unless mother returned home. Mother indicated when she returned home, she found the child unresponsive on the bed with a bloody nose. Mother waited more than two and a half hours to seek medical attention for the child after returning home, as her boyfriend indicated he was afraid he would get into trouble for the child's injuries. Mother's boyfriend was arrested and charged with neglect of a dependent and murder. He pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 65 years in prison. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent and murder. Mother pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent and was sentenced to 35 years in prison. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the mother's boyfriend and environment life and health endangering, medical neglect, and death due to neglect against the mother.
- A 1-month-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma with severe head trauma. The child resided in a home with his mother, mother's boyfriend, maternal grandmother and several other adult and child family members. After an argument earlier in the evening with her boyfriend, the mother placed the child in her glider in the living room, and the mother fell asleep on the couch. Later in the evening, the mother's boyfriend indicated he took the child from the glider and stepped outside, next to the family's bedroom, to have a cigarette. The mother's boyfriend stated he was still angry from the argument earlier in the evening with the mother, and he took the child by her legs and slammed her onto the cement. The mother's boyfriend then indicated he took the child into the bedroom and placed her in her bassinet and lay in his bed until the mother came into the room and found the child unresponsive. Mother's boyfriend was charged and convicted of murder. He was sentenced to 65 years in prison. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma, bone fractures and death due to physical abuse against Mother's boyfriend.
- A 1-month-old child died as a result of subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage due to blunt force injuries of the head. The child's father was caring for her while the mother was at work. Father stated he put the child down for a few minutes when she began to cry. Father indicated he fed the baby and returned her to her crib, propping her bottle so she could continue to feed. Father indicated when he returned to check on the child, it looked as if she was choking, so he turned her over to hit her on the back to stop the choking. Doctors indicated the child's injuries showed the father's recount of events could not be true, and Father eventually admitted to shaking the child after he was awakened by her screaming. Father admitted at one time while he was shaking the child, he lost his grip and only had his finger tips on the bottoms of her legs, that he shook her "a little too hard" and that the child stopped fussing at that time but began fussing again



## Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

later. Father stated this time, when she began fussing, he smacked her head on the wall, and this is when he placed her in her crib with a bottle to later find her unresponsive. Father was charged with aggravated battery resulting in the death of a child less than 14 years of age, neglect of a dependent resulting in death of a dependent less than 14 years of age and obstruction of justice. He pleaded guilty to a felony charge of battery resulting in death of a person under the age of 14 and was sentenced to 22 years in prison. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against Father.

- A 2-month-old child died as a result of anoxic encephalopathy due to blunt force traumatic injury of the head. The child resided with his mother, father and siblings. Parents stated Father placed the child into bed with mother in the morning. Mother stated as soon as Father placed the child onto the bed, she picked him up, and he was unresponsive. She denied the child being fussy at all. Father indicated the child had been fussy that morning and was fussing when he placed the child into the bed. Father and Mother both stated Father was not in the room when the child was found unresponsive by Mother. The child was diagnosed with subdural hematomas and retinal hemorrhages. Doctors indicated this was consistent with non-accidental abusive head trauma that would have occurred minutes to hours prior to the child showing symptoms of cardiac arrest. Both parents denied any harm to the child by themselves or each other. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury, battery on a person less than 14 years old and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. Father was charged with murder, neglect of a dependent resulting in death, maintaining a common nuisance, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. Father and Mother have both agreed to accept plea agreements in their criminal cases and were due to be sentenced in October 2018. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the mother and father.
- A 3-month-old child died as a result of blunt force traumatic injuries of the head. The child was in the care of his father while his mother was running errands and at school. Mother advised when she left the child, he was in good health and alert. Father indicated he dropped the child on the couch, and the child stopped breathing. However, physicians advised it appeared the child had been shaken as he had retinal hemorrhaging, a brain bleed and separation of the spine at the base of the skull. Father was arrested and charged with neglect of a dependent, murder and possession of a controlled substance (marijuana). He pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in death and was sentenced to 40 years. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent and possession of marijuana. She pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent and was sentenced to two years of probation. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against father.
- A 5-year-old child died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head. Law enforcement was called to perform a child welfare check on the child and his sister when they did not arrive at school. The children had spent the night with their father prior to the mother obtaining custody of them and the family home at the most recent divorce hearing. When law enforcement arrived at the home, they found the child, his sister and their father dead from gunshot wounds in an apparent murder/suicide. There were no criminal charges filed in this matter. DCS substantiated against the father for gunshot wounds and death due to physical abuse.



## Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

- An 11-year-old child died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head. Law enforcement was called to perform a child welfare check on the child and her brother when they did not arrive at school. The children had spent the night with their father prior to the mother obtaining custody of them and the family home at the most recent divorce hearing. When law enforcement arrived at the home, they found the child, her brother and their father dead from gunshot wounds in an apparent murder/suicide. There were no criminal charges filed in this matter. DCS substantiated against the father for gunshot wounds and death due to physical abuse.
- An 11-month-old child died as a result of complications of closed head blunt force traumatic injuries. The child was at a babysitter's home and under the care of two babysitters. The babysitters stated they retrieved the child from the child's nap, and the individual carrying the child tripped and fell. Both babysitters denied the child being injured but later stated the child's head hit the door, and the child's breathing later became shallow and his eyes lost focus. The child was taken to the hospital and was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma. The injuries sustained were inconsistent with a fall. One of the babysitters was arrested and charged with neglect of a dependent. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against this caregiver. DCS substantiated death due to neglect against the other babysitter.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of multiple skull fractures and subdural hematoma. At the time of the child's death, she was under the supervision of her father while her mother was at work. When the mother left for work for the day, the child was in a rocker and alert. Father indicated he cared for the child that day, and she was fine in the morning, but he later found her unresponsive. Autopsy revealed skull fractures with diffused subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage and galeal hemorrhage. The father was arrested, charged and convicted of aggravated battery and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison. DCS substantiated abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against Father.
- A 13-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt force traumatic injuries. The child resided with her legal guardian and the legal guardian's wife. While the child's legal guardian was caring for her, the child sustained injuries the guardian stated were from being run over by a riding lawn mower. The guardian alleged the day of the incident, the child sustained injuries to only her feet, and the wife indicated when she saw the child later that day, the child was "fine." The next day, the child was unresponsive and at the hospital was found to have an acute left hemispheric subdural hematoma with a large midline shift, swollen eyelids, numerous bruises and lacerations, multiple healing fractures to the ribs and a number of other injuries doctors determined were extremely concerning and consistent with non-accidental trauma. The child's guardian was arrested and charged with murder and battery. She entered a guilty plea to battery to a person less than 14 and neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury and was sentenced to 38 years in prison. DCS substantiated medical neglect, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against the guardian's wife and wounds/punctures/bites, internal injury, inappropriate discipline, bruises/cuts/welts, abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse against the child's guardian.



# Fatalities Due to Neglect

**A** 2-year-old child died as a result of a gunshot wound to the chest. The child's mother kept a gun in her purse. Mother placed her purse on the kitchen counter and left the child and purse downstairs while she went upstairs to change the child's younger sibling's diaper. At that time, the mother heard her phone ring and the gun discharge. When she ran downstairs, she found the child with a gunshot wound, lying on the ground in the kitchen. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and neglect of a dependent resulting in serious injury. She pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in serious injury and received one year probation, parenting classes and grief classes. She was also barred from owning a gun in her home. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering, lack of supervision, and death due to neglect against the mother.

- A 4-month old child died as a result of positional asphyxia. Mother slept in the same bed with her child in a room surrounded by clutter. While the mother and the child were sleeping, the child fell off of the bed and onto the floor. When the mother awoke, she found the child unresponsive with a plastic bag on top of the child's mouth and nose. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this matter. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against the mother.
- A 5-year-old died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. The child was at a family party at his grandparents' home. The child and a number of other children were playing in the pool being supervised by the child's parents. The child's parents decided to leave, and the child's grandmother was supposed to watch the children. The child fell into the pool while the grandmother was inside of her home trying to calm down another child who was upset the parents left. One other adult was outside during the time the child fell into the pool, and that individual indicated he did not see the child fall into the pool, as the child was running to and from the trampoline. There were no criminal charges in this matter. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against the grandmother.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt force injuries after being run over by a vehicle driven by his aunt. The child resided in a home with his mother, siblings and aunt. The child and his siblings had a history of running around and jumping on household and family member's vehicles when they were moving. The day of the fatal incident, the child was in the mother's bedroom, left with his siblings and ran around the aunt's car as she was leaving. The child's aunt told the child's 7-year-old sibling to get the child away from the vehicle and then proceeded to drive away, running over the 1-year-old. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this matter. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against Mother and Aunt.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of positional asphyxia. The child resided with her mother. Mother indicated she breastfed the child in the morning, changed her diaper and then placed her down on her back next to Mother's left thigh. Mother indicated she fell asleep, and when she woke up, the child was unresponsive. Mother reported the child routinely sleeps in bed with her because she does not have a crib or bassinette for the child. Mother admitted to marijuana use the day before the child was found de-





## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

ceased and appeared under the influence as witnessed by both law enforcement and the Department of Child Services. The child was found to have Alprazolam in her system at autopsy. Alprazolam produces a calming effect and is transmitted through breastmilk. Neither the mother nor the child had a valid prescription for this medication. There were no charges filed for this fatality. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against mother.

- A 1-year-old child died as a result of complications of asphyxia, near-drowning aspiration. The child was home with Mother and the child's sibling. Mother indicated she put both children in the bathtub together. Mother stated while she was washing the sibling's hair, the sibling pulled the child by the arm, and the child went under water for eight to 10 seconds until the mother pulled her out. Mother stated when she pulled the child out, she was blue and vomiting. When law enforcement and DCS arrived at the home, the sibling's hair was dry. Medical professionals indicated the injuries to the child were inconsistent with the child being under water for only 10 seconds; rather, the child's injuries were more consistent with the child being under water for a minimum of three minutes. No criminal charges were filed regarding this incident. DCS substantiated lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against Mother.
- A 10-month-old child died as a result of complications of mechanical asphyxia. Child was at daycare when she was put down for a nap. The daycare worker indicated she placed the child in her car seat and buckled only the top harness area. The daycare worker reported she left the room twice for about 10 minutes each time. She reported the second time she entered the room, the child's feet were hanging over the end of the car seat, and the child was unresponsive. The daycare worker was the only adult present at the daycare when the incident occurred as the daycare owner, who had previously been there, left earlier in the afternoon to retrieve additional children from school. There were, at minimum, 26 other children present at the daycare during this incident. The daycare worker was charged with reckless supervision by a child care provider and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. She was found guilty and sentenced to 2 years' probation. The owner of the daycare was also charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death, reckless supervision by a child care provider and neglect of a dependent. She pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent placing dependent in a situation that endangers dependent. She was sentenced to probation. DCS substantiated lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering, and death due to neglect against the daycare worker and lack of supervision and death due to neglect against the daycare owner.
- A 10-year-old child died as a result of a gunshot wound to the chest. The child resided with his adult sister and her eight minor children as well as an adult friend and her three minor children. The family friend was caring for the children while the child's sister was at a funeral. The family friend needed to leave, so she called the child's sister to see when she would be home. The child's sister informed the friend it was OK for her to leave the younger children in the care of the older children, despite the children's history of delinquency matters. While they were without supervision, the child's minor nephew took a gun that was in the home and shot and killed the child. The child had a history of



## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

delinquent acts, and the most recent involved a firearm. There were two firearms in the home, and a box of ammunition was found in the sister's home. There were no charges filed against the adults. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against the child's sister.

- A 3-month-old child died as a result of positional asphyxia. Mother stated she placed the child in bed with her after having three beers with a friend. Mother indicated she woke up a few hours later, fed the child and then went back to sleep for another nine hours. When she awoke, she found the child unresponsive and called 911. When DCS arrived at the home, the family case manager could still smell intense alcohol on the mother's breath. No charges were filed in this case. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against mother.
- An 11-year-old child died as a result of massive cerebral disruption and blunt force trauma after an ATV accident. The child was visiting a friend's home when she was permitted by her friend's parents to ride the family's ATV. The child had no experience and no permission from her own parents to drive the ATV. While driving the ATV, the child lost control of the ATV, the ATV rolled over, and the child's head became caught underneath the left rear wheel. The friend's parents, who were in charge of supervision of the children at the time of the incident, were not monitoring the children as they rode the ATV. There were no criminal charges filed in this matter. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering, lack of supervision and death due to neglect against the parents of the child's friend.
- A 3-year-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head due to a motor vehicle accident. The child was in her father's vehicle when she and her father were involved in a collision with another vehicle. Father was positive for amphetamines and methamphetamines, and the other driver was positive for THC. Father's vehicle had a number of dangerous items strewn throughout the cab, including a shovel, spare tire, shelving and a tire jack that could have caused injuries to the child. Though the child was in a car seat, investigators had concern the child was not properly restrained. Father was not criminally charged in this matter. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against father.
- A 14-year-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the chest after a motor vehicle accident. The child resided with her mother, younger sister and mother's alleged boyfriend. On the night of the car accident, the mother and her boyfriend had been drinking all night. At around 10 p.m., Mother's boyfriend left the home with the child to purchase more alcohol. At around 1:35 a.m., the boyfriend, who was driving with a blood-alcohol content level of .085 percent, lost control of the vehicle, crashed, and the child died. The boyfriend ran from the scene. The child's sister indicated the child asked her mother for the keys before leaving, that her mother allowed the child to go and that their mother knew her boyfriend had been excessively drinking immediately before leaving the home with the child. The boyfriend entered a guilty plea to leaving the scene of an accident -- offense committed after committing OWI causing serious bodily injury. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Mother pleaded guilty to neglect



## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

of a dependent resulting in bodily injury. She was sentenced to six years in prison. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against the mother and the mother's boyfriend.

- An 8-month-old child died as a result of hypoxic ischemic brain injury due to accidental decannulation of tracheostomy and cardiopulmonary arrest after withdrawal of life support. The child was born with several disabilities, was tracheostomy dependent and required constant care. The child was being cared for by her home healthcare nurse when the child became unresponsive. The home healthcare nurse stated she gave the child a bath in the sink, and after the bath, when drying the child, she noticed the child's lips were turning lighter in color. The nurse noticed the child's tracheostomy had come out slightly, so she pushed it back in and moved the child to the room with her life-saving machines. The home healthcare nurse could not find a pulse on the child so she called 911 and began CPR. The home health nurse later indicated she pushed the tracheostomy in, instead of changing it as required in the care plan, because it was "only out a little." No criminal charges were filed as a result of this case. DCS substantiated medical neglect and death due to neglect against the child's home health nurse.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of acute morphine intoxication. The child resided at home with his parents, siblings and maternal grandfather. The child was found by Father deceased on the floor of his room, propped up on his side against the mattress facing the wall. Father observed the child's lips to be blue, the child's body to be cold, and when he picked the child up, vomit came out of the child's mouth. Parents indicated they believed the child to be napping and therefore did not check on him for several hours. At autopsy, the child's toxicology report revealed the child had 28 times the adult therapeutic level of morphine in his system at the time of death. Maternal Grandfather was the only individual in the home prescribed this medication. The home was said to be in deplorable conditions, and all adult family members denied any knowledge of how the child would have gotten the medication, indicating the only possible way would be if the medication had been dropped on the floor. No criminal charges have been filed. DCS substantiated lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against mother, father and maternal grandfather.
- A 7-day-old child died as a result of sudden unexplained infant death while bed-sharing with the child's father. The night of the fatality, the child's father fell asleep with the child on the recliner. The child was lying on his chest when he fell asleep and was discovered lying face down on his right side, near the armrest of the recliner, indicating the child had rolled off of father's chest while they were sleeping. Law enforcement detected the smell of burnt marijuana in the home the morning the child was found, and Father admitted to using the prior night at 9 p.m. There were no charges filed as a result of this incident. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against father.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of complication of anoxic brain injury due to asphyxia. Mother stated the night of the fatality, she lay in bed with the child next to her. Mother indicated she had the child cradled in the crook of her arm. Mother stated she remem-



## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

bered talking to Father while he was on his break at work, and all she could remember next was being awakened by Father when he returned home from work. At this time, the child was unresponsive. The child was taken to the hospital, and at the child's arrival, the mother was given a blood alcohol screen. At that time, Mother's BAC was .27 percent. No charges were filed in this fatality. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against Mother.

- A 1-year-old died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. The child resided at home with his mother, his mother's boyfriend and three siblings. On the day of the fatal incident, the children were being watched by the mother's boyfriend while the mother was at work. Mother's boyfriend was giving the child and his 1-year-old sibling a bath. After bathing the children, the mother's boyfriend allowed the children to play in the bathtub while he left the room to smoke a cigarette and play on the computer for approximately 10 minutes. When he returned to the bathroom, he found the child face down in the water, unresponsive. Mother's boyfriend was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 16 years in prison with four years suspended. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against the mother's boyfriend.
- A 4-year-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma from a motor vehicle/pedestrian crash. The child was visiting his grandparents with his mother when his father came home from lunch to visit. After the family had lunch, the father left to go back to work, and no one realized the child had followed him out the door. Father pulled out of the driveway, not knowing the child was there. Father thought he hit a pothole or mud puddle while backing out and continued on to work. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against mother.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of blunt force injuries of the head and neck after being hit by the vehicle her father was driving. The child had been out with her mother and father in their front yard. The child's mother went inside the home, telling the father she was leaving the child with him. Father was working on the family car in the neighbor's driveway, and the child had been playing in the yard when the neighbor asked the father to move the car. Father looked in the rearview mirror, did not see anything and backed out. Mother came out of the home to find the child, unresponsive. No charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against Father.
- A 6-year-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma with skull fracture and severe brain injury after a multi-vehicle accident. The child was in a vehicle being driven by his mother's boyfriend, along with his mother and two siblings. The family resided in a hotel room, where Mother and her boyfriend routinely engaged in heroin use. Mother indicated her boyfriend used heroin multiple times a day and that she was aware of him using one hour prior to the family's car accident. Mother's boyfriend crossed the center lane while driving and caused a multi-vehicle car accident, which resulted in a number of injuries to the family and the death of the child. The mother's boyfriend tested positive



## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

for amphetamine, methamphetamine, codeine and morphine. Mother tested positive for amphetamine, methamphetamine, heroin and morphine. Mother's boyfriend was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in a fatality; operating while intoxicated causing death; neglect of a dependent; and neglect of a dependent placing a dependent in a situation that endangers the dependent. He was found guilty on all charges and was sentenced to 58 years. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in a fatality. She entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against Mother and the boyfriend.

- A 7-month-old child died as a result of asphyxia with contributing factors of malnutrition and dehydration. The child was brought to the hospital by her father and aunt and was pronounced deceased upon arrival. The doctor noted the child had already begun decomposing and had been deceased for a minimum of 24 hours. There was no explanation provided to medical staff by the aunt or father regarding the child's death. When law enforcement questioned the family, both the mother and father indicated they fed the child the prior night at 8 p.m. and found her unresponsive in the morning. Mother later admitted they knew the child had passed early in the morning but that they wanted to spend more time with her prior to "letting her go." A family member informed law enforcement they had heard the parents left the child in a closet and placed her under a pile of clothes to muffle her cries. Mother and Father were arrested and charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and failure to report a dead body. Father pleaded guilty to both charges and was sentenced to 34 years in prison. Mother was found guilty and sentenced to 40 years in prison. DCS substantiated medical neglect, malnutrition and death due to neglect against Mother and Father.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of mechanical asphyxia. The child was in the care of a home daycare worker when the worker placed her to sleep in a crib for a nap. When the daycare worker went to wake the child up from her nap, she found the baby not breathing. The child's onesie had become stuck on a broken part of the crib, causing the neck of the onesie to asphyxiate the child. The babysitter admitted to knowing the crib was broken. The babysitter was charged with reckless supervision by a child care provider and operating a child care home without a license. She was sentenced to one year in county jail and one year unsupervised probation. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against the daycare worker.
- A 4-month-old child died as a result of asphyxia by drowning. Mother was home with the children during the morning, after working the night shift, while Father was working. Father indicated he called Mother on his first morning break to wake her up, as she would oversleep the children if he did not. On the day of the fatality, Mother did not answer his call. Mother was awakened by her older child, who was carrying the wet 4-month-old, saying the baby was dying. The infant's sibling had taken the child from his crib, attempted to give the infant a bath, and the baby was unresponsive. Mother pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent and was sentenced to two years in prison. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against Mother.



## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

- A 1-day-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. Mother delivered the child in the bathtub and report she had passed out after giving birth. Mother denied knowing she was pregnant or in labor. However, a search of the mother's phone revealed she had researched "at-home abortions," questions about pregnancy and information about labor and delivery that coincided with the medical timing of her pregnancy and the child's birth. It was also medically determined that mother's claim that she "passed out" after giving birth was false and that she waited several minutes to call for help while the child drowned in the bathtub. Law enforcement charged the mother with murder and neglect of a dependent. Mother pleaded guilty to neglect and was sentenced in July to 12 years in prison, with three years suspended to formal probation.. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against mother.
- A 4-month-old child died due to undetermined causes, with unsafe sleeping conditions listed as a significant condition contributing to the death. The child's mother stated she placed the child to sleep in her pack and play for the night. Mother indicated in the morning she took the child out of the pack and play, put the child into bed with her and went back to sleep. Mother stated when she woke up later in the morning, she found the child face down in the bed, deceased. Mother submitted to an oral drug screen and was positive for hydrocodone, diazepam and its metabolites and oxycodone. Mother admitted to use of one and a half hydrocodone pills the prior evening, for which she was able to provide a prescription. However, she tested positive for twice the therapeutic level she was prescribed; also, she did not have a prescription for the oxycodone. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against Mother.
- A 3-year-old child died as a result of transected aorta due to a gunshot wound to the chest. Mother was home with the child and his sibling when father was at work. Mother placed the child down for a nap in her room. Mother indicated the family kept one of their guns in a sock between the parents' mattress and a wall. When Mother was cleaning the house, she heard the gun discharge and found the child on the floor in the bedroom with a gunshot to his chest. The child's older sibling indicated the children have BB guns as toys and always shoot them at people and that both children are allowed to shoot their father's gun when they are with their father. Both parents were charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death. Both parents pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent and criminal recklessness. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against father and lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against mother.
- A 3-month-old child died from undetermined causes. The autopsy report indicated that while no anatomic, metabolic or toxicological cause of death could be identified, the cause of death was determined to be an unsafe sleeping environment and impairment of primary caregivers. The child's parents indicated they had gone to a family party the evening prior to finding the child deceased. While at the party, Mother consumed approximately five beers, admitting to having her final beer right before leaving the party and to having a "buzz." Father admitted to consuming between five and 10 beers, also having his final beer prior to leaving the party. When the parents and child returned home, the parents placed



## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

the child to sleep on his back in between them in their bed. He was found deceased in the morning. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against mother and father.

- A 4-year-old died as a result of blunt force trauma after a vehicular accident. The child was a passenger in a vehicle with his five siblings and stepfather. Prior to driving the children, Stepfather drank several beers at the residence where the children were. Stepfather placed the child and his sister in the front seat and the remaining children in the backseat. The child was not in a car seat nor was he wearing a safety belt. It was reported that Stepfather left his lane of travel and struck an oncoming vehicle. Beer cans were found in the vehicle, and Stepfather's blood tested positive for THC and alcohol at .155 percent at the time of the accident. No charges were filed, as Stepfather passed away from injuries sustained during the accident. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against Stepfather.
- An 8-year-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma after a vehicular accident. The child was a passenger in a vehicle with her five siblings and father. Prior to driving the children, Father drank several beers at the residence where the children were. Father placed the child and her brother in the front seat and the remaining children in the backseat. The child was not in a booster seat nor was she wearing a safety belt. It was reported that Father left his lane of travel and struck an oncoming vehicle. Beer cans were found in the vehicle, and Father's blood tested positive for THC and alcohol at .155 percent at the time of the accident. No charges were filed, as Father passed away from injuries sustained during the accident. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against Father.
- A 5-year-old child died as a result of patchy bronchopneumonia and malnutrition. The child suffered from numerous medical conditions, including requiring a trachea and feeding from a G-tube. On the day of the child's death, the child was dropped off at her grandmother's home in her car seat. Grandmother indicated she did not take the child out, because the child did not like to be held, but she noticed the child to have pale skin and fixed eyes, so she called Mother to return to the home. When Mother returned, she determined the child's trachea was blocked and gave the child CPR. The child aspirated, and 911 was contacted. At autopsy, the child was found to be malnourished with a lack of food residue in her stomach. It was determined through investigation that parents had not maintained proper medical treatment for the child and were not feeding the child her formula as medically prescribed. There was also evidence the child was routinely left in her pack and play in a room alone for a majority of the day. The parents were charged with neglect of a dependent; neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury; neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury; and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. Mother pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent and reckless homicide. Father's trial was scheduled for September 2018. DCS substantiated medical neglect; environment life and health endangering; and death due to neglect against the mother and father.
- An 18-month-old child died as a result of multiple skull fractures and severe brain injury after being hit by an SUV in her apartment parking lot. The child was leaving the apartment playground with her mother in the early evening. Mother indicated she was



## Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

walking no more than 6 feet in front of the child in the parking lot and that the child was behind her with two other children. The SUV that hit the child was illegally parked, and after Mother walked past it, it began to back out to let another driver out of the parking space. It was at this time the vehicle struck the child. There were no criminal charges as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother for lack of supervision and death due to neglect against Mother.

- A 4-year-old died as a result of blunt injuries of head and neck after being hit by a vehicle. While the child and his mother were at the gas station, Mother left the child in his car seat in the backseat while she ran into the gas station. The vehicle was parked next to a gas pump, and the car was locked; however, the child exited the car, and as he made his way into the gas station, he was hit by a vehicle in the parking lot. There were no charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against Mother.
- An 8-year-old died as a result of complications of appendicitis after the parents failed to seek medical attention for the child. The child had excruciating side pain for several days prior to the parents seeking holistic medicine as an option for the child. The child's parents indicated they knew the child was in excruciating pain, had a fever with several days of vomiting and was unable to walk. The parents acknowledged they researched the child's symptoms, and the child's symptoms reminded Father of the time he was having an appendicitis attack. Father researched online treatment of the attack and in lieu of seeking medical attention for the child provided garlic as an alternative. Several days into the attack, the child's appendix ruptured, and the child passed away. There were no charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated medical neglect and death due to neglect against Mother and Father.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt force injuries after a car accident. The child was riding in an overcrowded vehicle driven by Father when Father crossed the center line and engaged in a head-on collision with another vehicle. Father was killed on impact but smelled of alcohol at the scene. He was driving on the wrong side of the road without headlights on at night. The child was found in an unrestrained car seat to have a number of injuries that ultimately led to death. Mother was a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the incident. There were no charges filed in this case, as the father was deceased. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect against the mother and father.
- A 2-year-year old child died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. The child was being watched by his great aunt while his parents were working. The child was playing in the great aunt's backyard while she was mowing the lawn. As the great aunt made a path around a large tree, the child left the yard through a gate that connected the back yard to a neighbor's yard. The gate had become unlatched earlier in the day. Great Aunt noticed the child was missing after several minutes, phoned law enforcement, and the child was found to have drowned in the neighbor's pool. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated lack of supervision and death due to neglect against the great aunt.





# County of Occurrence for Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

(For SFY 2016)

County Name	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Allen	0	3	3
Boone	1	0	1
Cass	0	1	1
Clark	0	1	1
Clinton	2	0	2
Deaborn	0	1	1
Delaware	0	1	1
Elkhart	1	2	3
Greene	0	1	1
Hamilton	0	1	1
Hancock	1	0	1
Henry	2	0	2
Huntington	0	1	1
Jackson	0	1	1
Jay	1	0	1
Johnson	2	0	2
Lake	1	0	1
LaPorte	0	1	1
Madison	1	0	1
Marion	4	10	14
Marshall	1	1	2
Miami	1	0	1
Monroe	1	0	1
Montgomery	1	0	1
Noble	0	1	1
Ripley	1	0	1
Saint Joseph	0	1	1
Scott	0	2	2
Spencer	0	1	1
Starke	0	1	1
Tippecanoe	1	2	3
Vigo	1	1	2
Wabash	0	1	1
Wayne	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>59</b>



Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

# Assessment Statistics of Investigations by Other Agencies—All Children

(For SFY 2016)

	State Fiscal Year 2016		
	Abuse	Neglect	Total
All Child Fatalities	24	35	59
Coroner Cases	24	34	58
Autopsies Performed	24	28	52
Scene investigated by coroner.	8	12	20
Scene investigated by Law Enforcement.	22	30	52
Scene investigated by fire investigator.	0	0	0
Emergency Medical Services was on scene.	17	33	50

\* The table above summarizes for all children information of coroner involvements, autopsies performed, and agency investigations.



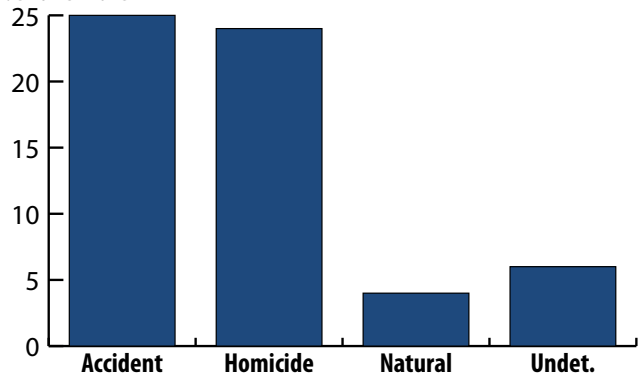
# Manner and Major Category of Death—All Children

(For SFY 2016)

## Manner of Death

Manner of Death	Count	%
Accident	25	42%
Homicide	24	41%
Natural	4	7%
Undetermined	6	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>

Number of Children



## Manner of Death by Age

Age - Manner of Death	Count	%
Under one - Accident	6	10%
Under one - Homicide	17	29%
Under one - Natural	2	3%
Under one - Undetermined	3	5%
1 - Accident	7	12%
1 - Undetermined	1	2%
2 - Accident	3	5%
2 - Homicide	2	3%
2 - Undetermined	1	2%
3 - Accident	2	3%
3 - Homicide	1	2%
3 - Undetermined	1	2%
4 - Accident	2	3%
5 - Accident	1	2%
5 - Homicide	1	2%
5 - Natural	1	2%
6 - Accident	1	2%
8 - Accident	1	2%
8 - Natural	1	2%
10 to 12 - Accident	1	2%
10 to 12 - Homicide	3	5%
13 to 17 - Accident	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Major Category of Death

Major Category of Death	Count	%
From a medical condition	3	5%
From an external cause of injury	54	92%
Undetermined if injury or medical	2	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*The categories above were established by the National MCH Center for Child Death Review and were determined by DCS based on cause of death.

The "Manner of Death" displayed on this page was obtained from state death certificates.

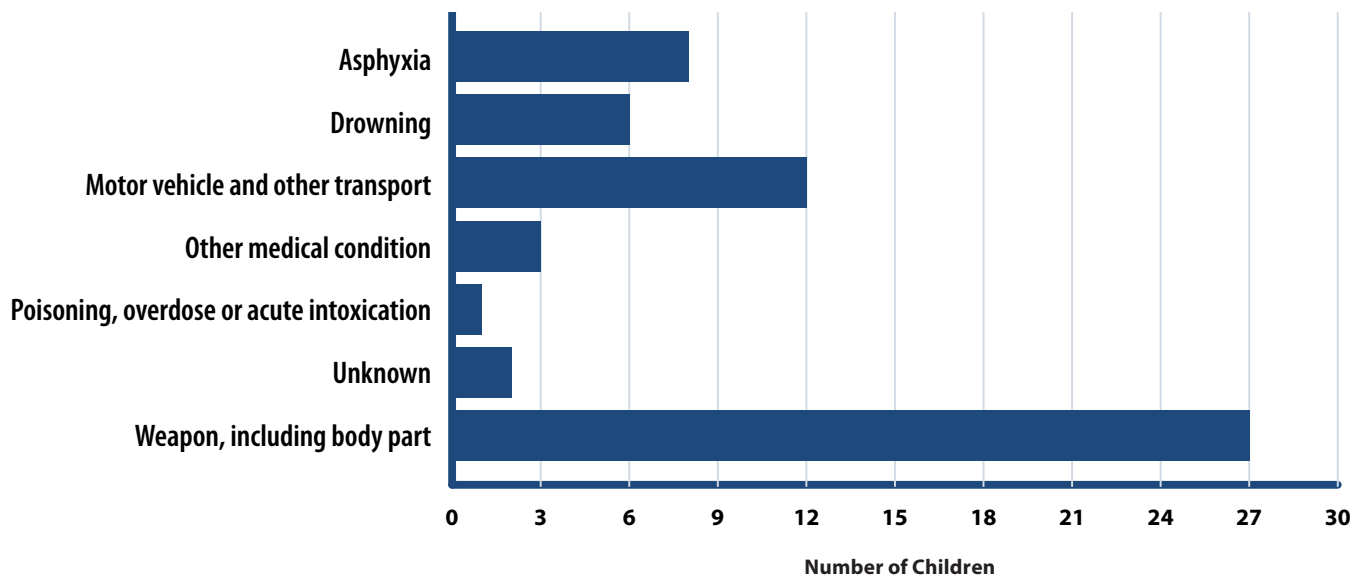


# Cause of Death—All Children

(For SFY 2016)

Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	Count	%
Asphyxia	8	14%
Drowning	6	10%
Motor vehicle and other transport	12	20%
Other medical condition	3	5%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	1	2%
Unknown	2	3%
Weapon, including body part	27	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>

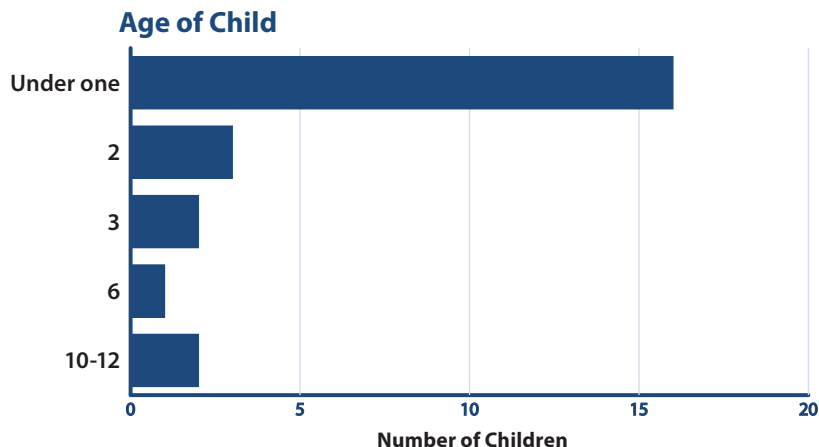


Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

# Abuse Statistics—Demographic Characteristics of the Child

(For SFY 2016)

Age of Child	Count	%
Under one	16	<b>67%</b>
2	3	<b>13%</b>
3	2	<b>8%</b>
5	1	<b>4%</b>
10 to 12	2	<b>8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Race of Child

Race of Child	Count	%
American Indian	1	<b>4%</b>
Multi-racial	2	<b>8%</b>
Black, African-American	2	<b>8%</b>
White	19	<b>79%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Ethnicity of Child

Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Not Hispanic or Latino	23	<b>96%</b>
Hispanic or Latino	1	<b>4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Gender of Child

Gender of Child	Count	%
Female	12	<b>50%</b>
Male	12	<b>50%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>



Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

# Abuse Statistics—Characteristics of the Case

(For SFY 2016)

## Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	Count	%
Weapon, including body part	24	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Detailed Information of Cause of Death

State Fiscal Year 2015		
Detailed Information of Cause of Death	Count	%
Firearm	2	8%
Person's body part	22	92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Type of Abuse

State Fiscal Year 2015		
Type of Abuse	Count	%
Abusive head trauma	22	92%
Beating/kicking	7	29%
Gunshot wounds	2	8%
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*A child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.



# Abuse Statistics—Characteristics of the Household

(For SFY 2016)

## Location of Incident

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Location of Incident	Count	%
Child's home	19	79%
Friend's home	1	4%
Licensed foster care home	1	4%
Unlicensed day care home	3	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Other Children in Household

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Other Children in Household	Count	%
No	10	42%
Yes	14	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*A child may have experienced abuse in more than one location.

## Caregiver Employment Status

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 1	Count	%
Employed	17	71%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	3	13%
Unemployed	4	17%
Unknown	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 2	Count	%
Employed	14	61%
On disability	1	4%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	1	4%
Unemployed	7	30%
Unknown	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Caregiver Education Level

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 1	Count	%
Less than high school	2	8%
High school	10	42%
College	2	8%
Post graduate	0	0%
Unknown	10	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 2	Count	%
Less than high school	1	4%
High school	9	39%
College	2	9%
Post graduate	0	0%
Unknown	11	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Not all children had a secondary caregiver.



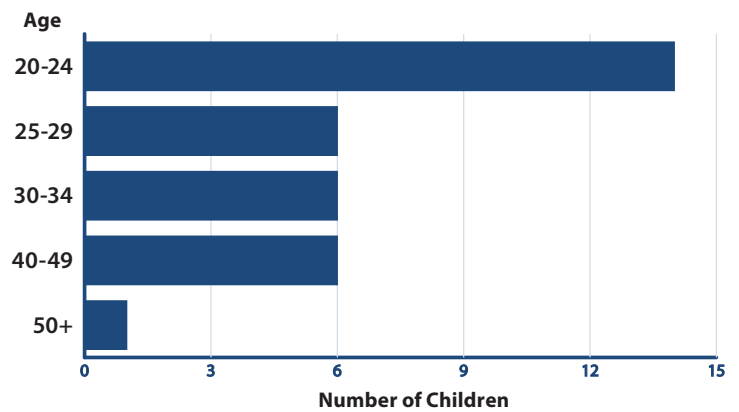
Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

# Abuse Statistics—Characteristics of the Perpetrator

(For SFY 2016)

## Age of the Perpetrator

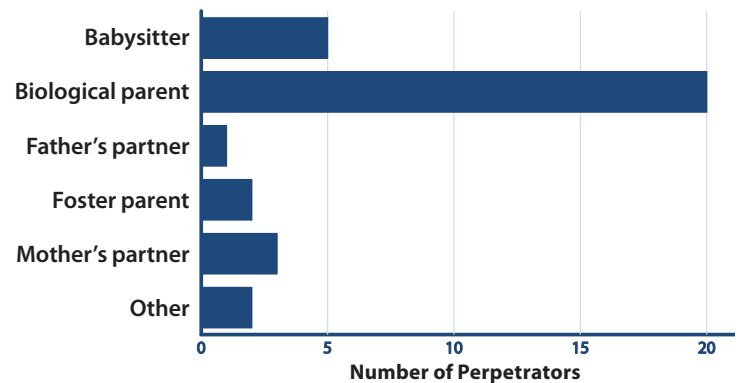
State Fiscal Year 2016		
Age	Count	%
20-24	14	42%
25-29	6	18%
30-34	6	18%
40-49	6	18%
50+	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*A child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

## Relationship of Perpetrator to Child

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Relationship	Count	%
Babysitter	5	15%
Biological parent	20	61%
Father's partner	1	3%
Foster parent	2	6%
Mother's partner	3	9%
Other	2	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*A child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

## Gender of Perpetrator

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Gender	Count	%
Female	15	45%
Male	18	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*A child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.





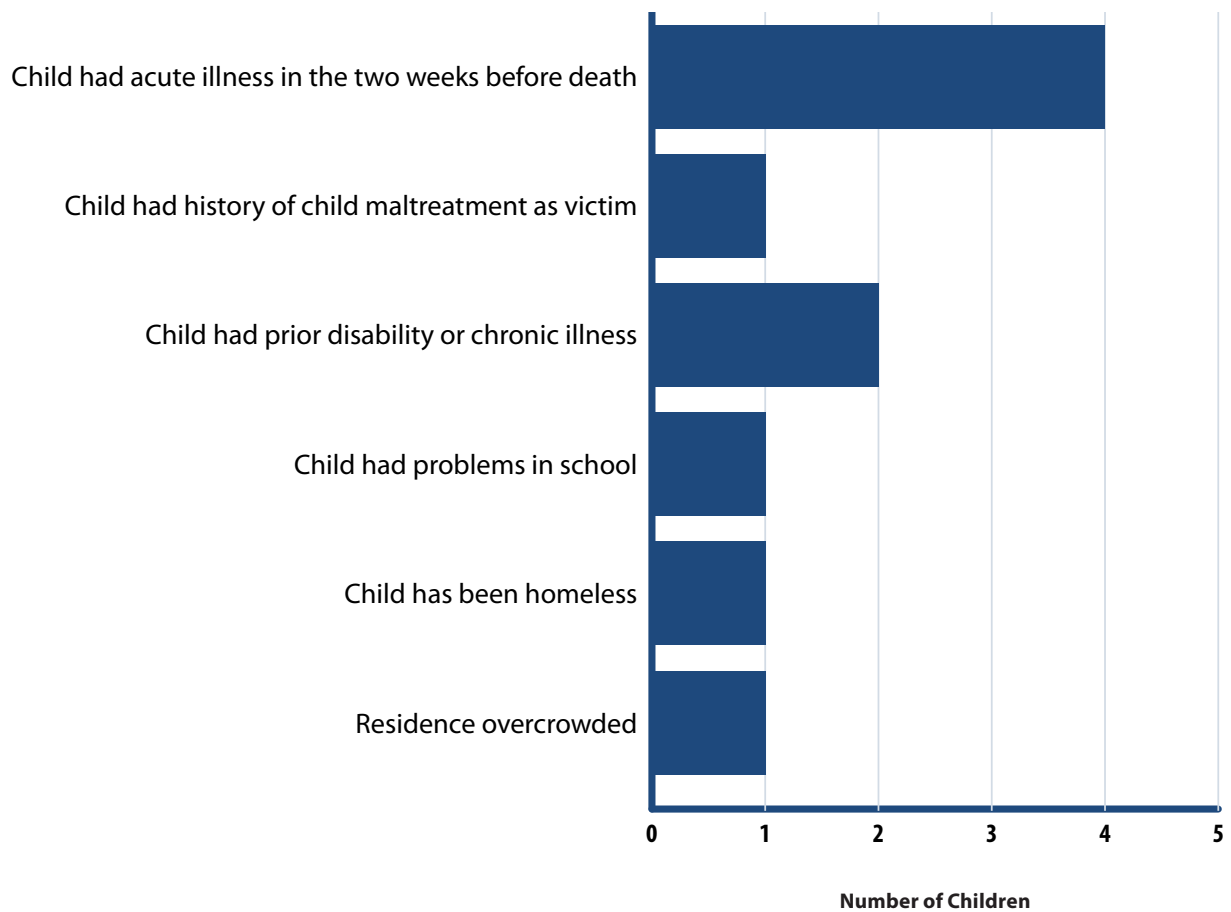
# Abuse Statistics—Victim Stress Factors

(For SFY 2016)

## Victim Stress Factors

State Fiscal Year 2016	
Stress Factor	Count
Child had acute illness in the two weeks before death	4
Child had history of child maltreatment as victim	1
Child had prior disability or chronic illness	2
Child had problems in school	1
Child has been homeless	1
Residence overcrowded	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

\*A child may have more than one stress factor, if any.



Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

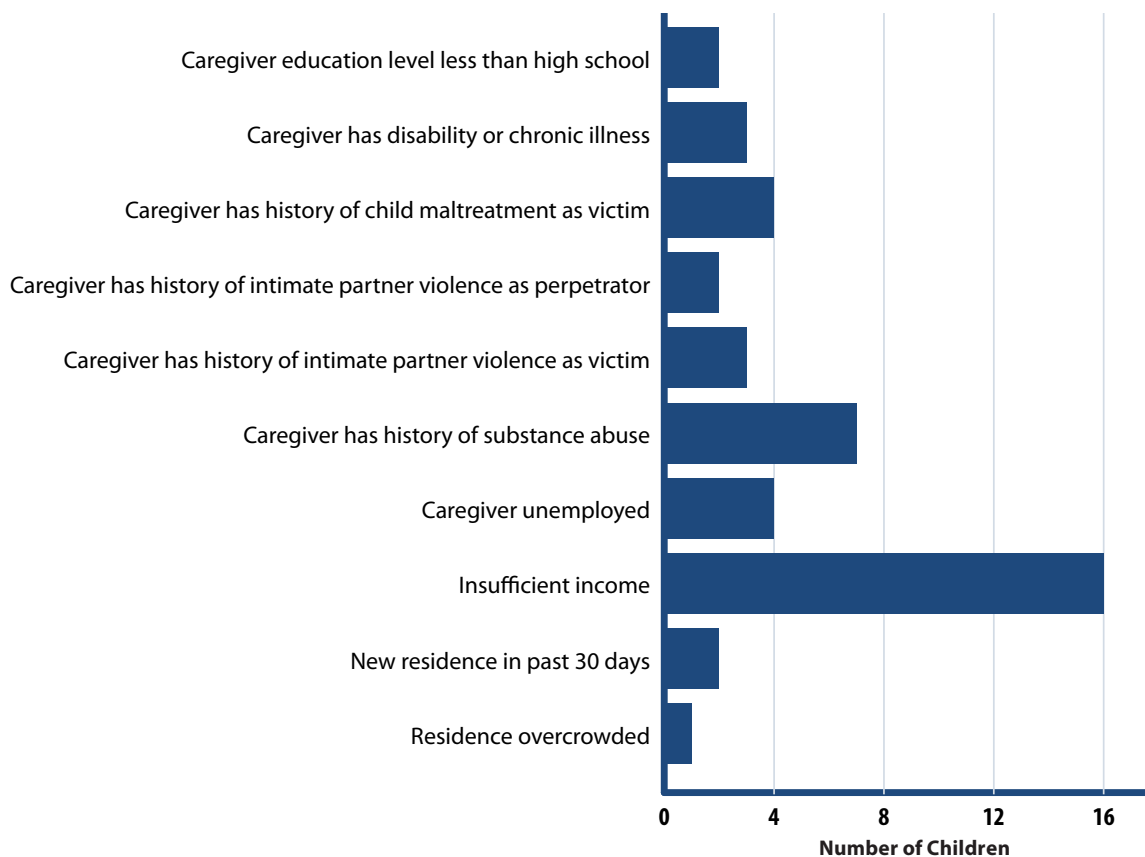
# Abuse Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors

(For SFY 2016)

## Caregiver 1 Stress Factors

State Fiscal Year 2016	
Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver education level less than high school	2
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	3
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment as victim	4
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	3
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	7
Caregiver unemployed	4
Insufficient income	16
New residence in past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

A caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any.



Source:  
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Version 1.0

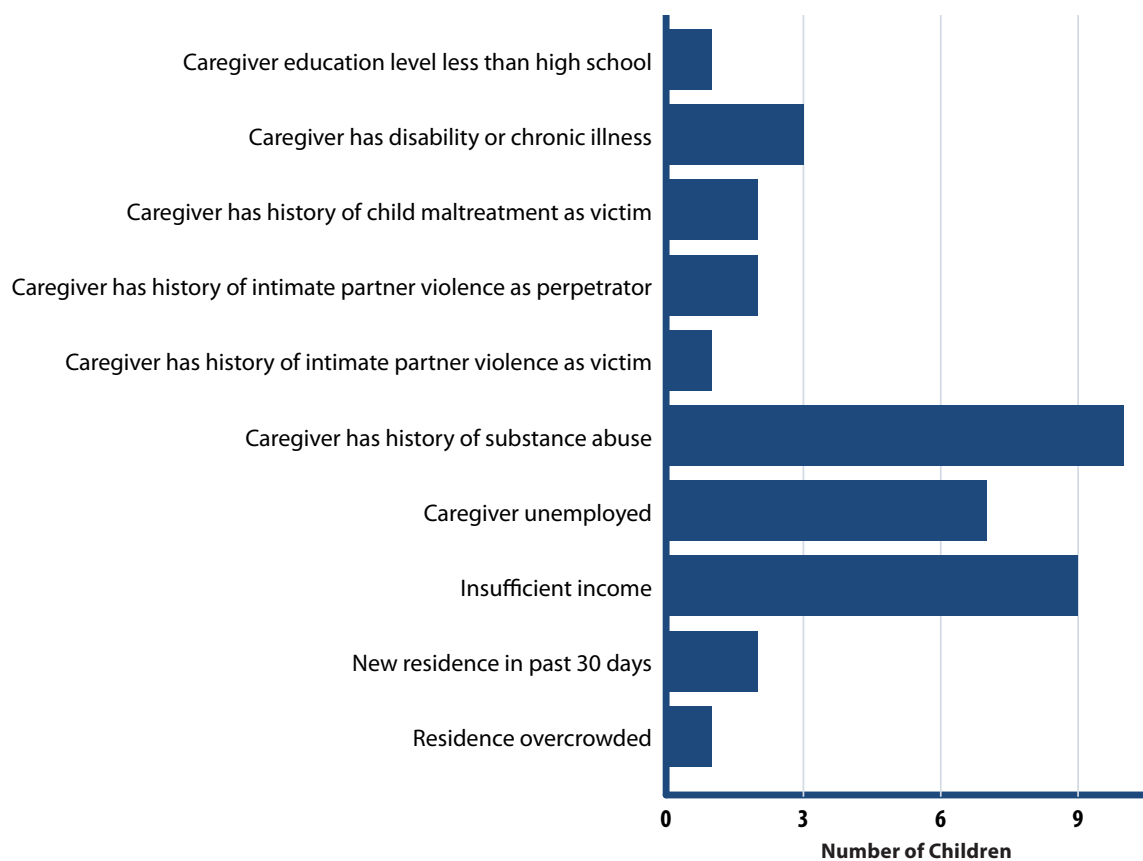
# Abuse Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors (Cont'd)

(For SFY 2016)

## Caregiver 2 Stress Factors

State Fiscal Year 2016	
Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver education level is less than high school	1
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	3
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment as victim	2
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	2
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	1
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	10
Caregiver unemployed	7
Insufficient income	9
New residence in past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

A caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any.

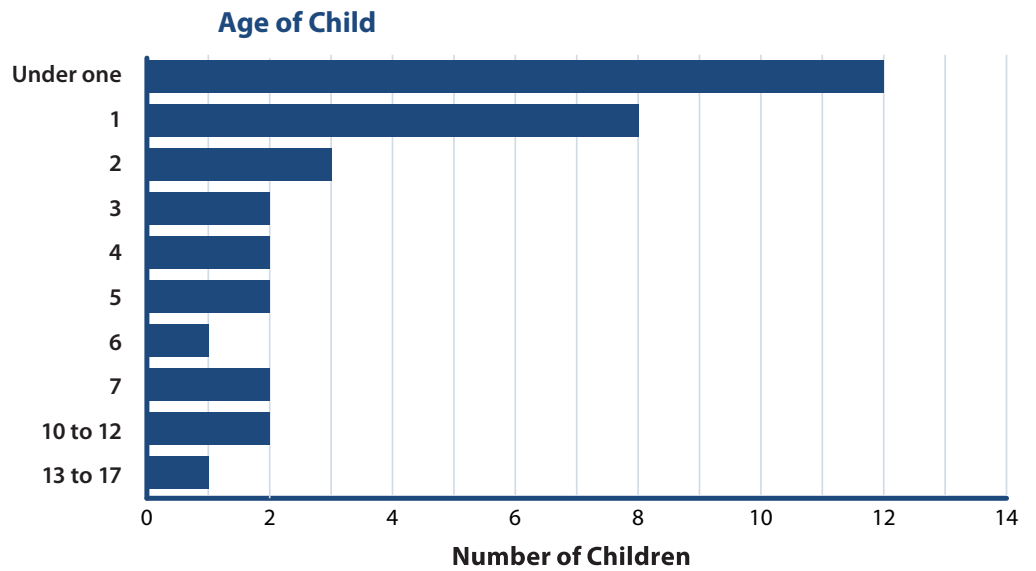


Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

# Neglect Statistics—Demographic Characteristics of the Child

(For SFY 2016)

Age of Child	Count	%
Under one	12	34%
1	8	23%
2	3	9%
3	2	6%
4	2	6%
5	2	6%
6	1	3%
7	2	6%
10 to 12	2	6%
13-17	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Race of Child

Race of Child	Count	%
Multi-racial	4	11%
Black, African American	5	14%
White	26	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Ethnicity of Child

Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Hispanic or Latino	5	14%
Not Hispanic or Latino	30	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Gender of Child

Gender of Child	Count	%
Female	18	51%
Male	17	49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>



Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

# Neglect Statistics—Characteristics of the Case

(For SFY 2016)

## Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	Count	%
Asphyxia	8	23%
Drowning	6	17%
Motor vehicle and other transport	12	34%
Other medical condition	3	9%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	1	3%
Undetermined	2	6%
Weapon, including body part	3	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Detailed Information of Cause of Death

Detailed Information of Cause of Death	Count	%
Drowning	6	18%
Firearm	3	9%
Medical Condition	3	9%
Poisoned: Other	1	3%
Strangulation	1	3%
Suffocation	7	21%
Vehicle	12	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Total does not include deaths by undetermined cause.



# Neglect Statistics—Characteristics of the Case (Cont'd)

(For SFY 2016)

Type of Neglect	Count	%
Child died after asphyxiating in a broken crib	1	1%
Child died after becoming septic from ruptured appendix	1	1%
Child died after being shot by sibling with unsecured firearm	1	1%
Child died after being struck by vehicle	5	7%
Child died after falling out of mother's bed and onto plastic bag	1	1%
Child died after finding and ingesting prescription morphine left on floor of home	1	1%
Child died due to asphyxia, but circumstances of the death include malnutrition and dehydration	1	1%
Child died due to pneumonia	1	1%
Child from mechanical asphyxia after being improperly restrained in car seat	1	1%
Child died in ATV accident	1	1%
Child died in motor vehicle accident	6	8%
Child died when trach became dislodged during bath	1	1%
Child died while sleeping with impaired caregiver	6	8%
Child drowned in bathtub	4	6%
Child drowned in pool	2	3%
Child shot self with unsecured firearm	2	3%

Type of Neglect	Count	%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate restraint while in vehicle	3	4%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate sleep environment	8	11%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate supervision	15	21%
Failure to provide necessities - caregivers did not seek medical care for child	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - child birthed into bathtub and mother did not attempt to help child	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - failure to supervise while riding ATV	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - father failed to provide a safe vehicle and sober transportation for child	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - food	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - proper nutrition and medical treatment	2	3%
Failure to provide necessities - sober driver	2	3%
Failure to seek/follow treatment - supervisor failed to follow medical plan of care for medically fragile child	1	1%

\*A child may have experienced more than one type of neglect.



# Neglect Statistics—Characteristics of the Household

(For SFY 2016)

## Location of Incident

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Location	Count	%
Child's home	17	49%
College dorm room	1	3%
Driveway	2	6%
Friend's home	1	3%
Licensed day care center	1	3%
Relative foster care home	1	3%
Relative's home	4	11%
Roadway	6	17%
Speedway gas station parking lot	1	3%
Unlicensed day care home	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Other Children in Household

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Other Children in Household	Count	%
No	8	23%
Unknown	1	3%
Yes	26	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*A child may have experienced neglect in more than one location.

## Caregiver Employment Status

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 1	Count	%
Employed	12	34%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at home	4	11%
Unemployed	8	23%
Unknown	11	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 2	Count	%
Employed	16	62%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at home	0	0%
Unemployed	2	8%
Unknown	8	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Caregiver Education Level

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 1	Count	%
Less than high school	0	0%
High school	8	23%
College	3	9%
Post graduate	0	0%
Unknown	24	69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Caregiver 2	Count	%
Less than high school	0	0%
High school	4	15%
College	1	4%
Post graduate	0	0%
Unknown	21	81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Not all children had a secondary caregiver.



Source:  
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Version 1.0

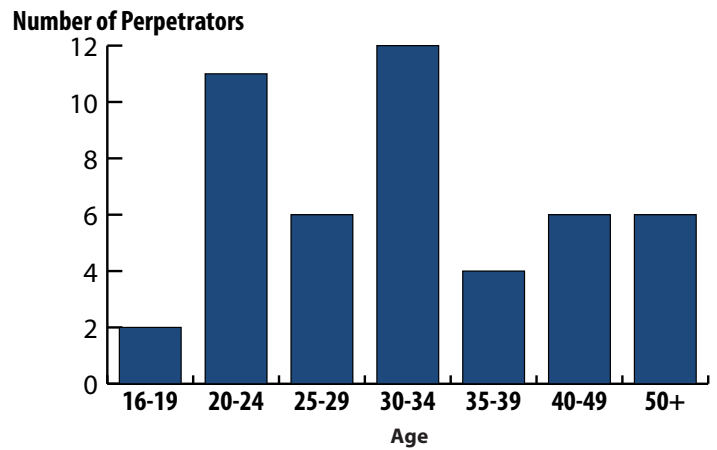
# Neglect Statistics—Characteristics of the Perpetrator

(For SFY 2016)

## Age of Perpetrator

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Age	Count	%
16-19	2	4%
20-24	11	23%
25-29	6	13%
30-34	12	26%
35-39	4	9%
40-49	6	13%
50+	6	13%
<b>Total Perpetrators</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>

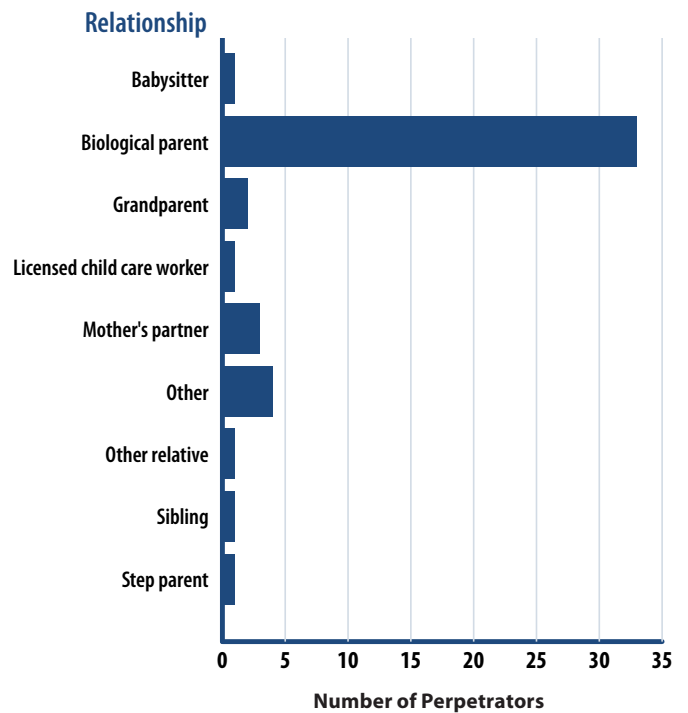
## Age of Perpetrator



\*A child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

## Relationship of Perpetrator to Child

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Relationship	Count	%
Babysitter	1	4%
Biological parent	33	84%
Grandparent	2	4%
Licensed child care worker	1	2%
Mother's partner	3	4%
Other	4	4%
Other relative	1	4%
Sibling	1	4%
Step parent	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*A child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

## Gender of Perpetrator

State Fiscal Year 2016		
Gender	Count	%
Female	30	64%
Male	17	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*A child's death may have been caused by more than one perpetrator.





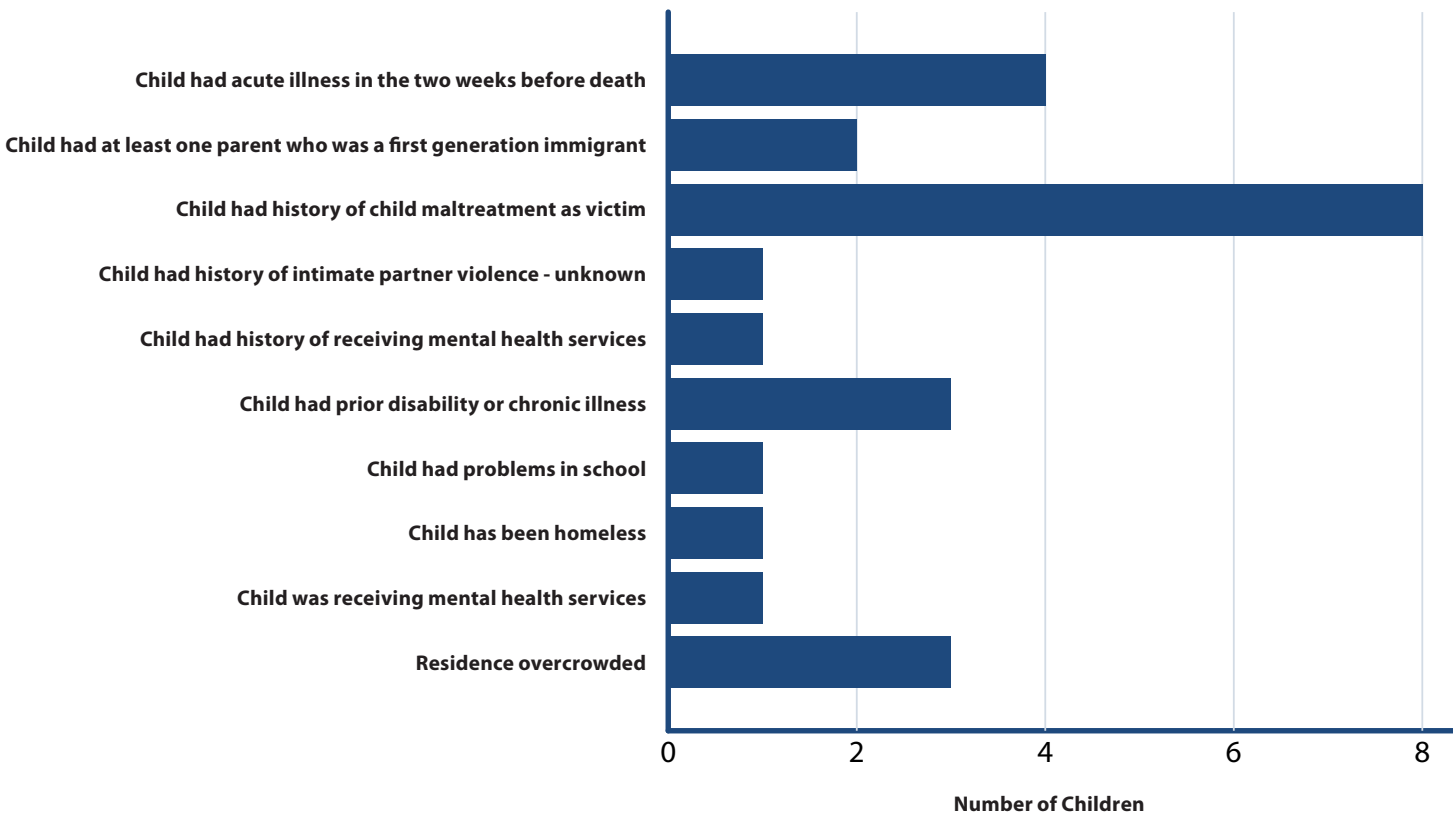
# Neglect Statistics—Victim Stress Factors

(For SFY 2016)

## Victim Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Child had acute illness in the two weeks before death	4
Child had at least one parent who was a first generation immigrant	2
Child had history of child maltreatment as victim	8
Child had history of intimate partner violence - unknown	1
Child had history of receiving mental health services	1
Child had prior disability or chronic illness	3
Child had problems in school	1
Child has been homeless	1
Child was receiving mental health services	1
Residence overcrowded	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

\*A child may have more than one stress factor, if any.



Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

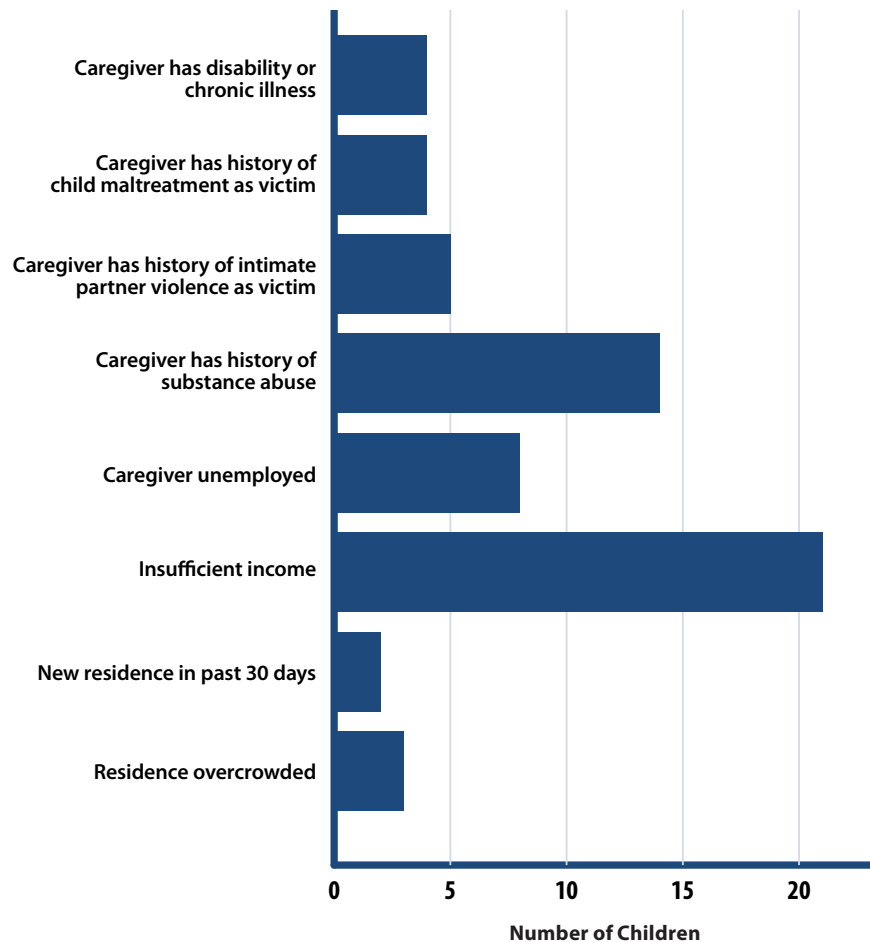
# Neglect Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors

(For SFY 2016)

## Caregiver 1 Stress Factors

State Fiscal Year 2016	
Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	4
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment as victim	4
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	5
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	14
Caregiver unemployed	8
Insufficient income	21
New residence in past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

A caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any.



Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

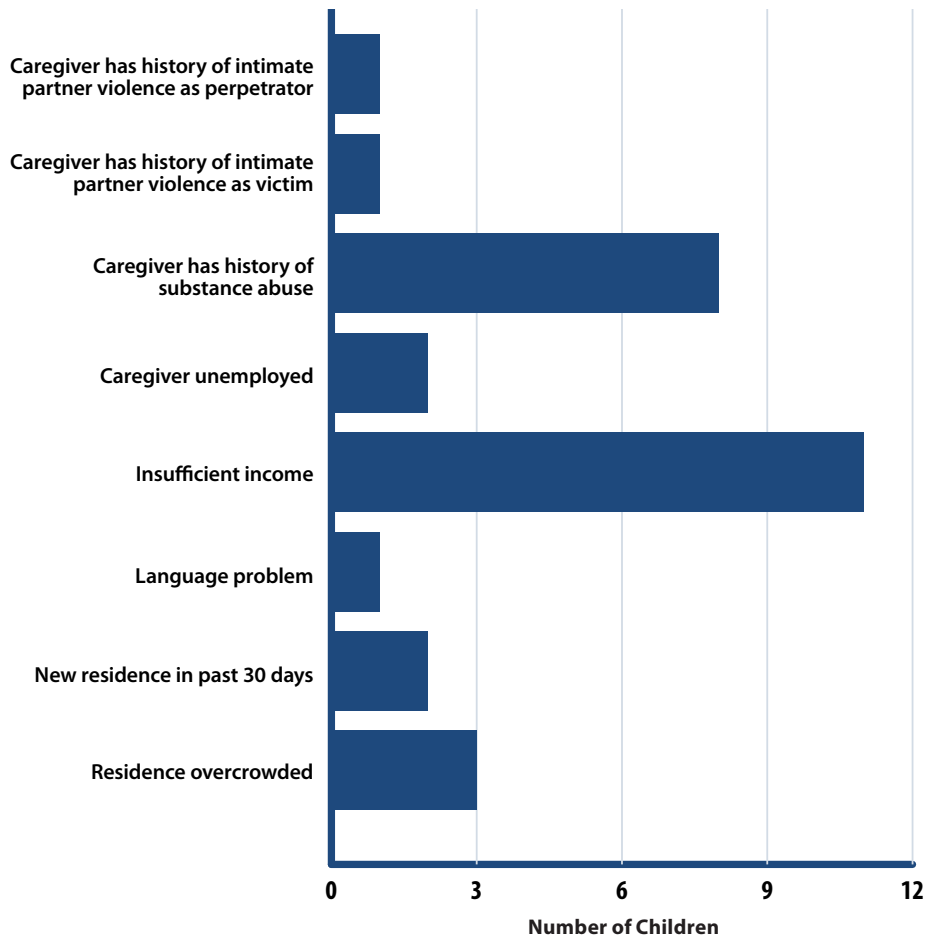
# Neglect Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors (Cont'd)

(For SFY 2016)

## Caregiver 2 Stress Factors

State Fiscal Year 2016	
Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	1
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	1
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	8
Caregiver unemployed	2
Insufficient income	11
Language problem	1
New residence in past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

A caregiver may have had more than one stress factor, if any.



Source:  
MAGIK Monthly Data  
Version 1.0

