



Media Contacts:

[Ron Green](#) and [Abbey Venable](#)

Mike Braun, Governor
Adam J. Krupp, Director

"Every child in Indiana thrives in a safe, loving, forever home."

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call the Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at 800-800-5556.

DCS releases 2024 child fatality report

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 29, 2025) – The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) investigated 276 child deaths in 2024 and determined 59 were a result of abuse or neglect.

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

According to the report, 18 of the fatalities were due to abuse, and 41 were the result of neglect. The majority (71%) of the fatalities involved a child 3 years old or younger.

Causes of death were taken from state death certificates. Death by weapon, including body part, was the leading cause of death, listed in 20% of cases. Unsafe sleep conditions, drowning and poisoning, including overdose or acute intoxication, were also leading factors.

DCS reviews all child fatalities that meet the following circumstances:

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

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

More information on child abuse and neglect prevention can be found [here](#).

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Indiana Department of Child Services | 302 W Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 | 317-234-KIDS
www.in.gov/DCS | Child Support Bureau Kidsline: (800) 840-8757 | Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline: (800) 800-5556

Mission: We champion Indiana's future by protecting children and strengthening families with compassion and determination.

Vision: Every child in Indiana thrives in a safe, loving, forever home.

Purpose: Ignite hope. Cultivate joy.