

Child Fatality Report Fact Sheet

KEY INFORMATION:

- Our infants and toddlers are most vulnerable
- The report reveals a number of societal issues that are linked to almost every one of these cases
- This pattern of stress factors points to a larger and more widespread concern than DCS can address alone
- We need communities—leaders, organizations and neighbors—to continue pulling together and working hard to address these stress factors to PREVENT child abuse and neglect
- Federal law requires DCS to make every effort to keep the child safely in the home
- DCS is continuously improving our processes and training to keep in line with new policies, statutes, laws and child welfare best practices
- DCS is a key participant in the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
- DCS has increased access to wraparound services via community partners
- DCS continues to collaborate with the Child Fatality Review Team

SFY 2012

- Total number of child abuse and neglect fatalities assessed: 295
- Total number of substantiated fatalities due to child abuse or neglect: 34
- Total number of fatalities due to abuse: 15 (44%)
- Total number of fatalities due to neglect: 19 (56%)
- Total number of cases with prior history: 7 (21%)
- Percentage of abuse victims 1 year or younger: 60%
- Percentage of neglect victims 1 year or younger: 63%

Risk Factors

- Low Income: 49%
- Substance Abuse: 25%
- Domestic Violence: 10%

Patterns

- Biological parent is offender: 68%
- Biological parent's partner: 17%
- Primary cause of abuse fatality is head trauma
- Primary cause of neglect fatality is exposure to hazards
- 177,542 total reports into the hotline in 2012

SFY 2013

- Total number of child abuse and neglect fatalities assessed: 286
- Total number of substantiated fatalities due to child abuse or neglect: 49
- Total number of fatalities due to abuse: 13 (27%)
- Total number of fatalities due to neglect: 36 (73%)
- Total number of cases with prior history: 7 (14%)
- Percentage of abuse victims 1 year or younger: 54%
- Percentage of neglect victims 1 year or younger: 58%

Risk Factors

- Low Income: 41%
- Substance Abuse:
 - 11% abuse
 - 20% neglect
- Domestic Violence:
 - 20% abuse
 - 7% neglect

Patterns

- Biological parent is offender:
 - 47% abuse
 - 61% neglect
- Biological parent's partner or another relative:
 - 48% abuse
 - 8% neglect
- Primary cause of abuse fatality is head trauma
- Primary cause of neglect fatality is failure to provide appropriate supervision
- 187,465 total reports into the hotline in 2013

SFY 2014

- Total number of child abuse and neglect fatalities assessed: 239
- Total number of substantiated fatalities due to child abuse or neglect: 66
- Total number of fatalities due to abuse: 12 (18%)
- Total number of fatalities due to neglect: 54 (82%)
- Total number of cases with prior history: 4 (6%)
- Percentage of abuse victims 1 year or younger: 50%
- Percentage of neglect victims 1 year or younger: 46%

Risk Factors

- Low Income: 61%
- Substance Abuse:
 - 31% abuse
 - 28% neglect
- Domestic Violence:
 - 19% abuse
 - 19% neglect

Patterns

- Biological parent is offender:
 - 63% abuse
 - 77% neglect
- Biological parent's partner or another relative:
 - 31% abuse
 - 14% neglect
- Primary cause of abuse fatality is head trauma
- Primary cause of neglect fatality is failure to provide appropriate supervision
- 198,684 total reports into the hotline in 2014



