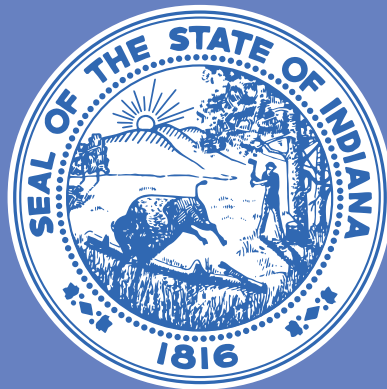


# 2023 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana



**Calendar Year 2023**

Published December 2024

# Preface

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana is the state's official record of child deaths determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect. The following contains data from Calendar Year 2023.

DCS completes a review of all child fatalities that fit the following circumstances:

- Children under age 3: The child's death is sudden, unexpected or unexplained, or there are allegations of abuse or neglect.
- Children age 3 or older: The child's death involves allegations of abuse or neglect.

This report identifies common risk factors in fatalities resulting from abuse or neglect. DCS encourages communities to reference this report when considering prevention, educational and service programs. The data is also used to evaluate, review and modify DCS policy, practice and procedure when warranted.

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

Every death DCS is required by statute to investigate is reviewed at both the county and state level. A team of professionals from the county where the death occurred first determines whether it is believed to be a result of abuse or neglect. Following the local county's recommendation, an independent team of DCS personnel provides a supplementary review. This ensures personal biases do not impact decisions and provides the chance for ample discussion of cases in which the circumstances surrounding the death might not be clear.

# Executive Summary

In Calendar Year 2023, the Indiana Department of Child Services was called to investigate 261 child fatalities in which abuse or neglect was suspected to be a factor or which involved a child under age 3 whose death was sudden, unexpected or unexplained. This is down from 308 in Calendar Year 2022. Fifty-six (21%\*) of those deaths were determined to be a direct result of caregiver maltreatment. By comparison, 61 deaths were caused by maltreatment in 2022.

Of the total fatalities covered by this report, 20 were due to abuse, and 36 were due to neglect.

In 38 (68%) of the fatalities, the victim was 3 years old or younger. This finding demonstrates a consistent trend (nationally and in Indiana) that young children are at the highest risk of abuse or neglect.

Marion County recorded the state's highest number of child fatalities (15) caused by abuse or neglect.

Thirteen of the victims (23%) included in this report were previously victims in a DCS case of substantiated abuse or neglect.

The manner of death is taken from state death certificates. Death by weapon (including a body part, e.g., a closed fist) was the most common cause of death, listed as the primary factor in 28 (50%) of the cases.

In 44 cases (79%), the death occurred at the victim's own home.

The victim's biological parents were often deemed responsible for the child fatalities detailed in this report, accounting for 65 (86%) of the 76 alleged perpetrators. Note that some cases cite multiple perpetrators as responsible for the death of the same child.

In some cases, caregiver stressors were determined to play a role in the death of a child. Insufficient income, unemployment and substance abuse were frequently cited as stress factors among caregivers.

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

## Abuse and neglect fatalities by county

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Allen	2	1	3
Cass	0	1	1
Clark	1	1	2
De Kalb	0	1	1
Delaware	0	1	1
Elkhart	1	0	1
Grant	0	1	1
Hamilton	0	1	1
Hendricks	0	1	1
Jackson	0	1	1
Jefferson	3	0	3
La Porte	0	1	1

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Lake	2	6	8
Lawrence	2	0	2
Marion	5	10	15
Owen	0	1	1
Porter	0	2	2
Putnam	0	1	1
St Joseph	0	1	1
Tippecanoe	2	1	3
Vanderburgh	2	1	3
Wayne	0	1	1
Whitley	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>56</b>

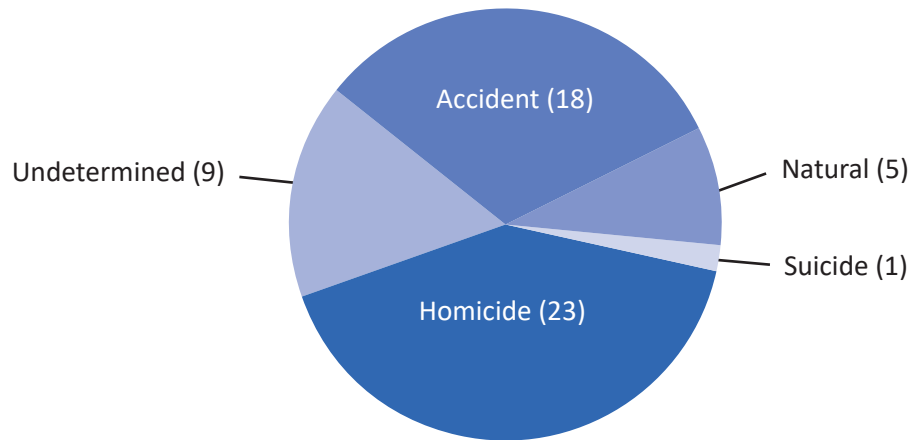
Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

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

Investigation	Abuse	Neglect	Total
<b>All child fatalities</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>56</b>
Coroner cases	19	29	48
Autopsies performed	20	34	54
Scene investigated by coroner	13	26	39
Scene investigated by law enforcement	20	33	53
Scene investigated by fire investigator	4	1	5
Emergency medical services was on scene	11	27	38

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Manner of death, all children



Manner of death obtained from state death certificates.

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Primary cause of death, all children

Asphyxia	1
Asthma	1
Cardiovascular	1
Drowning	8
Fire, burn or electrocution	1
Motor vehicle and other transport	3
Other infection	1
Other medical condition	1
Pneumonia	2
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	6
Undetermined	3
Weapon, including body part	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

# Fatalities due to abuse

**Victim:** 7-year-old boy

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 7-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his mother. On the evening prior to the fatality, the child's father stated that while he was on a virtual phone call with the child, the mother became upset, berated the father and disconnected the call. The next day, the mother and child were found deceased at their home, and it was determined that the mother killed the child and then killed herself.

**Victim:** 15-day-old boy

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 15-day-old boy died from abusive head trauma. He lived with his parents, grandparents and other family members. On the day of the fatality, the parents stated they had been in their bedroom with the child the entire day. The parents stated the child had not been eating well, so they tried feeding him baby formula with a 10 mL syringe. The mother stated that at some point the child was breathing hard, so she checked the child's temperature, and it was normal. The parents continued napping and alternating care of the child for several hours until the father attempted to feed the child, and the child stopped breathing. The parents admitted that they had performed CPR on the child earlier that day but said the child seemed fine after that. At no point did the parents seek medical attention for the child when the child had breathing and feeding issues. At autopsy, the child was found to have brain hemorrhages and multiple rib fractures.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Mother, 1; father, 1

**Circumstances:** A 7-month-old girl died from blunt-force injuries. She lived with her mother, father, sibling, grandmother and aunt. On the day of the fatality, the child and parents were sleeping, and the grandmother checked on the child and found the child unresponsive. At autopsy, the child

was found to have fractured ribs, internal lacerations and multiple abrasions. The parents were the sole caretakers of the child when she sustained her injuries but denied knowledge of how the child was injured.

**Victim:** 6-month-old girl

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** Ongoing program of informal adjustment

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 3

**Circumstances:** A 6-month-old girl died from multiple injuries and blunt-force trauma. She lived with her mother and mother's roommates. On the day of the fatality, the mother left the child alone in the living room while the mother was in the bathroom for approximately two hours. At some point, one of mother's roommates checked on the child and found her unresponsive. The child was observed to have multiple bruises on her body. The mother provided a drug screen and was positive for methamphetamine. At autopsy, the child was found to have head, neck and abdominal trauma, as well as contusions and abrasions on her body. The mother admitted to shaking, smacking and squeezing the child's cheeks very hard.

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

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

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1 in Indiana; 2 in Oklahoma

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother's boyfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old girl died from homicide of unspecified means. She lived with her mother, sibling, mother's boyfriend and a roommate. On the day of the incident, the mother said, the child woke up crying, and her boyfriend threw the child on the floor. The mother stated the child had been the subject of ongoing abuse by the boyfriend for months. The mother stated she and the boyfriend had been using oxycodone, fentanyl and suboxone. The mother said that at some point, she heard the boyfriend yelling at the child and getting angrier, and that when she checked on the child, the child was unresponsive. The mother stated the boyfriend wrapped the child in a blanket and placed the child in the back seat of his car. The mother stated she rode with the boyfriend to dispose of the child's body, then they fled the state. The child's body eventually was recovered in an abandoned home.

**Victim:** 3-year-old boy, 1-year-old girl

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

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 3-year-old boy, 2; 1-year-old girl, 0

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old boy and a 1-year-old girl died from forcible drowning. The children lived with their parents. On the day of the fatalities, the mother drove herself to the police station and said she had drowned her children while the father was at work. The mother stated she had been hearing voices and believed that her children were going to have a life of torture. The mother stated she had received mental health treatment and was prescribed medication, but it did not help. The mother admitted to using cocaine and unprescribed Xanax daily and felt that the illegal drug use and audible hallucinations caused her to snap. The mother stated family members were aware of her hearing voices but were not aware they concerned her children.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 5-year-old girl died from a gunshot wound. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the child and the mother were home alone. At some point, the father was unable to get in contact with the mother, so he sent relatives to check on her. The mother and child were found deceased from an apparent murder/suicide. The mother had been depressed and received mental health treatment but was not consistent with taking her medication.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Cousin

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 4-year-old boy died from head injuries. He lived with his mother, sibling and a cousin. On the day of the fatality, the mother left the child alone with the cousin while she went to the store with the sibling. As the mother left the home, the cousin was disciplining the child by making him sit in the corner while squatting. When the mother returned to the home, she observed the child crying in the corner, and she proceeded to go in and out of the home to bring in groceries. At some point, the mother observed the child in the bathtub, with the cousin putting water on him. The cousin stated he put the child in the bathtub because the child had a seizure; 911 was called, and the child was transported to the hospital, where he died four days later. At autopsy, the child was found to have blunt-force injuries of the head with contusions and hemorrhaging. The cousin was the sole caregiver of the child at the time the child sustained his injuries.



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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from head injuries. She lived with her parents. On the day of the fatality, the mother was at work while the father cared for the child. The father reported that he and the child had been sleeping and that he woke to the child screaming. The father stated he picked up the child and noticed she had trouble breathing, so he called 911. The child was found to have life-threatening head injuries and died several days later. At autopsy, the child was found to have retinal hemorrhages, spinal injuries and blunt-force head injuries. The father later admitted to aggressively yanking the child up by the arm and slamming her head down. The father also admitted to squeezing the child and pushing her face into his shoulder while he squeezed her.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Stepmother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old girl died from head injuries. She lived with her father, stepmother and stepsiblings. On the day of the fatality, the child was in the care of the stepmother while the father was at work. The stepmother stated she was changing the child's diaper, while the child was standing on the side of the bed, and the child started having a seizure. The stepmother stated she turned around to grab something and, while doing so, the child fell off the bed. The stepmother stated the child had a knot on her head, so she got an ice pack, and when she returned, the child was limp and not moving. The stepmother stated she placed the child in a cold bath but the child remained unresponsive, so she called 911. A first responder reported that upon arrival, the child was cold to the touch and the stepmother had put the child in a cold bath with ice packs. The child was transported to the hospital but died two days later. At autopsy, the child was found to have brain injuries, bruising and retinal hemorrhages in both eyes. The injuries the child sustained were not consistent with a small fall from a bed, and medical professionals reported that the injuries were highly concerning for abusive head trauma.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1, mother and father

**Circumstances:** A 5-month-old boy died from head injuries. He lived with his parents. On the day of the fatality, the mother stated she placed the child to sleep and left the child in the father's care. The mother stated she was gone for no more than 15 minutes and when she returned, the father checked on the child and found him unresponsive. 911 was called, and the child was transported to the hospital. The child was found to have a skull fracture, brain injuries and retinal hemorrhages. The parents were the only caregivers of the child in the 72 hours prior to the incident, and they provided no explanation as to how the child sustained his injuries.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** In-home CHINS

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 3

**Circumstances:** A 2-month-old boy died from head injuries. He lived with his mother and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the mother stated she woke up to find the child unresponsive. The mother stated that the evening prior, she was holding the child as she walked into a room, and the child's head bumped into a doorframe. The mother stated the child made a small noise but did not cry. The mother said the child did not bump his head hard and had no visible injury. The mother stated she kept the child awake for an hour and then fed him prior to placing him to sleep. The mother stated the child woke up in the early morning hours, ate and then went back to sleep. The mother stated approximately two hours later, she checked on the child and found him unresponsive. The mother submitted to a drug screen and was positive for cocaine. At autopsy, the child was found to have injuries deep in the brain. A doctor stated the injuries to the child's brain were not consistent with the story provided by the mother and were suspicious for abusive head trauma.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Family friend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from head injuries. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the night prior to the incident, the child stayed all night with the mother's friend and the friend's girlfriend. The next day, the mother went to pick up the child, and the mother's friend met the mother at her car and said that her girlfriend was inside doing the child's hair. The mother and her friend waited outside for a while before going into the friend's home. Once inside, the mother immediately noticed that something was wrong with the child and called 911.

Once at the hospital, the child was found to have blunt-force injuries of the head. The child died several days later. The mother reported that the child did not like to sit still while her hair was done and would become fussy. The mother's friend and the friend's girlfriend admitted to using fentanyl while caring for the child.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-month-old girl died from head injuries. She lived with her parents. On the day the child was taken to the hospital, the father stated he fed the child and noticed she quit moving and was struggling to breathe. The child was found to have brain injuries consistent with being shaken. The child never regained consciousness and died two days later. The parents initially denied knowledge of how the child could have been injured. The parents reported the child had not been waking up to eat and at one point slept for 20 hours. At autopsy, the child was found to have subdural and retinal hemorrhages and blunt-force injury to the head. The father later admitted to shaking the child when she would not stop crying and to dropping the child on concrete a few days prior.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 3, in Iowa; 3, in Indiana

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old boy died from head trauma. He lived with his mother and siblings. On the day of the incident, the mother stated she put the children to bed, in the upstairs bedrooms, and then she went to bed. The mother stated she woke up a couple hours later and found water all over the bathroom floor. The mother stated the child had a habit of playing in toilet water, so she checked on the child and found him on his back at the bottom of the staircase, unresponsive. 911 was called, and the child was transported to the hospital, where he died a few days later. The child was found to have a severe traumatic brain injury, including a skull fracture and hemorrhages. The child had various patterned soft-tissue injuries to multiple planes of his body, with some of the injuries being consistent with being hit with a belt or electrical cord. A pediatric child abuse doctor reported that the injuries to the child's head were likely not caused by a fall as reported by the mother, noting that studies suggested that even in witnessed accidental falls downstairs, the injuries sustained were generally minor.

**Victim:** 12-year-old girl, 8-year-old girl, 6-year-old boy

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

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

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 1, for the 12-year-old girl

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 12-year-old girl, 8-year-old girl and 6-year-old boy died from gunshot wounds. They lived with their mother. On the day of the fatalities, the mother shot herself while on a virtual call with the father of two of the children. Law enforcement was contacted, and upon their arrival at the home, they observed the home engulfed in flames. The mother and three children were found deceased in the home from gunshot wounds. It was determined that the mother shot the children, started a fire in the home, and then shot herself.

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

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

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

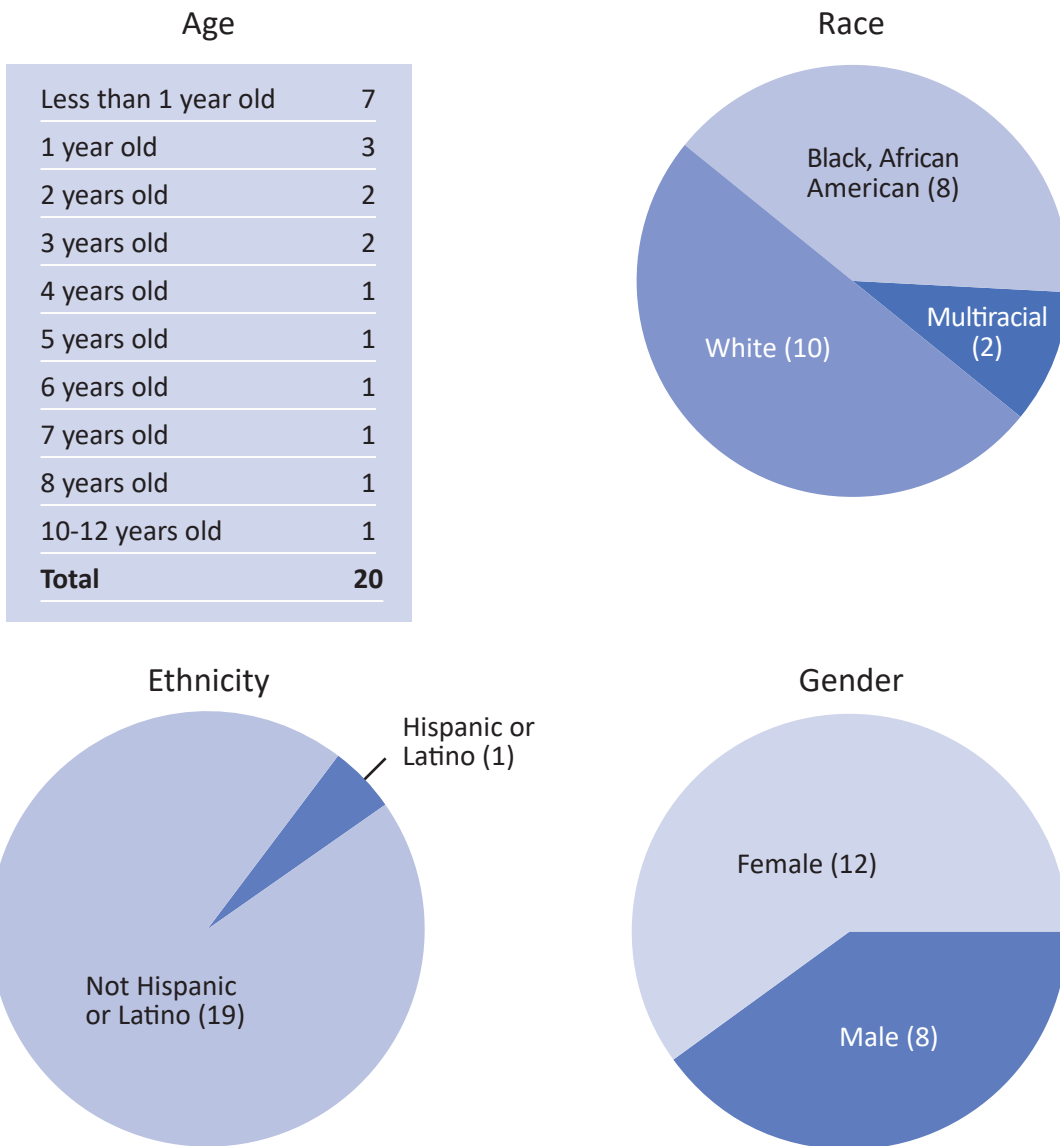
**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 9-month-old girl died from head trauma. She lived with her parents, siblings and uncles. On the day of the incident, the mother was caring for the child while the father and uncles were at work and the siblings were at school. The mother stated the child was napping in the parents' adult bed while the mother was in another room. The mother stated that the child started crying, so she checked on the child and found her stuck between the bed's mattress and headboard. The mother stated she picked the child up, and after the child would not stop crying, she shook the child for approximately three minutes. The mother stated the child became unresponsive and started seizing. The mother waited more than 10 minutes before calling the child's father, who advised her to call 911. The child died at the hospital several days later. At autopsy, the child was found to have subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhages, as well as bilateral retinal hemorrhages.

## Abuse statistics: demographic characteristics of the child



Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

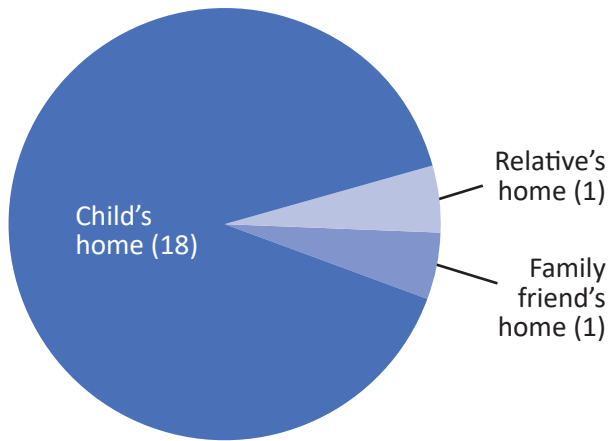
## Abuse statistics: characteristics of the case

Type of abuse	
Abusive head trauma	12
Beating/kicking	4
Drowning	2
Gunshot	5

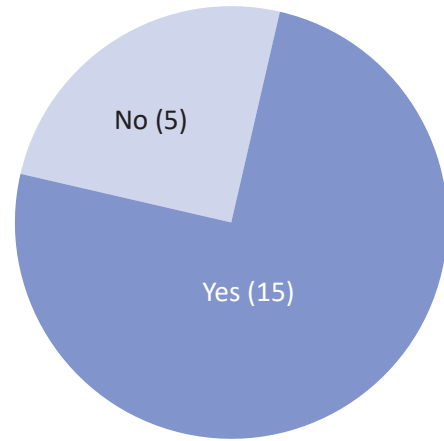
Source: Indiana Child Death Review form Note: A child might have experienced more than one type of abuse.

## Abuse statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident



Other children in household



Caregiver 1 employment status

Employed	7
Stay-at-home	2
Unemployed	9
Unknown	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

Caregiver 2 employment status

Employed	10
Unemployed	3
Unknown	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Caregiver 1 education level

High school	6
Unknown	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

Caregiver 2 education level

Less than high school	2
High school	1
Unknown	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

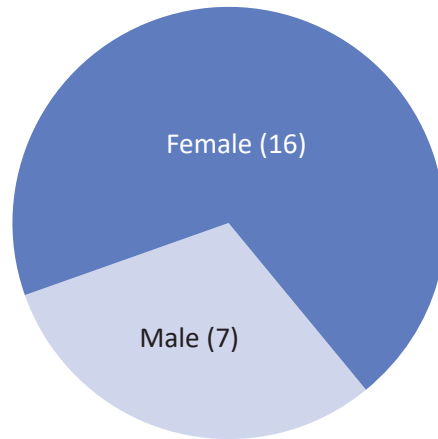
Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Abuse statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

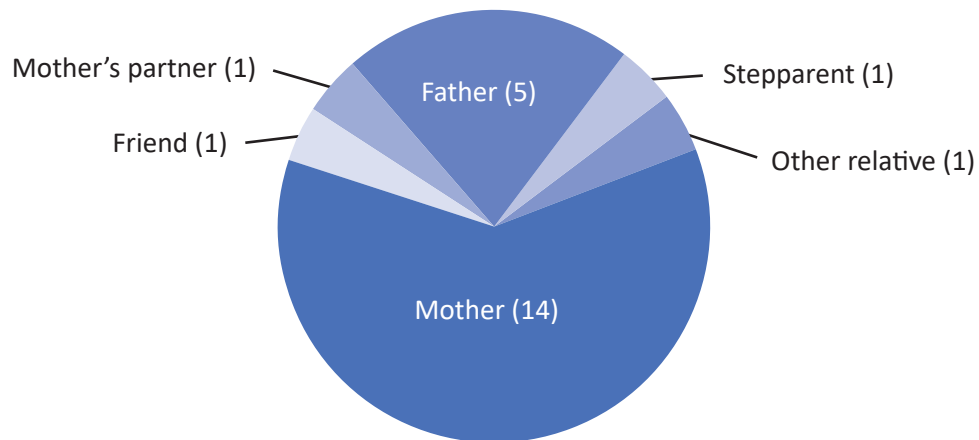
Age

20-24 years old	7
25-29 years old	2
30-34 years old	7
35-39 years old	5
40-49 years old	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

Gender



Relationship to child



Note: 23 perpetrators total; a child's death might have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Abuse statistics: known stress factors impacting child

At least one parent was a first-generation immigrant	2
History of homelessness	2
History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of intimate partner violence (involvement unknown)	1

History of receiving mental health services	1
History of disability or chronic illness	2
Was receiving mental health services	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	5
Residence overcrowded	2

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

## Abuse statistics: known stress factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1	
New residence in the past 30 days	4
Residence overcrowded	2
Employment status	9
Insufficient income	11
Language problem	1
History of substance abuse	9
History of child maltreatment as victim	5
Disability or chronic illness	4
History of intimate partner violence as victim	5

Caregiver 2	
New residence in the past 30 days	4
Residence overcrowded	2
Employment status	3
Education	2
Insufficient income	6
Language problem	1
History of substance abuse	8
History of child maltreatment as victim	2
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	7

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



# Fatalities due to neglect

**Victim:** 7-year-old girl

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 7-year-old girl died from injuries sustained in a motor-vehicle collision. She lived with her parents and sibling. On the evening of the fatality, the family was returning home after visiting family members. The mother was driving the family's vehicle and reportedly fell asleep, causing the vehicle to go off the road and roll over. The mother admitted to consuming alcohol prior to driving, and her blood-alcohol level was 0.172%.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died by drowning due to lack of supervision. She lived with her parents. On the evening of the incident, the parents were inside their home, and the child was going in and out of a sliding door into the backyard. The parents were unable to see the child from their position in the home. At some point, the father noticed the child had not been seen in some time, so the mother went looking for the child. The child was found unresponsive in a koi pond in the family's backyard. The child died two days later. The parents admitted that the child had to be redirected from the koi pond earlier that day.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old girl died by drowning due to lack of supervision. She lived with her parents, siblings and grandmother. On the day of the fatality, the children and the father had been swimming in the family's backyard pool. The father and the child went into the house, and the father left the child in the care of the mother while he went upstairs. The mother allowed the child to go back outside unsupervised. After some time, the father went back downstairs and upon realizing the child was outside, he looked for the child and found her unresponsive in the backyard swimming pool.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old boy died from bronchopneumonia due to neglect. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother had been sleeping with the child and woke up to find him unresponsive. The parents stated the child had been sick for approximately two weeks with a respiratory illness, fevers and lethargy. The mother stated the child had not been eating well and that she had been carrying him around most of the time for the prior two weeks. The parents stated they did not seek medical care for the child and the child had not been seen by a medical professional in his lifetime. At autopsy, the child was found to be malnourished.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 1; mother, 5

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died by drowning due to lack of supervision. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the family was home, and the parents were doing different things around the home. The child had been wandering around the home and, at some point, was found under water in the bathtub. The parents provided inconsistent statements regarding the events leading up to the incident. The parents submitted to drug screens and were positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and buprenorphine.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and 5-year-old sibling. On the day of the fatality, in the late morning hours, the mother placed the children in her bedroom to sleep while the father was sleeping downstairs, prior to her leaving the home to run errands. The father stated he was still slightly asleep when the mother left the home. Several hours later, the father awoke to a loud noise and, at some point, found the child in the upstairs bedroom with a gunshot wound. It was later determined that the 5-year-old sibling had accessed the mother's loaded firearm and shot the child. The father was aware of the mother having a gun and that the 5-year-old sibling had the ability to access the gun.

**Victim:** 12-year-old girl

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

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 27

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 12-year-old girl died from complications of necrotizing fasciitis due to chronic ulcers of skin folds. She lived with her mother, siblings, mother's boyfriend and other relatives. On the day of the incident, the child arrived at the hospital with a wound infection and became unresponsive shortly after. The mother reported the child had not eaten for five days and had complained of back pain for four to five days. The mother stated the child had a substance draining from her back. The child was diagnosed with septic shock and at autopsy was found to have multiple necrotizing skin infections. The child's home was observed to have insect and mouse infestations and to be unsanitary throughout.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old girl died by drowning due to lack of supervision. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the child had been left in the father's care, outside, while the mother tended to a sibling indoors. The father was only alerted to the child missing when the mother went to retrieve the child. After an hour of searching, the parents contacted emergency personnel. The child was found in a nearby pond approximately two hours after the parents realized she was missing. The mother stated the child was adventurous and liked to explore. The mother stated the family had previously gone to the pond together.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2

**Circumstances:** A 6-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother was home with the child and one of the siblings. The mother and sibling were upstairs, and the child was downstairs. The child obtained a gun from the mother's purse and accidentally shot himself. The mother routinely kept the gun in her purse and had advised the children not to touch it. A sibling stated the child had accessed the gun before. No safety measures were in place to prevent the child from accessing the gun.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 5-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and younger sibling. On the day of the fatality, the parents and children left the home so the parents could buy cocaine. Upon returning home, the parents left the children sitting on the living room couch while they used cocaine in another room. At some point, the parents heard a loud pop, and the child was found shot, with his younger sibling standing near him. The father stated he had left his gun pushed down into a couch cushion with the top of the gun's handle sticking up. The mother was aware the father often left the gun in reach of the children and stated she had previously had to correct the children about not touching the gun. On the day of the fatality, the parents provided drug screens and tested positive for cocaine.

**Victim:** 17-year-old boy

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

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

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

**Perpetrators:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 17-year-old boy died from acute mixed drug intoxication. He lived with his parents and adult sibling. On the night prior to the fatality, the father observed the child to be impaired. The child admitted to taking Xanax and a few tablets of acid. At some point, the child went to bed, and the father found him deceased the next day. The parents had knowledge of the child receiving packages containing illicit substances, with the last one being the day prior to his death. The mother stated the child told her he bought the last package of drugs from someone out of state and paid several hundred dollars for it. The parents stated they had seen the child impaired on several occasions. After the child's death, his bedroom was found to have empty alcohol bottles, numerous illegal substances and paraphernalia. At autopsy, the child's toxicology was positive for MDMA (ecstasy), Ketamine, THC, fentanyl, promethazine and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). At no point did the parents seek substance abuse treatment for the child or confiscate the packages containing illicit substances.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old girl died from fentanyl intoxication. She lived with her mother and mother's friend. On the day of the fatality, the child took a nap and was later found unresponsive. The home was observed to have animal feces on the floors and clutter throughout the home. Drugs were found in the garage, and syringes were found on the bathroom counter. The mother admitted to using drugs daily and submitted to a drug screen, which was positive for cocaine, THC and fentanyl.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from complications of burn injuries. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father was working while the mother cared for the children. The mother stated she was doing chores around the house while the children played in a shed. The mother stated she heard a noise and when she checked on the children, she observed the child on fire. The mother stated that the children had been in trouble earlier that day because they had been playing with gas jugs and a lighter in the shed. The mother did not secure the gas jugs or lighter and allowed the children to continue playing in the shed unsupervised. The fire marshal concluded that the probable cause of the fire was due to the children playing with a lighter and household combustibles.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 1-month-old boy died from sudden unexplained death of an infant with unsafe-sleep factors identified. He lived with his mother, sibling, grandparents and uncle. On the day of the fatality, the mother stated she fell asleep while sitting on her bed with the child in her arms and woke up to find him deceased. The mother admitted to using cocaine the day prior and then breastfeeding the child. The mother submitted to a drug screen and was positive for cocaine, benzoylecgonine (cocaine metabolite), THC and nor-buprenorphine (Suboxone metabolite-prescribed). The mother admitted to not feeding the child for more than seven hours, missing the recommended feeding times of every two hours. The mother stated that the child had recent health issues of sleep apnea, vomiting and diarrhea but admitted she did not seek medical care for the child, even though the child had a history of being underweight with feeding issues. At autopsy, the child's toxicology was positive for benzoylecgonine (cocaine metabolite).

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from undetermined causes. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother left for work and left the child and a sibling in the care of the father, who had returned home after working the night shift. The father stated he drank two beers and then fell asleep on the couch while the child and a 2-year-old sibling were unsupervised in the home. A few hours later, older siblings returned home from school and found the child unresponsive in the bathtub with the water running. At autopsy, the child's toxicology was positive for ethanol.

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

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 4-year-old girl died from a gunshot wound. She lived with her mother, siblings, great-grandmother and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the mother left for work and left the child and her siblings in the care of the great-grandmother. Later that afternoon, the great-grandmother was caring for a younger sibling when she heard a noise and found the child deceased in the mother's bedroom. Two of the child's siblings accused each other of accidentally shooting the child with the boyfriend's gun, which they obtained from the mother's top dresser drawer. The mother and her boyfriend left a loaded gun where it could be accessed by the children.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old girl died from a gunshot wound. She lived with her parents. On the day of the fatality, the child was home with the mother while the father was at work. The mother was cleaning the home and heard a gunshot. The mother found the child suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in the parents' bedroom. It was common for the mother to keep a loaded firearm on her bedside table at night, and she had forgotten to move the gun that morning.

**Victim:** 3-month-old girl

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-month-old girl died from undetermined causes. She lived with her parents and a sibling. On the day of the fatality, the mother left the child and sibling in the care of the father while she went to work. The father stated that while caring for the child, he tried to rock her to sleep, but she kept crying, so he held her tightly against his chest for 20 to 30 minutes. The father stated that after the child stopped crying, he kept holding her firmly against his chest for approximately 10 more minutes. The father stated that when he went to put the child in the swing, he knew she was deceased. The father stated he left the child and sibling alone and got a ride to another state because he knew he would be arrested in connection with the child's death. The mother returned home from work to find the children alone and the child deceased.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Uncle

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his mother, uncle and cousins. On the day of the fatality, the uncle's 2-year-old son and the child were playing in a back bedroom where the uncle usually slept. The mother and uncle were in the living room. The mother and uncle heard a gunshot and went to the bedroom to find the child shot and the uncle's 2-year-old son holding the uncle's gun. The uncle grabbed the gun and ran out of the house. The mother stated she knew the uncle had a gun, but he usually put the gun up so the children could not reach it. The uncle was later apprehended and stated he had placed his gun on the floor under a pillow in the bedroom the children were playing in, and his 2-year-old son must have found the gun and accidentally shot the child.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Grandmother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 5

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old boy died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the child and siblings went to their grandmother's home to spend the night. At some point, the grandmother drove with the children and

became involved in a single-vehicle accident involving a tree. The child was not properly restrained and died at the scene. Data received from the vehicle's air bag module revealed that the vehicle was traveling 20 miles over the speed limit at the time of the crash and the brake pedal was never applied. The grandmother's blood alcohol was over the legal limit, and she tested positive for THC.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old girl died from a gunshot wound. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother was in her bedroom with the child and a 3-year-old sibling. The mother went into another room for a short time, leaving the children in her bedroom, and then heard a gunshot. The mother went back to her bedroom, where she observed her gun on the bed and the child suffering from a gunshot wound. The mother stated that when she walked out of the bedroom, her gun had been inside her purse, which was on the bed. It was determined that the 3-year-old sibling accidentally shot the child.

**Victim:** 3-month-old girl

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-month-old girl died from undetermined causes. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the parents gave conflicting stories as to how they found the child deceased. The mother stated the child became unresponsive while she was holding the child, and the father stated he found the child unresponsive on a couch next to an adult bed. The mother stated the child had difficulty breathing the night prior and approximately 30 minutes before she died. The parents did not seek medical care for the child, and the child had not seen a doctor since being discharged from the hospital at birth. The child was significantly malnourished and emaciated. The family's home was found to have no baby supplies or baby formula. At autopsy, the child was found to have a torn lower frenulum. On the day of the child's death, the parents submitted to drug screens and were positive for THC.

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

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

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

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



**Perpetrator:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 6-year-old girl died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. She lived with her parents, siblings and grandparent. On the day of the fatality, the parents and children were returning home from a party. The mother was driving the vehicle, and the parents began arguing while on a freeway. The mother suddenly stopped the car in the middle of the freeway, causing the vehicle to be struck by a truck. None of the children were restrained, and the parents were intoxicated.

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

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

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 5, in Indiana; 2, in Kentucky

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 2, in Indiana; 1, in Kentucky

**Circumstances:** A 4-year-old boy died by drowning due to lack of supervision. He lived with his mother, sibling and uncle. On the day of the fatality, the mother and children were at a family member's home for a pool party. Video surveillance revealed that at some point, the child climbed up the pool's slide, slid into the water and drowned. The video also showed the mother and other adults sitting on a nearby deck, facing away from the pool, and that the mother was not supervising the child. The mother stated that the child had asked if he could go back in the pool, but she told him no. The child was not wearing a flotation device.

**Victim:** 4-month-old boy

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

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1, in Indiana; 1, in Michigan

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

**Perpetrator:** Father, father's girlfriend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** Father, 0; father's girlfriend, 7

**Circumstances:** A 4-month-old boy died from acute alcohol intoxication. He lived with his father, siblings, father's girlfriend, father's girlfriend's children and the girlfriend's mother. The night prior to the fatality, the father's girlfriend gave the child a bottle and placed him to sleep. The next morning, the father's girlfriend found the child deceased in a rocking sleeper. The child's toxicology at autopsy was positive for ethanol, with a BAC of 0.115 %. The oldest child residing in the home was an 8-year-old, and several of the children tested positive for THC. The child's bottle tested positive for alcohol. The father stated his girlfriend had previously asked him about giving the child alcohol to calm him down and that he advised her not to. On the day of the fatality, the father and the father's girlfriend submitted to drug screens. The father's drug screen was positive for THC, amphetamine and methamphetamine. The father's girlfriend's drug screen was positive for THC.

**Victim:** 27-day-old girl

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 6

**Circumstances:** A 27-day-old girl died from severe pulmonary hypertension, cardiopulmonary hypertension and sepsis. The child never left the hospital after birth. The day after the child's birth, the mother left the hospital and never visited the child. The mother had no prenatal care and used heroin three hours prior to the child's birth. The child was born full-term and had respiratory insufficiency at birth. The child's cord blood was positive for cocaine, benzoylecgonine (cocaine metabolite), fentanyl, norfentanyl (fentanyl metabolite), morphine, codeine and 6-MAM (heroin metabolite). The child was never able to breathe on her own, and after being hospitalized for three weeks, she passed away.

**Victim:** 11-year-old boy

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Family friend

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** An 11-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound to the head. He lived with his mother and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the child and sibling were at a friend's house where they had stayed for the weekend. The friend's mother left the home, leaving the children unsupervised. At some point, one of the children obtained a loaded, unsecured firearm from the friend's mother's room, easily accessible to the children, and the child was shot. Due to discrepancies in statements provided by the children, the exact shooter was unable to be identified.

**Victim:** 11-month-old boy

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** An 11-month-old boy died from fentanyl intoxication. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the parents placed the child to sleep on the couch and then used marijuana while sitting near the child. A couple of hours later, the mother checked on the child and found the child unresponsive. The father submitted to a drug screen and was positive for fentanyl, methamphetamine, THC and buprenorphine. The mother submitted to a drug screen and was positive for THC. The mother admitted to being aware of the father's drug use. Law enforcement conduct-

ed a search of the home and found drug paraphernalia, methamphetamine, hallucinogens, burnt foils with substances on them, unlabeled pills and synthetic marijuana. The child's postmortem toxicology was positive for fentanyl, 4-ANPP (fentanyl metabolite), xylazine (tranquilizer) and naloxone.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 3-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father was home with the children while the mother was at work. The father reported he was playing with the siblings on the bed and remembered he had his firearm in his pocket. The father reported he placed the firearm on the dresser next to him. The father reported that while on the bed, he spoke to the mother on the telephone and lost sight of the child. The father reported he heard a noise and realized the child had shot himself with the father's unsecured firearm. Law enforcement found the weapon and reported that it had a magazine loaded with 13 live rounds.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father, mother

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

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died from fentanyl intoxication. He lived with his parents. On the day of the fatality, the family had been sleeping, and upon waking, the mother found the child deceased. The father submitted to a drug screen and was positive for fentanyl. The mother refused to submit to a drug screen. The child's postmortem toxicology was positive for fentanyl, 4-ANPP (fentanyl metabolite) and norfentanyl (fentanyl metabolite). The mother tested positive for fentanyl less than two months before the child's death, and law enforcement received evidence of the mother selling and purchasing fentanyl.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 14-year-old boy died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the incident, the mother had taken the child to a mental health appointment, and then they returned home. The mother told the child to do his homework, and the

child became angry. The mother laid down in her bedroom while the child was sitting on a couch in the living room. The mother stated that approximately five minutes later, she heard two gunshots. The mother found the child unresponsive on the couch. The child had accessed the father's weapon and shot himself. Three months prior, the child had attempted suicide with the same weapon, and the parents had agreed to ensure that their weapons were stored in a locked gun safe. The child had a history of suicidal ideation and had received inpatient mental health treatment on several occasions. The father reported he did not know how the child accessed the gun safe because he kept the key to the safe with him. When asked, the father was unable or unwilling to produce the key to the gun safe.

**Victim:** 9-year-old boy

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

**Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim:** 1, in Indiana

**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 2, in Illinois

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 4, in Illinois

**Circumstances:** A 9-year-old boy died from complications of cerebral palsy. He lived with his mother, siblings and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the family had spent the day at home, and the child had been sitting on the couch. The child was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and was immobile, nonverbal and incontinent. At some point, the mother checked on the child and found him deceased, approximately four hours after she last fed him. The mother had been advised to feed the child a prescription high-calorie formula via his feeding tube every three hours during the day. The child was observed to be very malnourished. The mother stated she gave the child one bottle of over-the-counter formula with each feeding, even though the child's medical coverage would pay for the prescription formula and deliver it to the home. Upon review of the child's medical records, the mother had disclosed to the doctor, five months earlier, that she had been giving the child the incorrect formula and the doctor told the mother the child needed the prescribed formula because the child was missing out on hundreds of calories a day. The child lost several pounds in the months prior to his death. The mother did not comply with sending the child to school, taking him to therapies and giving him his prescribed medications. The mother failed to comply with recommendations from the child's medical providers, resulting in the child's death.

**Victim:** 12-year-old boy

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Father, mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 12-year-old boy died from complications of asthma. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the night of the fatality, the family was at home and the child's asthma started bothering him. The child gave himself a breathing treatment, and eventually the family went to bed. A short time

later, the child gave himself another breathing treatment and asked his parents for his prescription medication, which was an antihistamine, decongestant and cough suppressant. The parents told the child no. At some point, the child was unable to breathe and crawled to the parents' bedroom, gasping for air. The parents realized that the machine the child used for his breathing treatment was out of medication, so they went elsewhere in the home to look for it. The parents found the medication and gave the child a breathing treatment and then waited 5 to 10 minutes to see if the medication would work before calling 911, even though the child's lips were turning blue, and his fingers were purple. First responders arrived at the home and found the child in cardiac arrest; the child was transported to the hospital but was never revived. The home was found to be unsanitary, in disarray, and to have black mold on a wall. Code Enforcement was contacted, and the home was condemned. The child's medical records revealed that the child's asthma was driven by allergies, and the condition of the home was not conducive for a child with asthma. The parents were not compliant with recommendations from medical providers and relied on the rescue inhaler instead of giving the child his prescribed daily medications.

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

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

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Grandmother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 2-year-old boy died from acute fentanyl intoxication. He lived with his grandparents and other extended family members. The grandparents had legal guardianship of the child due to the mother passing away of a fentanyl overdose several months prior. On the day of the fatality, the child and grandmother went to sleep together in an adult bed in the early morning hours. Shortly after that, the grandfather went to work, and the child was still sleeping. Approximately seven hours later, the grandmother woke up and found the child deceased. The grandmother completed a drug screen and was positive for methamphetamine, THC and benzodiazepines. Upon a search of the home, law enforcement found the grandmother's purse, which had been in the proximity of the child when the child went to sleep, containing several illicit substances, as well as fentanyl testing strips. At autopsy, the child's toxicology was positive for fentanyl and norfentanyl.

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

**DCS involvement at time of fatal event:** In-home CHINS

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

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

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 1

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old girl died from pneumonia complicating spinal muscular atrophy. She lived with her mother and sibling. The child was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy. On the day of the incident, while being cared for by the mother, the child started having shallow breathing and

was hospitalized; she died several weeks later. The child was prescribed a medication to prolong her life, and a review of the child's prescription history revealed that the mother had not been giving the child the medication as prescribed and missed multiple doses over several months. The mother had a history of noncompliance with the child's medical care. The child's neurologist reported that when the child was taking the medication as prescribed, she did well, but her progress declined after the mother quit giving the child the medication as prescribed.

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

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

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

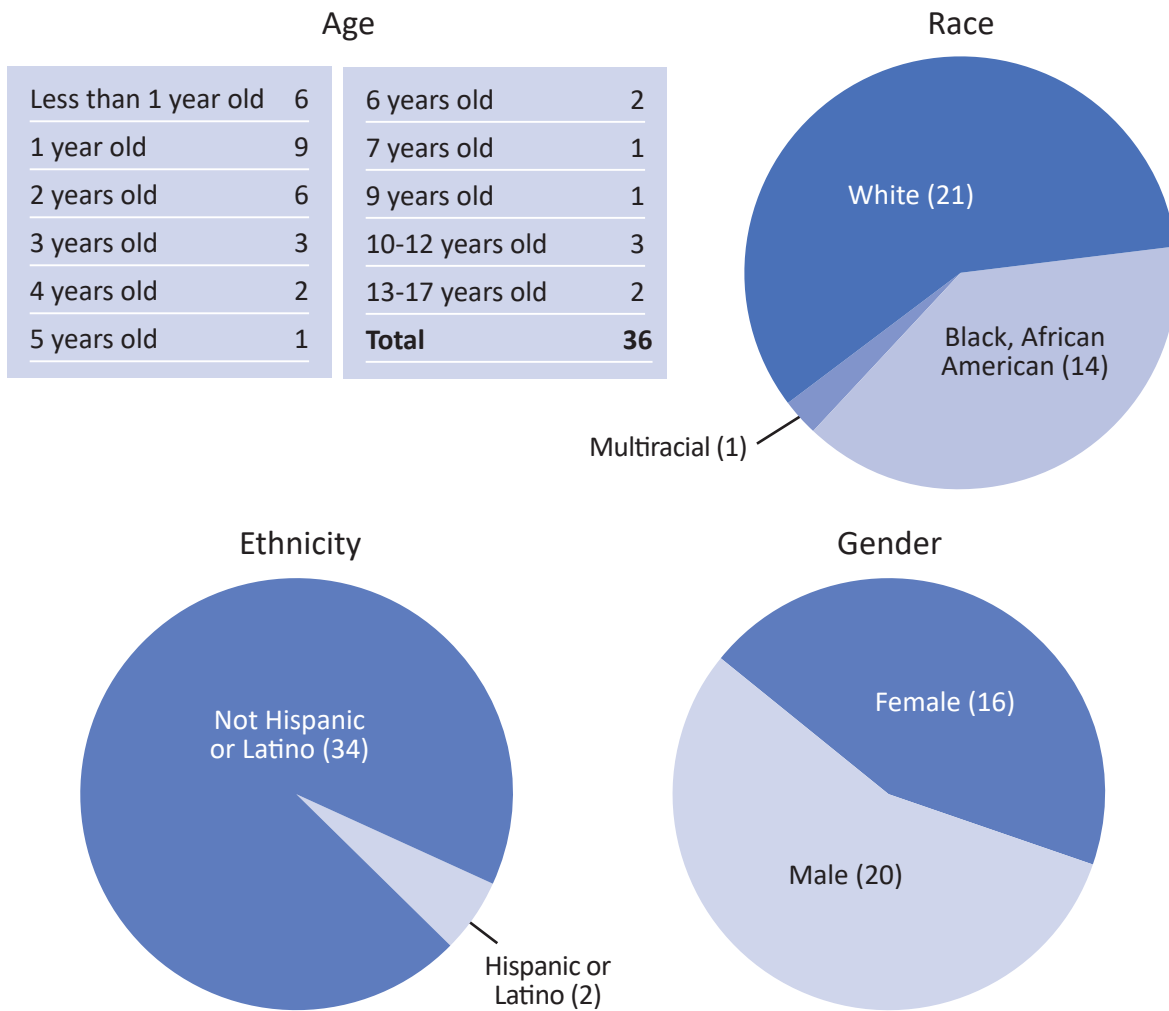
**Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim:** 0

**Perpetrator:** Mother

**Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments:** 0

**Circumstances:** A 1-year-old boy died by drowning due to lack of supervision. He lived with his mother and 5-year-old sibling. On the day of the fatality, the children were home with the mother, and after the mother fed the children breakfast, she went to sleep while the children played. A couple of hours later, the mother was awakened by the older sibling advising that the child was dead. The mother found the child lying on the bathroom floor next to the bathtub, which had water in it. The mother stated she did not know if the bathtub had water in it when she went to sleep. The mother stated she did not know how long she had been asleep, and the children had no supervision during that time.

## Neglect statistics: demographic characteristics of the child



Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Neglect statistics: characteristics of the case

### Primary cause of death

Asphyxia	2	Other medical condition	1
Asthma	1	Pneumonia	2
Cardiovascular	1	Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	6
Drowning	6	Undetermined	2
Fire, burn or electrocution	1	Weapon, including body part	10
Motor vehicle/ other transport	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>
Other infection	1		

### Type of neglect

Exposure to hazards	21
Failure to provide necessities	32
Failure to provide supervision	36
Failure to seek/follow treatment	7

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

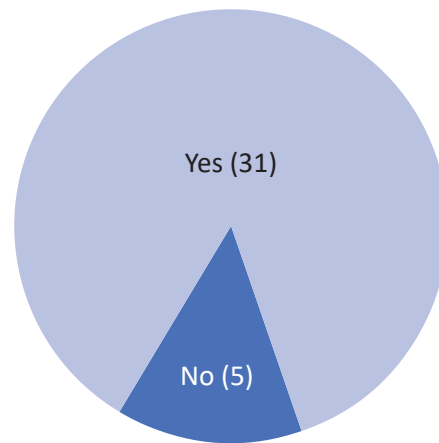
Note: A child might have experienced more than one type of neglect.

## Neglect statistics: characteristics of the household

Location of incident	
Child's home	26
Child's home/farm	1
Child's home/roadway	1
Friend's home	1
Hospital	2
Short-term rental	1
Wooded area/roadway	1
Relative's home	1
Roadway	2

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

Other children in household



Caregiver 1 employment status	
Employed	12
On disability	1
Stay-at-home	4
Unemployed	9
Unknown	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

Caregiver 2 employment status	
Employed	14
Unemployed	3
Unknown	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

Caregiver 1 education level	
Less than high school	1
College	1
Unknown	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

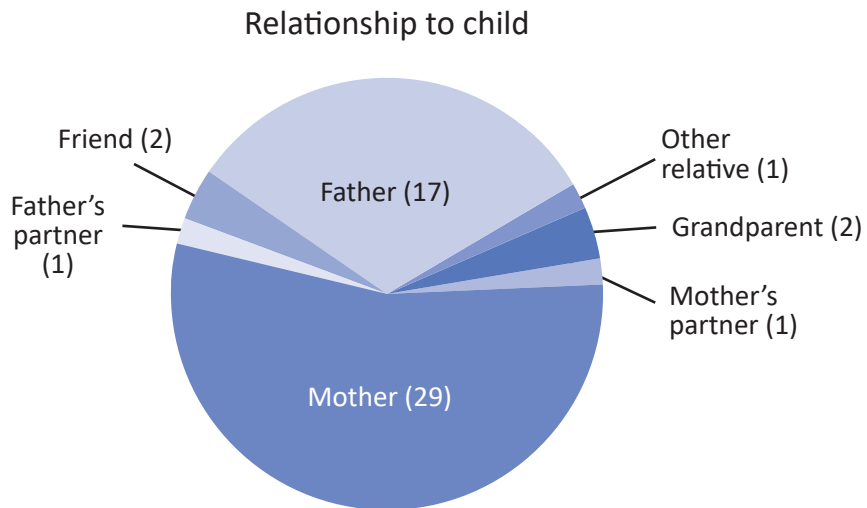
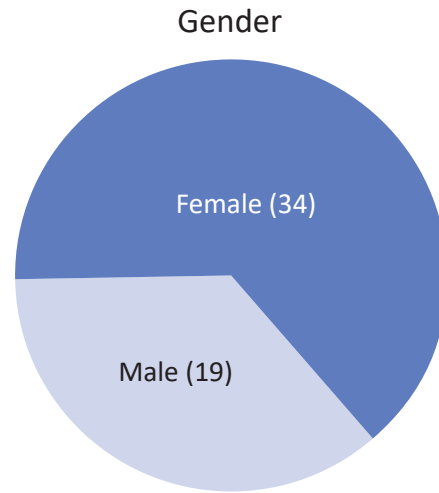
Caregiver 2 education level	
College	1
Unknown	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form



## Neglect statistics: characteristics of the perpetrator

Age	
20-24 years old	8
25-29 years old	22
30-34 years old	5
35-39 years old	9
40-49 years old	8
More than 49 years old	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>



Note: 53 perpetrators total; a child's death might have been caused by more than one perpetrator.

Source: Indiana Child Death Review form

## Neglect statistics: known stress factors impacting child

At least one parent who was a first generation immigrant	2
History of homelessness	3
Delinquent or criminal history	1
History of intimate partner violence (involvement unknown)	3
History of intimate partner violence as victim	1
History of receiving mental health services	2
History of substance use or abuse	2
Prior disability or chronic illness	7
Problems in school	1
Acutely ill in the two weeks before death	4
On medication for mental illness	1
Receiving mental health services	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	8
Issues prevented child from receiving mental health services	2
Residence Overcrowded	4

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

## Neglect statistics: known stress factors impacting caregiver

Caregiver 1		Caregiver 2	
New residence in the past 30 days	2	New residence in the past 30 days	2
Residence overcrowded	4	Residence overcrowded	4
Employment status	9	Employment status	3
Insufficient income	17	Insufficient income	10
Education	1	History of substance abuse	12
Language problem	2	History of child maltreatment as victim	5
History of substance abuse	17	Disability or chronic illness	1
History of child maltreatment as victim	6	History of intimate partner violence as victim	2
Disability or chronic illness	3	History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	10
History of intimate partner violence as victim	6		
History of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	3		

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

