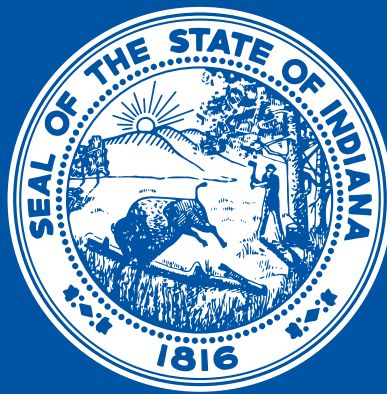


2017 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana



State Fiscal Year 2017
(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

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Preface

This report focuses on child deaths that directly resulted from caregiver maltreatment or neglect during SFY 2017. The Indiana Department of Child Services considers the loss of any child a tragedy and hopes the publication and study of data surrounding these incidents will spark conversation about the needs in Hoosier communities. Many child deaths are preventable, arising from poor judgment, lack of information/resources or limited support systems. We must come together to fill these gaps whenever possible.

This report uses data from the DCS database; the system categorizes fatalities by the major category of death and provides detailed information about cause of death to offer a clearer picture of the types of abuse and neglect that ultimately resulted in the loss of a child.

The Indiana Department of Child Services completes a review of all child fatalities that fit the following circumstances:

- Children under the age of 1: The child's death is sudden, unexpected or unexplained, or there are allegations of abuse or neglect
- Children age 1 or older: The child's death involves allegations of abuse or neglect

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

- Abuse (Indiana Code 31-34-1-2): an act in which a child's physical or mental health is seriously endangered because of injury by the act or omission of the child's parent, guardian or custodian.
- Neglect (Indiana Code 31-34-1-1): an act in which a child's physical or mental condition is seriously impaired or 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.

This report, abridged in the executive summary, illustrates trends in the number of fatalities resulting from abuse and/or neglect and their causes, helping communities better understand the challenges at-risk children and families face. The summary 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 common risks for abuse- and/or neglect-related fatalities. This information aids in the development of prevention, educational and service programs. The data is also used to evaluate, review and modify DCS policy, practice and procedure when 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 county reviews the assessed fatality alleged to be caused by abuse and/or neglect. This team makes a determination of whether the child's fatality was a result of abuse or neglect. Subsequent to the local county's recommendation, an independent team of DCS personnel provides a supplementary review of each case.



DCS Annual Child Fatality Report Executive Summary

In SFY 2017, the Indiana Department of Child Services investigated 314 child fatalities. 65 child fatalities were substantiated for abuse or neglect during the fatality review process – an increase from 59 substantiated neglect/abuse child deaths in last year’s report. Of the total fatalities covered by this report, 21 were due to abuse, and 44 were due to neglect.

In 45 of the 65 fatalities (69%), 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.

Statewide, Lake County recorded the most child deaths (9) caused by abuse or neglect during the time period studied, followed by Marion (7 fatalities) and Clark (4 fatalities) counties.

27 of the fatalities (42%) covered in this report were determined to be accidental; 30 (46%) were declared homicides. The manner of death in seven fatalities (11%) could not be determined. One fatality (2%) was recorded as a death by suicide. 13 of the 65 victims (20%) included in this report had prior substantiated history with DCS.

10 of the deaths (45%) attributed to abuse were caused by head trauma.** Beating/kicking was involved in three deaths (14%).

Drowning was the most common cause of death in neglect-related fatalities (10 cases, 23%). Asphyxia (9 cases, 20%) and motor-vehicle accidents (9 cases, 20%) were the next-most common causes of neglect-related deaths. In 10 neglect-related deaths (23 percent), a caregiver’s failure to provide safe sleeping arrangements factored into the child’s death.

Biological parents were deemed responsible most often for the child fatalities detailed in this report. There were 25 perpetrators cited in abuse-related fatalities; of them, 16 (64%) were the victim’s biological parents. There were 54 perpetrators cited in neglect-related fatalities; of them, 46 (85 percent) were biological parents.

White children made up the majority of the victims (48, 74%) who died by abuse or neglect in the state fiscal year.

In some cases, caregiver stressors were determined to play a role in the death of a child. Insufficient income and substance abuse were the most commonly cited issues.

** 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.*



Fatalities Due to Abuse

- A 2-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-force injuries. While Mother was at work, she left the child in the care of her live-in boyfriend. When Mother returned from work, she could not find the child and questioned the live-in boyfriend about the child's whereabouts. The live-in boyfriend told Mother that the maternal grandmother had picked up the child. When Mother reached out to the maternal grandmother regarding the child, the maternal grandmother denied having picked up the child earlier that day. Mother questioned the live-in boyfriend, and he became angry and aggressive. Law enforcement was contacted, and the mother's live-in boyfriend admitted he had gotten on top of the child and hit the child in the head multiple times with his hand. The mother's live-in boyfriend stated he then consumed about six beers, panicked and buried the child's body in his brother's backyard. The live-in boyfriend was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 50 years. DCS substantiated against the live-in boyfriend for abusive head trauma; bone fracture; bruises/cuts/welts; and death due to physical abuse.
- A 4-year-old child died as a result of complications of anoxic brain injury due to ligature strangulation. In 2014, the child was found unresponsive and taken to the hospital. The child was placed on life support at that time and was ultimately placed at Especially Kidz until the child's death in 2017. At the time of the incident, the mother indicated she left the child alone on a pallet on the floor to sleep for 20 or 30 minutes, and when she returned, she noticed the child had a scarf around the child's neck. Mother indicated this scarf was near the child when she left the child on the floor. Following a similar incident later in 2014, when the child's infant sibling was found unresponsive and later died under similar circumstances, the mother admitted to law enforcement she was angry at the child's father for leaving her alone with the two children, and she used a scarf to strangle the child. Mother was charged with battery and aggravated battery in 2014 and was convicted. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the injuries to this child. DCS substantiated against the mother for asphyxiation/suffocation and death due to physical abuse. (The sibling's death was recorded in the 2015 child fatality report.)
- A 7-month-old child died as a result of blunt-force trauma to the head. The child resided at home with the child's mother, grandmother and sibling. Mother stated she placed the child in bed, and the next morning, when she went to get the child, there appeared to be vomit on the mattress. Mother stated she attempted to clear the child's mouth with her finger. She could not provide an explanation for the child's injuries. The mother's boyfriend was at the home the day of the child's injuries but denied checking on the child that morning prior to mother finding the child unresponsive. Several months after the child's passing, the mother's boyfriend admitted he was caring for the child while Mother dropped Grandmother off at work. During this time, he stated he tripped and fell on the child's head with his entire body weight. He stated the child cried and then stopped crying, and he placed the child into a Pack 'n Play before leaving to shower. At a later interview, his story changed, and he indicated he dropped the child down the stairs. At a third and final interview, he stated he threw/dropped the child into the Pack 'n Play from several feet up. The mother's boyfriend was charged with neglect of a dependent. DCS substantiated against the mother's boyfriend for abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-force traumas to the head and torso. The child was heard moaning in the child's playpen by a sibling. Mother picked up the child and found the child was not moving. The child was taken to the ER, where the child later passed away. The child's autopsy



Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

revealed multiple injuries, to wit: a skull fracture; subdural injury; blunt-force trauma to the intestine; trauma to the spine; injuries to the stomach and small bowel; a lacerated lip; and bruising. No admission was given by the alleged perpetrator, the mother's boyfriend, but based on when doctors predict the child was injured, the child was being cared for by the mother's boyfriend. The mother's boyfriend was charged with murder, aggravated battery and battery. His jury trial was scheduled for September 2018 at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against the mother and her boyfriend for environment life and health endangering. Death due to physical abuse; internal injury; bruises/cuts/welts; bone fracture; and abusive head trauma were substantiated against the mother's boyfriend.

- A 3-month-old child died from a contact gunshot wound to the face. The child resided with the mother, and the maternal uncle had been staying with the family as well. Mother was asleep, but indicated she was awakened by the sound of a gunshot. When she went into the other room, she saw the child lying on the living room floor, and the child had been shot with a .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun. The investigation showed the gun was approximately 3 to 4 feet away from the child on the side of the couch where the maternal uncle had been. The trajectory of the bullet indicates the child could not have fired the shot. The maternal uncle denied having any knowledge about the incident, indicating he had used too much marijuana and fallen sleep. His hands tested positive for gunshot residue. The maternal uncle was charged with murder, neglect of a dependent resulting in death and reckless homicide. He pleaded guilty to reckless homicide and was sentenced to five years in prison. DCS substantiated the following against the maternal uncle: environment life and health endangering, gunshot wounds and death due to physical abuse.
- A 3-month-old child died as a result of complications of external and communicating hydrocephalus with contributing factors listed as prenatal choroid plexus cysts, acute viral infection and acute polydrug intoxication. The day of the child's death, the mother was at work when the father called her to tell her the child vomited and then went limp. When the mother last saw the child alive, the child was sleeping. Father drove the child to the local hospital and Riley Children's Hospital indicated the child's injuries were concerning for non-accidental trauma. The child presented with multiple retinal hemorrhages, bilateral subdural hemorrhages and a subarachnoid hemorrhage. The physician indicated this could have been the result of one or more incidents of inflicted trauma. The physician reviewed all records and observed the child, determining that no single underlying medical condition could account for all of the child's injuries. The physician indicated the child's autopsy report findings are consistent with the abusive head trauma diagnosis and that the medical history suggests the child did not have underlying hydrocephalus but rather sustained abusive head trauma. No charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against the mother and father for abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.
- A 9-year-old child died as a result of a close-range gunshot wound to the head. Father had his gun out at the family home and was teaching his children about gun safety. In his attempt to do so, he took the bullets out of his gun and pointed the gun at the child's two siblings. Father reloaded the gun, pointed it at the child and shot the child. Father indicated he had not remembered reloading the gun, and when he pointed it at the child, he thought the gun was empty. Father was charged with neglect of a dependent; reckless homicide; battery by a person at least 18; and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. DCS substantiated against the father for environment life and health endangering, gunshot wounds and death due to physical abuse.



Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

- A 5-year-old child died as a result of head injury. The child resided with the father, stepmother and stepsiblings. Father stated while he was home with the child, the child fell down six stairs onto the hardwood floor, and the child was breathing but limp. Father indicated he contacted 911, and the child was taken to the hospital, where the child was diagnosed with a severe traumatic brain injury, bruises and high concern for abusive injury. The medical records indicate the explanation for the injuries, a fall down the stairs, was not consistent with the injuries present. Additionally, the child had a history of repeated injuries since the child had begun living with the father. Records indicate when the child resided with the grandparents, there was no concern for significant bruising or other injuries to the child. However, when the child began living with the father, the child was reported as a “clumsy” child who tends to “bruise easily” when the child presented with injury. There were no charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against the father for abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of multiple injuries from child abuse. The child was under father’s care while mother was at work. Father stated he picked up the child from the child’s Pack ‘n Play, and the child’s head fell back. Father contacted Mother and then emergency services. At the hospital, the child was found to have an acute subdural hematoma causing a midline shift and ventricular effacement. The child also presented with diffuse retinal hemorrhage in the right eye, and physicians determined the child’s injuries were the result of abuse. Both the mother and father stated prior to the mother leaving for work, the child was acting normal, and physicians determined that based on the timeline and the injuries sustained, the injuries had to occur while the child was in the sole care of the father. Father stated he might have thrown the child up in the air, in play, a little too hard but denied intentionally inflicting the injuries on the child. Father was arrested and charged with aggravated battery and battery resulting in death of a child. DCS substantiated against the father for abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of complications of closed blunt-force injuries of the head. The child presented to Riley Children’s Hospital with a severe brain injury. The child was in placement with the grandparents, and at the time of the fatal incident, was at a babysitter’s home. The babysitter indicated the child was playing when the babysitter arrived at the home and was then placed down for a nap. The babysitter indicated that, when she checked on the child, she found the child gasping for air. The Riley Child Protection Team indicated the injuries were the result of inflicted trauma, and based on the caregiver recount of the day, the babysitter was the only adult present at the time of the injuries. The babysitter was charged with aggravated battery resulting in the death of the child. The babysitter entered into a plea deal whereby she pleaded guilty to aggravated battery and was sentenced to 30 years in a Department of Correction facility. DCS substantiated against the babysitter for abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.
- An 11-month-old child died from complications of blunt-force trauma to the head. The child was found unresponsive while in the care of the mother’s boyfriend. The child passed away in the hospital. The child had previously been seen by a doctor the day prior for constipation. The doctor was concerned the child had a bruise on the left jaw line. Surviving siblings were interviewed, and one disclosed possibly witnessing the deceased child being thrown into and onto objects by both caregivers. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in



Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

death, and a jury trial was scheduled for January 2019 at the time of this report. The mother's boyfriend was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and aggravated battery. DCS substantiated against the mother and boyfriend for abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.

- A 5-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to smothering and acute sertraline, clonidine and risperidone intoxication. The child resided at home with the mother and the mother's live-in boyfriend. The child was medically fragile and required constant parental supervision and help with medical necessities. On the day of the child's death, the mother went into the child's room to find the child slumped over the railing of the top bunk of the bed with vomit on the child. During the investigation into the child's death, numerous text messages and computer searches between the mother and her live-in boyfriend suggested intentional foul play had occurred throughout the life and death of the child. Searches were conducted regarding suffocation of a child as well as medication overdoses. The mother and the live-in boyfriend were charged with conspiracy to commit murder resulting in death, neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. The live-in boyfriend was found guilty of neglect and conspiracy to commit murder and sentenced to 39 years in prison. Mother was found guilty of neglect of a dependent resulting in death and was sentenced to 36 years in prison. DCS substantiated against the mother for asphyxiation/suffocation, poisoning and death due to physical abuse. DCS substantiated against the live-in boyfriend for asphyxiation/suffocation and death due to physical abuse.
- A 5-year-old child died as a result of complications of mechanical asphyxia by ligature strangulation as well as smothering and homicide. The child resided at home with the parents and several siblings. Father was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and it was noted that his status was exacerbated by the fact that the mother was leaving him as the sole caregiver for all of the children. A plan to limit the father's time alone caring for the children was devised whereby the children would go to after-school programs until dinnertime and then return home to the father for dinner an hour prior to the mother's return from work. Parents were not maintaining the after-school care plan with the child on a half day of school. On this day, the father brought the child home and strangled the child both by sitting on the child's chest and by wrapping a cord around the child's throat. Father then contacted law enforcement and indicated he killed his child. Father was charged with murder and domestic battery. DCS substantiated against the father for asphyxiation/suffocation and death due to physical abuse. DCS substantiated against the mother for lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering, and death due to neglect.
- A 7-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to smothering. The child and the siblings resided with relatives when the mother broke into the home and kidnapped the child and a sibling. An Amber Alert was issued for the children, and later in the same day, the mother arrived at a local police department, stopped an officer and told the officer she killed her children. The child and the sibling were found by law enforcement, deceased in the backseat of the mother's car. Mother was charged with murder. Mother pleaded guilty to murder by mental illness or defect. Her earliest release date from DOC is 3/28/2162. DCS substantiated against the mother for environment life and health endangering, asphyxiation/suffocation, and death due to physical abuse.



Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

- A 6-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to smothering. The child and the siblings resided with relatives when mother broke into the home and kidnapped the child and the sibling. An Amber Alert was issued for the children, and later the same day, the mother arrived at a local police department, stopped an officer and told the officer she killed her children. The child and the sibling were found by law enforcement, deceased in the backseat of the mother's car. Mother was charged with murder. Mother pleaded guilty to murder by mental illness or defect. Her earliest release date from DOC is 3/28/2162. DCS substantiated against the mother for environment life and health endangering, asphyxiation/suffocation, and death due to physical abuse.
- A 3-month-old child died as a result of complications of closed blunt-force injuries to the head. At the time of the fatal incident, the child was in the care and supervision of the father. Mother indicated earlier in the day when father was placing the child in a swing, the father bumped the child's head. Father denied any injury to the child or any observable behavioral changes at that time and stated it was not until several hours later that the child became unresponsive. The child presented at the hospital with a brain bleed, significant brain swelling, a midline shift and a fracture to the left occipital bone. Physicians indicated father's explanation of the injuries was not consistent with the medical trauma the child was experiencing. Father later admitted to shaking the child after the father became frustrated with the child when the child woke from a nap, fussy. Father was charged with aggravated battery, neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. He was awaiting trial in September 2018 when this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against the father for inappropriate discipline, abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.
- A 2-year-old child died as a result of blunt-force trauma to the abdomen. The child was found in the crib, unresponsive, by the father. The child had been in the care of the father for three days. Three weeks before the child's death, a police report was filed after the child appeared malnourished and with several bruises after coming back from the father's house; however, DCS was never contacted to investigate these concerns. Father had a history of domestic violence, and his girlfriend admitted to his being controlling and insisting he put the children to bed each night. Father was charged with murder and involuntary manslaughter. His jury trial was scheduled for January 2019 at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated death due to physical abuse and internal injuries against the father.
- A 7-year-old child died as a result of stab wounds to the neck. The child and a sibling were in their rooms when Mother brought them together in the same room and stabbed them. She then proceeded to attempt suicide by stabbing herself in the neck and overdosing on Nyquil. When she determined she was unable to commit suicide, she contacted law enforcement. The father was asleep in the basement of the family home. The day prior to the incident, the father told the mother he wanted a divorce. Mother admitted to stabbing the children so the father could not take the children from her. She pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 120 years in a DOC facility. DCS substantiated against the mother for wounds/punctures/bites and death due to physical abuse.
- A 3-year-old child died as a result of stab wounds to the neck. The child and a sibling were in their rooms when Mother brought them together in the same room and stabbed them. She then proceeded to attempt suicide by stabbing herself in the neck and overdosing on Nyquil. When she determined she was unable to commit suicide, she contacted law enforcement. The father was asleep



Fatalities Due to Abuse (Cont'd)

in the basement of the family home. The day prior to the incident, the father told the mother he wanted a divorce. Mother admitted to stabbing the children so the father could not take the children from her. She pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 120 years in a DOC facility. DCS substantiated against the mother for wounds/punctures/bites and death due to physical abuse.

- A 10-month-old child died as a result of cerebral edema due to subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhages caused by blunt-force trauma. The child was in the care of the mother's live-in boyfriend while the mother was at work. The mother's boyfriend brought the child into the hospital, unresponsive. The mother's boyfriend told hospital staff and law enforcement that he had fallen down the stairs with the child in a car seat after missing a step when leaving the family's apartment. The boyfriend's story was inconsistent with the child's injuries and continued to change. The child was determined to have multiple injuries or severity of injuries not adequately explained by the boyfriend's story including the following: several bruises on the child's buttocks; bruising under the child's head; a right temporal subarachnoid hemorrhage; a right subdural hemorrhage; a right parafalcine hemorrhage; cerebral edema; retinal hemorrhages; a bilateral subarachnoid hemorrhage; a right subdural hemorrhage; hemorrhage of the small bowel mesentery and a hemorrhage to the surface of the left posterior 11th rib. A pediatrician indicated the extensive injuries were not compatible with the boyfriend's story. Boyfriend was charged with murder and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. A jury trial was scheduled for April 30, 2019, at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against the mother's live-in boyfriend for internal injury, abusive head trauma and death due to physical abuse.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of multiple injuries caused by child abuse. The child resided with the child's mother and father. Mother and Father were aware the child had been ill and acting differently for several days. Father informed Mother if she took the child to the doctor, DCS would drug screen her and remove the child from their home. After the child was ill for several days, Mother took the child to the emergency department; after a chest x-ray, the child returned home without concern. That night, the child became unresponsive while in the care of Father. The child was taken to the hospital and placed on a ventilator. The child was determined to have a healing fracture to the left first rib on the posterior side, a scalp hematoma and two linear non-displaced fractures to the left posterior that extended to the base of the skull. Medical professionals were unable to determine if the injuries were from one impact or multiple but determined the injuries were indicative of non-accidental inflicted trauma. Father pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in death and was sentenced to 30 years. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and neglect of a dependent placing a dependent in a situation that endangers. Her trial was pending at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against Father for abusive head trauma, inappropriate discipline and death due to physical abuse.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of asphyxiation due to suffocation complicated by blunt-force trauma to the head. Foster Mother stated the child was sleeping when she left the child with a relative so she and her live-in boyfriend could run errands. Foster Mother stated when they returned home, the child was deceased. During the interviews with the foster parents, the family case manager observed Foster Father to be impatient with the child's siblings, yelling and cursing at them. At the child's autopsy, the child showed numerous petechial hemorrhages from



Fatalities Due to Abuse *(Cont'd)*

blunt-force trauma to the head, a subgaleal hemorrhage and subgaleal hematoma. Foster Mother later admitted she placed her hand over the child's mouth to get the child to stop crying. Foster Mother admitted she had a headache and was overwhelmed because she did not have help with the children. Foster Mother admitted that when the child stopped breathing, she rolled the child over and thought to call 911 but did not do so. Foster Mother was charged with the following: murder; aggravated battery; neglect of a dependent resulting in death; battery resulting in death to a person less than 14 years old; and battery resulting in serious bodily injury to a person less than 14 years old. At the time this report was compiled, a jury trial was pending. DCS substantiated against Foster Mother for abusive head trauma; asphyxiation/suffocation; internal injury; death due to physical abuse; medical neglect; and environment life and health endangering. DCS substantiated against the live-in boyfriend for environment life and health endangering.



Fatalities Due to Neglect

- A 6-month-old child died as a result of asphyxiation due to drowning. The child was residing in a camper with the child's mother, father and sibling while their home was being built. The camper did not have a bathtub so Mother used a tote to bathe the child. Mother stated she placed the child in an infant bath seat inside the tote and had the water level in the tote at the child's waist. Mother left the child in the tote and walked to another part of the camper to get a diaper. When Mother returned, the child was choking and gasping for air. The child was taken to the hospital and died during surgery to remove blood clots in the child's lungs. There were no charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.
- A 2-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-force impacts to the head and face. When law enforcement responded to the emergency call, the child had severe bruising to the head, a cut across the forehead and a fractured arm that was still healing. Mother informed law enforcement the child had fallen off of a chair approximately two months before the child's death. Mother stated that on the date of the fatality, she was cooking while the child was playing with a sibling. Mother stated the child was jumping up and down and suddenly collapsed. An autopsy revealed a remote healing fracture of the right humerus and contusions of the head. Mother could not provide any additional explanation for these injuries. No charges had been filed as a result of this fatality at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against the mother for medical neglect, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of positional asphyxia after the car seat the child was sleeping in fell from a coffee table onto the floor, and the child was left there. The child was at home with Father at the time of death, as Mother had recently left for work. Father fell asleep while watching a movie with the child and the child's sibling. At the time Father fell asleep, the child was sitting in the car seat on top of the coffee table located near Father. When Father awoke approximately an hour later, he found the child in the car seat, facedown on the floor. The child was taken to the hospital, unresponsive. Father was given a breath test several hours after arriving at the hospital; at that time, his blood-alcohol content was .083 percent, above the .08 percent threshold for legal intoxication. Father admitted to drinking that day after work and stated he, the mother and the children went to the county fair between his returning home from work and Mother leaving for work. Father denied any alcohol after he returned home from work. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother and Father for lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) following a history of unsafe sleep practices. The night prior to the child's death, Mother left the child with a babysitter and went out with friends to a bar. Mother indicated she was drinking at the home before she left for the bar at 1 a.m. and drank alcohol until she left the bar at 3 a.m. to return home. Mother admitted to investigators she was drunk and slept with the child in her bed while she was intoxicated. She submitted to a random drug screen that tested positive for cocaine, and when questioned about it, she said she could not recall whether or not she had used cocaine the night of the child's death. At the time this report was compiled, a warrant was outstanding for Mother on charges of neglect of a dependent. DCS substantiated against Mother for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

- A 1-year-old child died as a result of respiratory failure, anoxic brain injury and drowning. Mother was giving the child's sibling a bath with the child in the room. Mother stated she turned away for several minutes to obtain a towel for the bathing child, and when she returned, she found the 1-year-old facedown in the bathtub. Medical evidence did not coincide with the amount of time Mother alleged the child was underwater. Mother later admitted to leaving the bathroom and moving about the home for as long as six minutes, searching for a towel. The child remained on life support for 10 months prior to passing away. Mother pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in serious injury and was sentenced to nine years. DCS substantiated against Mother for lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 2-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. The day of the child's death, the family was at a family member's home for a party. The father brought the child to the party and spent some time entertaining the child outside. Mother was inside, cooking dinner, when Father left the child in the front yard, playing. About 10 to 15 minutes later, Mother returned to check on the child, and the child could not be found. Mother indicated the child had been "in and out" and, when asked who was watching the child, indicated she had seen the child playing alone in the front yard and then gone back to cooking. The child was familiar with the family member's home, as the child had been there to swim in the pool the previous week, and the child had been observed to be able to move the ladder to enter the pool. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother and Father for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.
- A 4-year-old child died as a result of asphyxiation after becoming trapped in a grain cart while it was being emptied. The child and the child's sibling were playing in a grain trailer at Father's family farm. Father indicated there was corn in the trailer, and the children were playing on top of it. The children were in the cart when it started to empty, and Father could not reach the child to save the child from sinking. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Father for lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 9-year-old child died as a result of severe malnutrition. The child resided with four unrelated adult caregivers. When the child was found on the day of the child's death, the child weighed 15.22 pounds and was severely malnourished. The child's body was significantly emaciated, thin and frail, with the bones in the child's limbs and spine protruding through the skin. Caregivers denied the child being underfed and stated the child ate daily. All caregivers, as well as the child, tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamines at the time of the child's death. The caregivers were charged with neglect of a dependent. Three of the four caregivers were found guilty while the final caregiver's trial was pending at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against all caregivers for malnutrition, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 2-year-old child died as a result of severe dehydration, complicating short gut syndrome with jejunostomy-tube dependence due to small-bowel resection with complications caused by congenital intestinal malrotation with mid-gut volvulus. The child had been taken to the hospital and signed out by mother against medical advice. Prior to this hospital admission, the child had been previously diagnosed with mid-gut volvulus and short gut syndrome. Multiple doctors contacted mother to bring the child back for evaluation and admission, but Mother refused. Mother said she believed she could treat the child's dehydration herself. The child passed away within an hour of



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

leaving the hospital. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent. A jury trial had not yet been set at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against the mother for death due to neglect and medical neglect.

- A 1-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. The child resided with the child's mother and father. On the day of the child's death, Mother and Father were packing up their house and car, as they were moving. The child was outside with Father at the car, playing in the family's van. Mother went outside to ask the father for help. After helping Mother, the father returned to find the child was no longer in the van. The child was found in the family's pool. The child used stairs to enter the pool. The stairs were typically lifted up, but Father had taken them down to clean the pool for the new owners. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Father for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.
- A 1-month-old child died as a result of traumatic positional asphyxia after sleeping in bed between the parents. The parents woke in the morning to find the child unresponsive in their bed. Mother submitted to a random drug screen the day of the death; the screen returned positive results for benzodiazepines, methamphetamine, amphetamines and opiates. Father admitted to recently using methamphetamine; his random drug screen tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine. Evidence of drug use (loose pills scattered, several syringes, a metal spoon with white residue and foil next to a straw) was found in the home. The child's blood tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamines, and the child appeared dehydrated at time of death. Parents were charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury. Father pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20 years. Mother pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 11 years. DCS substantiated against Mother and Father for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 12-year-old child died as a result of complication of nephrotic syndrome with penile infection due to neglect. Father found the child unresponsive, contacted 911 and attempted CPR. The day of the child's death, the child was swollen and had previously had a headache. The child had experienced frequent urination in the days prior. Mother indicated the child had been diagnosed with nephrotic syndrome about three years ago but said the child's kidneys were progressing, so the child was discharged from treatment. As part of the child's treatment, the parents were to test the child's urine daily and watch for swelling of the child. Mother indicated she checked the child's urine daily. When law enforcement asked to see the remaining test strips and medication for the child, it took Mother about 10 minutes to locate the strips. The child's teacher indicated she had observed the child looking swollen several weeks before, but Mother returned the child to school with a note indicating it was due to an allergic reaction. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death, and neglect of a dependent – dependent put in situation endangering dependent's life/health. DCS substantiated against Mother and Father for medical neglect and death due to neglect.
- A 3-month-old child died as a result of complications of severe malnutrition. The child resided with the child's mother, father, siblings and maternal uncle. Mother and Father left the child in the care of the uncle so they could obtain food for the family from a local food pantry. The food pantry was closed, so the mother and father walked to the paternal grandmother's workplace so she could take them to the grocery store when she got out of work three and a half hours later. When the mother and father arrived home, the child was limp in the child's Pack 'n Play. Uncle admitted that over the



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

six hours he was watching the child and the child's siblings, he did not feed or change the child and adjusted the child only once when he found the child in a "weird position." The child was determined to be deceased for approximately 12 hours prior to arriving at the hospital and had no food in the stomach at the time of autopsy. The child was determined to have no body fat and was below the 5th percentile for weight. The child had a partial thickness burn on the genitals and buttocks, either from submersion or from being left in a soiled diaper for too long. Both parents acknowledged the child might have suffered a seizure a month prior to death due to having a high fever, but neither parent sought medical treatment for the child at that time. Mother later admitted she could not remember if she had any contact with the child in the four days preceding the child's death. Mother and father were charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and neglect of a dependent. Father pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 40 years. Mother pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 40 years. DCS substantiated against the parents for poor hygiene, medical neglect, malnutrition, environment life and health endangering, burns/scalds and death due to neglect. DCS substantiated against Maternal Uncle for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.

- A 2-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to smothering. While the child's mother was at work, the child was left in the care of the mother's live-in boyfriend and juvenile half sibling. Mother indicated that when she returned home, she observed the child to be unresponsive and began CPR. When law enforcement responded, they were informed the mother's live-in boyfriend was bathing the child and stepped away to get pajamas while the juvenile half sibling finished the child's bath, put a towel around the child and removed the child from the bathtub. The child's mother returned home shortly after and found the child "acting strange." Mother's live-in boyfriend admitted that for 15 minutes of the child ailing, he did not do anything to care for the child or obtain medical care, despite knowing something was wrong with the child. Later, the child's juvenile half-sibling admitted to law enforcement that he suffocated the child. The mother's live-in boyfriend then admitted Mother requested they "get their stories straight" prior to law enforcement interviews and added he had not been bathing the child the night of the incident; the child's juvenile half sibling had been solely responsible for the child's bath that night. Charges against the juvenile were being sought at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against the mother's live-in boyfriend for lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 9-month-old child died as a result of methadone toxicity. The child lived with the father and paternal grandmother but was typically cared for by the grandmother. The child was placed down for a nap by Grandmother and was later found unresponsive by Grandmother. Grandmother indicated the child was given apple juice diluted with water and a bottle of Enfamil formula prior to being found deceased. At autopsy, the child presented with 178.61ng/mL of methadone in his system. Grandmother was prescribed methadone, which she mixes with water or juice. Grandmother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death and was scheduled for trial at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against Grandmother for lack of supervision, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of asphyxiation secondary to overlay. Mother placed the child to sleep with her in an adult-sized bed. Mother placed the child on the child's back and pulled the sheets up to the child's waist. When mother awoke the next day, the child was unresponsive. Moth-



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

er admitted she had consumed alcohol prior to going to sleep with the child. When law enforcement spoke with Mother 9.5 hours after her having gone to sleep, she still smelled of alcohol. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.

- A 9-month-old child died as a result of blunt-force head injuries after being involved in a single-vehicle accident with the child's mother. Mother told first responders she reached toward the back seat to console the child as she was driving, began to drift out of her lane and overcorrected the vehicle. Accident reconstruction showed that neither the shoulder buckle nor the five-point harness safety system was fastened on the child nor was the child buckled into the child restraint system. The reconstruction showed that despite the child being ejected from the vehicle, there were no tears, rips, breaks, cracks or evidence to suggest the child's restraint system had failed. The accident reconstruction demonstrated that had the child been properly restrained at the time of the accident, the child would have survived. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 1-month-old child died as a result of Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) after bed-sharing with the mother in an adult bed. When the family case manager met with the mother, the mother could not keep her eyes open, and her head was dropping. Mother said that on the morning of the fatality, she fell asleep with the child on her bed for about 20 minutes. Mother indicated there was a pillow near the child's head and one near the child's feet. Mother indicated when she woke from her nap, she tried to pick the child up to place the child in the bassinet, but the child did not move or react. Mother indicated she is prescribed Subutex. Mother's blood was drawn at the hospital; she tested positive for analgesics, buprenorphine, and norbupreophone. Several professionals involved in this investigation observed mother "pass out" while directly engaging with her. Individuals indicated Mother has a history of doing this while caring for the children. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 4-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. The day of the fatality, Father took eight of his 10 children to the beach to go swimming. Father indicated that all of the children who did not know how to swim were wearing life jackets, including the decedent. Father stated that later in the day, he noticed the child had taken the life jacket off to do flips in the water with some of the other children. Father indicated that at the end of the day, he began to gather all of the children together and realized that the child was missing. The child was found in the water after people at the beach made a human chain to search for the child. The child was found and was taken to the hospital. There were no criminal charges as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Father for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.
- A 2-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-traumas after being involved in a car accident in Father's car. Father was traveling 67 miles per hour five seconds before impact and 57 miles per hour when the car in which he was driving himself and the children in hit a pickup truck head on. The child who died was sitting between the father and a sibling in the front seat of the vehicle without a car seat at the time of the accident. Father was charged with neglect of a dependent, resulting in bodily injury and is serving one year on house arrest followed by probation. DCS substantiated against Father for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

- A 2-year-old child died as a result of blunt-force trauma to the head after being struck by a truck. The day of the fatality, the child's mother opened the front door and placed a baby gate in the entryway to allow air flow while maintaining the child in the home. Mother was cooking in the kitchen while the child ran back and forth through the home, yelling. At one point, Mother noticed the child was no longer yelling back and forth and believed the child was in the next room playing. The baby gate had become unsecured, and the child exited the home. Witnesses stated they saw the child outside the home for approximately five minutes when the child walked into the street and then was struck. It was not until after the accident that Mother came out of the home looking for the child. No charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of positional asphyxia after Mother fell asleep while holding the child. The parents were sleeping in their bed, and the child was in a Pack 'n Play near the bed. Mother indicated the child was fussy and crying, so she picked the child up and held the child while they were in bed. Mother stated the next thing she remembered was waking up and finding the child deceased in the bed. Parents indicated drug use several days to a week prior to the child's death. Both tested positive for THC and methamphetamine. The coroner noted the death of a child in this manner is commonly seen when caregivers are using illegal substances. There were no charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against the mother and father for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 6-year-old child died as a result of multiple traumatic blunt-force injuries after a vehicle accident. The child, the child's mother, the mother's boyfriend and the child's siblings were in a vehicle that rolled after a domestic violence incident between the mother and her boyfriend. Mother admitted to drinking alcohol and using marijuana earlier in the day and driving the vehicle the family was in at the time of the accident. At the time, law enforcement provided a blood alcohol test. She tested positive for alcohol at .091 percent, above the legal threshold of .08 percent. Mother and her boyfriend had been in an altercation inside the vehicle while the mother was driving. Mother's boyfriend punched mother in the face, causing her to roll the van. Evidence from the crash indicated the child was not in a car seat at the time of the incident. Mother was charged with the following: neglect of a dependent resulting in death; causing death when operating a vehicle while intoxicated; causing death while operating a motor vehicle; reckless homicide; neglect of a dependent when the defendant places dependent in a situation that endangers the dependent; possession of marijuana and operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. Her case is presently pending. Mother's boyfriend was charged with the following: neglect of a dependent resulting in death; battery resulting in serious bodily injury; neglect of a dependent; operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangering a person less than 18 years old; driving while suspended; possession of marijuana. His case was pending at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against Mother and Mother's Boyfriend for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 3-month-old child died as a result of Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) after co-sleeping with Father in an adult bed. Mother was at work, and Father was caring for the child. Father indicated the child was fussy, so after feeding the child, he laid the child on the adult bed for the night. Father indicated he lay in bed with the child until they both fell asleep. Father was awakened in the morning by the family dog barking and nudging him, and he found the child unresponsive with



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

blood coming from the child's mouth. Father submitted to a random drug screen and tested positive for amphetamine and methamphetamine. Father later admitted he used methamphetamine the day of the child's death and the day prior. He admitted he was the sole caregiver at the time he was under the influence of methamphetamine and indicated it is possible he "blacked out" from his methamphetamine use. There were no criminal charges as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Father for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.

- A 2-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to drowning. Mother indicated she was in the process of cleaning out a house trailer that was located next to her house trailer and that runs parallel to the creek where the child drowned. Mother stated she was in and out of the trailer, and the child was playing outside. She indicated she told the child to "watch it around the creek" and then went back into the trailer. She stated when she returned outside approximately two minutes later, she did not see the child near the creek bank. Mother searched for the child for approximately 10 to 15 minutes before Father returned home from a friend's house, and law enforcement was called. The child was found deceased. There were no criminal charges as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.
- A 5-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-force traumatic injuries following a train and motor-vehicle collision. Child was riding in Mother's car with the mother and sibling when Mother drove onto the train tracks and the vehicle was struck by a train. The railroad crossing was signaling a train at the time of the incident. Mother admitted to law enforcement to using marijuana and suboxone that was not prescribed the day of the incident. Mother tested positive for nordiazepam, THC, amphetamine and methamphetamine. Mother was arrested and charged with the following: neglect of a dependent resulting in death; operating with a schedule I or II controlled substance in blood causing death; and driving while suspended. Mother entered a guilty plea to causing death when operating while intoxicated with Schedule 1 or 2 controlled substances when defendant is at least 21 years of age and driving while suspended. Her earliest possible release is set for 2028. DCS substantiated against Mother for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 4-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-force traumatic injuries following a train and motor-vehicle collision. Child was riding in Mother's car with the mother and sibling when Mother drove onto train tracks and the vehicle was struck by a train. The railroad crossing was signaling a train at the time of the incident. Mother admitted to law enforcement to using marijuana and suboxone that was not prescribed the day of the incident. Mother tested positive for nordiazepam, THC, amphetamine, and methamphetamine. Mother was arrested and charged with the following: neglect of a dependent resulting in death; operating with a schedule I or II controlled substance in blood causing death; and driving while suspended. Mother entered a guilty plea to causing death when operating while intoxicated with Schedule 1 or 2 controlled substances when defendant is at least 21 years of age and driving while suspended. Her earliest possible release is set for 2028. DCS substantiated against Mother for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 9-month-old child died as a result of acute methadone intoxication. The child's primary caregiver the day prior to her death was Father. Based on the information obtained from the coroner and toxicologist, the child would have had to ingest the methadone while at the father's home. It is unknown how the child ingested the medication, whether accidentally or purposefully, and Father



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

was unable to provide any information in regard to how or when the child came into contact with the medication. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against father for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.

- A 5-month-old child died as a result of probable suffocation due to unsafe sleeping conditions. Father indicated he was home with the child, and he lay down with the child and fell asleep. When Father woke up, the child was unresponsive. Father admitted to using marijuana prior to going to sleep that night. At the interview with DCS, Father appeared heavy-eyed and dozed off approximately three times. Father was charged with neglect of a dependent; possession of a syringe; and possession of narcotics. DCS substantiated against Father for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of positional asphyxia after sleeping with Mother. Mother was bed-sharing with her child and the mother's boyfriend. It was reported the child was lying perpendicular to Mother on the bed. When the mother's cousin awoke, she went into mother's room and found the child lying face down into a pillow. The child's mouth was blue. Mother submitted to a random drug screen that returned positive results for THC, cocaine and Xanax, for which mother did not have a prescription. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 10-month-old child died from acute fentanyl intoxication after ingesting a fentanyl patch that had been worn by the child's grandmother. Grandmother stated she was not aware when or where the patch fell off. Grandmother had not been prescribed a fentanyl patch; it was a leftover from her deceased husband who was prescribed the patch while battling cancer. Mother stated the child seemed fussy and tired, so the child was laid down to nap in a playpen. Mother found the child unresponsive; 911 was called, and EMS treated child. No criminal charges were filed. DCS substantiated against Grandmother for death due to neglect, and environment life and health endangering.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of complications of cerebral anoxia due to drowning. The child and the child's siblings were at a family friend's home along with the mother and father. Father was helping the male homeowner paint a room in the home, while Mother and the female homeowner were watching the children. After everyone in the home ate dinner, the father and the male homeowner returned to painting in a separate room, while the mother and the female homeowner cleaned dishes, and the child played in a bedroom. Later, Mother could not locate the child in the home, and when she went to look for the child, she found the child in the pool. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of anoxic brain injury due to drowning. Child was walking outside of the family's apartment with the mother and 3-year-old sibling. At some point, the child and the sibling were out of the sight of the mother and fell into a retention pond near the family's apartment. Surveillance video showed the children walking alone without Mother for four minutes. When Mother found the child, she entered the pond to retrieve the child. Unable to swim, Mother's attempt to get the child out of the pond took approximately six additional minutes. There were no criminal charges filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

- A 3-year-old child died as a result of complications from a near-drowning incident. Mother indicated to DCS the child was autistic and could not talk. Mother and child were home alone while Father worked. After Father arrived home from work, he went to take a shower while Mother was grilling outside. After his shower, he asked Mother where the child was, and neither could find the child. After searching inside, the parents went outside, and when they could not locate the child, they called 911. Law enforcement found the child in a retention pond near the apartment. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against mother for death due to neglect and lack of supervision.
- A 5-year-old child died as a result of gunshot wound to the head. The child's mother carried a firearm in her purse. Mother threw her purse and jacket onto her bed and then put the children in their own beds for a nap. Mother went to sleep in the living room and woke up to a gunshot and a child screaming. Mother saw her 3-year-old child run out of her bedroom and found her 5-year-old child had been shot. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death. Mother pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury and was sentenced to four years in prison in addition to time served and one year of probation. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering, lack of supervision, and death due to neglect.
- A 1-month-old child died as a result of malnutrition and dehydration. Parents stated they found the child unresponsive in the car seat after placing the child in the family's front room while the child was asleep. Investigation revealed the child had been to a primary physician for the first time several days prior to the fatality. At that time, the physician determined the child weighed less than expected for the child's age and did not present with any fat. The physician determined the family was not feeding the child enough and instructed the family to feed the child more ounces of formula more frequently than the family had previously been feeding. The child's follow-up with the physician was the day of the fatality, and the physician indicated that if the child had not gained weight by this appointment, the child would be admitted. The child weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces at birth and 6.3 pounds at death. Parents were charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death. Jury trials were pending at the time this report was compiled. DCS substantiated against Mother and Father for malnutrition, lack of food, shelter, clothing, failure to thrive, environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 14-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-force traumas after being involved in a motor vehicle accident. The child was a passenger in the vehicle that the child's adult nephew was driving. The adult nephew had a blood alcohol concentration of .24 percent when he overcorrected the vehicle and hit the inside of a concrete wall before being struck by another vehicle. The adult nephew was convicted of operating a motor vehicle causing death and was sentenced to an Indiana Department of Correction facility with an expected release date of March 20, 2019. DCS substantiated against Adult Nephew for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 7-year-old child died as a result of traumatic brain injury due to blunt-force trauma to the head resulting from an all-terrain vehicle crash. Child was riding on an ATV with the mother and a family friend. Mother instructed the family friend, who had indicated she did not know how to drive the ATV, to drive, while the child sat between the two women. The family friend had taken a Jell-O shot prior to driving the ATV, and Mother tested positive for methamphetamine. The ATV flipped, and



Fatalities Due to Neglect (Cont'd)

the child was crushed beneath the ATV. Mother was charged with neglect of a dependent and was sentenced to 2.5 years in an Indiana Department of Correction facility. DCS substantiated environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.

- A 2-year-old child died as a result of multiple blunt-force injuries after being backed over by a motor vehicle. Child was playing in the driveway of the family's home when Father returned from work. Father stated he did not see the child until after he had struck the child with his vehicle. Father tested positive for methodone, oxycodone and oxymorphone on the day of the fatal incident. Father admitted to use the day of the incident. He pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent and operating a vehicle with schedule I or II controlled substance. He was incarcerated from June 16, 2017, to July 11, 2017, and was released on home detention. He subsequently served time on probation. DCS substantiated against Father for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 15-year-old child died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head as a suicide. The child, who resided with the grandmother, aunt and a number of other relatives, had a history of depression. On the day of the child's fatality, the child presented to the grandmother with something on an iPad stating, "If you are listening to this, I'm gone," and a blue folder stating, "don't read this folder till it's time." Grandmother stated that bullets fell out of the folder when she picked it up. Grandmother stated she spoke with the child and made the child promise not to self-harm, to which the child replied that if the child wanted to self-harm, the child knew how to do it right. Grandmother stated that while she was preparing dinner, she observed the child outside with the cousins, who were shooting a gun. A short time later, one of the children came into the home and stated the child had shot himself. There were no criminal charges in this case. DCS substantiated against Grandmother for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 7-month-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to unsafe sleep environment. The child was placed to sleep in what the parents labeled a "reverse swaddle," propped up on a Boppy Pillow, and left in the family's main room to sleep while the parents went into their bedroom to sleep. The parents described the reverse swaddle as tightly wrapping a blanket around the child with the opening in the back placed against the floor. The child was swaddled in such a way that the blanket held the child's pacifier into the child's mouth. Mother described the swaddle as tight, indicating the child was "like a mummy." The child was found with marks around the mouth, consistent with the shape of a pacifier. Reenactment showed the "reverse swaddle" covered the child's mouth and nose. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Mother and Father for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 2-month-old child died as a result of Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) with a contributing factor of unsafe sleeping conditions after sleeping on a couch with impaired parents. Both parents admitted to using methamphetamine in the days preceding the death; specifically, the three days prior to the death. Both parents admitted to falling asleep on the couch with the child. Both parents were charged with and convicted of neglect of a dependent. DCS substantiated against both parents for environment life and health endangering and death due to neglect.
- A 1-year-old child died as a result of asphyxia due to underwater submersion (drowning). Father was caring for the child and the 2-year-old sibling before the children were supposed to go to their grandmother's home. Because the children both soiled their diapers, Father decided to give the children a bath. Father indicated he filled the bathtub with roughly 8 inches of water. Father indi-



Fatalities Due to Neglect *(Cont'd)*

cated he sat and watched the children for a minute and then decided to go turn off the television and clean up the kitchen. Father indicated he could hear the children in the bathtub while he was in the living room. Father indicated when he returned, he found the water running and one child floating in the water. No criminal charges were filed as a result of this fatality. DCS substantiated against Father for lack of supervision and death due to neglect.



County of Occurrence for Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

(For SFY 2017)

County Name	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Allen	0	3	3
Bartholomew	0	1	1
Boone	1	0	1
Clark	0	4	4
Clinton	0	1	1
Dearborn	0	2	2
Decatur	0	2	2
Delaware	0	1	1
Elkhart	2	0	2
Hendricks	2	0	2
Jackson	0	1	1
Jasper	1	0	1
Jennings	0	1	1
Knox	1	0	1
Kosciusko	1	0	1
Lake	6	3	9
Marion	0	7	7
Martin	0	1	1
Montgomery	2	1	3
Morgan	1	1	2
Owen	0	2	2
Porter	0	2	2
Posey	0	1	1
Putnam	0	1	1
Randolph	1	0	1
Ripley	0	1	1
Saint Joseph	2	0	2
Sullivan	0	1	1
Switzerland	0	1	1
Tipton	0	1	1
Union	0	1	1
Vanderburgh	0	1	1
Vermillion	0	1	1
Vigo	0	1	1
Warrick	1	0	1
Wayne	0	1	1
Totals	21	44	65



Assessment Statistics of Investigations by Other Agencies—All Children

(For SFY 2017)

	State Fiscal Year 2016		
	Abuse	Neglect	Total
All Child Fatalities	21	44	65
Coroner Cases	21	42	63
Autopsies Performed	21	38	59
Scene investigated by coroner.	4	8	12
Scene investigated by Law Enforcement.	20	42	62
Scene investigated by fire investigator.	0	0	0
Emergency Medical Services was on scene.	11	39	50

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

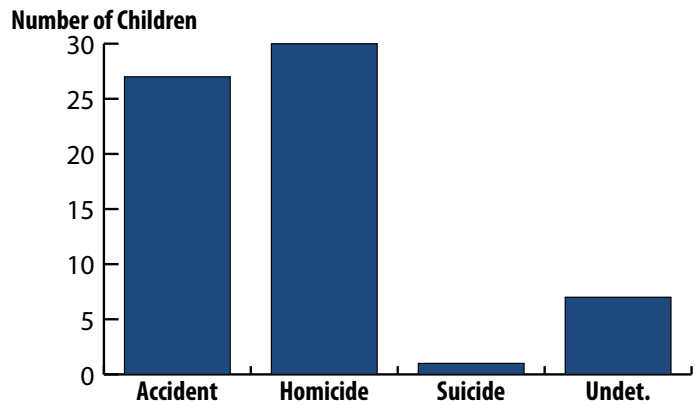


Manner and Major Category of Death—All Children

(For SFY 2017)

Manner of Death

Manner of Death	Count	%
Accident	27	42%
Homicide	30	46%
Suicide	1	2%
Undetermined	7	11%
Total	65	100%



Manner of Death by Age

Age - Manner of Death	Count	%
Under one - Accident	9	14%
Under one - Homicide	9	14%
Under one - Undetermined	6	9%
1 - Accident	5	8%
1 - Homicide	4	6%
2 - Accident	5	8%
2 - Homicide	5	8%
3 - Accident	1	2%
3 - Homicide	1	2%
4 - Accident	3	5%
4 - Homicide	2	3%
5 - Accident	1	2%
5 - Homicide	3	5%
5 - Undetermined	1	2%
6 - Accident	1	2%
6 - Homicide	1	2%
7 - Accident	1	2%
7 - Homicide	1	2%
9 - Homicide	2	3%
10 to 12 - Homicide	1	2%
13 to 17 - Accident	1	2%
13 to 17 - Suicide	1	2%
Total	65	100%

Major Category of Death

Major Category of Death	Count	%
From a medical condition	7	11%
From an external cause of injury	58	89%
Total	65	100%

*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.

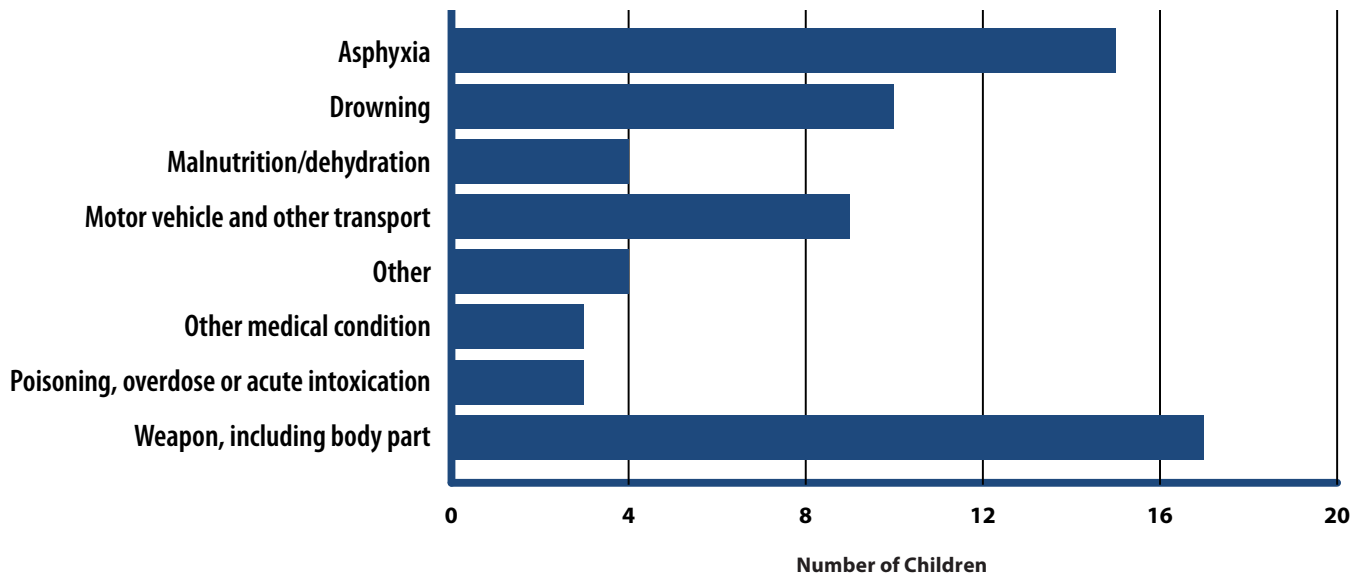


Cause of Death—All Children

(For SFY 2017)

Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	Count	%
Asphyxia	15	23%
Drowning	10	15%
Malnutrition/dehydration	4	6%
Motor vehicle and other transport	9	14%
Other	4	6%
Other medical condition	3	5%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	3	5%
Weapon, including body part	17	26%
Total	65	100%

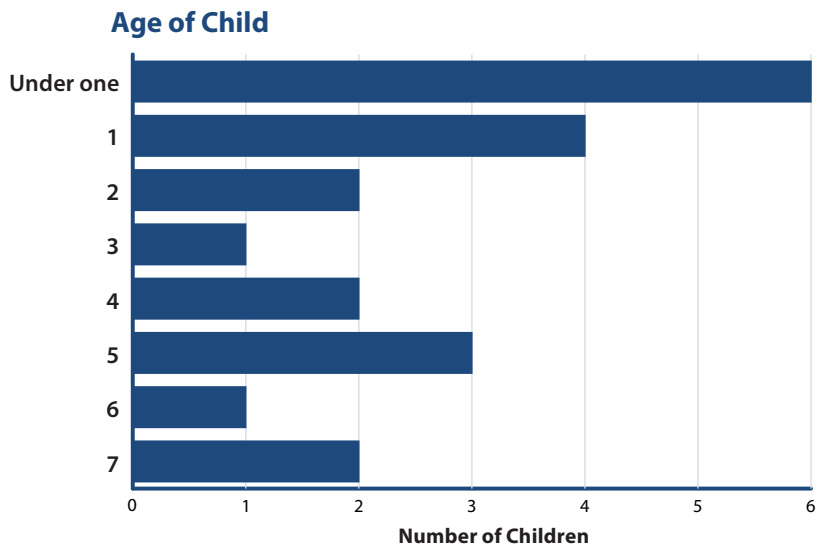


Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

Abuse Statistics—Demographic Characteristics of the Child

(For SFY 2017)

Age of Child	Count	%
Under one	6	29%
1	4	19%
2	2	10%
3	1	5%
4	2	10%
5	3	14%
6	1	5%
7	2	10%
Total	21	100%



Race of Child

Race of Child	Count	%
Multi-racial	1	5%
Black, African-American	5	24%
White	15	71%
Total	21	100%

Ethnicity of Child

Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Not Hispanic or Latino	16	76%
Hispanic or Latino	5	24%
Total	21	100%

Gender of Child

Gender of Child	Count	%
Female	11	52%
Male	10	48%
Total	21	100%



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

Abuse Statistics—Characteristics of the Case

(For SFY 2017)

Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	Count	%
Asphyxia	6	29%
Other medical condition	1	5%
Weapon, including body part	24	100%
Total	24	100%

Detailed Information of Cause of Death

Detailed Information of Cause of Death	Count	%
Firearm	1	5%
Medical Condition	1	5%
Person's body part	8	38%
Sharp instrument	2	10%
Strangulation	1	5%
Suffocation	5	24%
Unknown	3	14%
Total	21	100%

Type of Abuse

Type of Abuse	Count	%
Abusive head trauma	10	45%
Asphyxia and poisoning	1	5%
Asphyxiation	1	5%
Beating/kicking	3	14%
Father smothered and strangled child	1	5%
Gunshot wounds	1	5%
Smothering	2	9%
Stabbing	2	9%
Strangulation	1	5%
Total Deaths	22	100%

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



Abuse Statistics—Characteristics of the Household

(For SFY 2017)

Location of Incident

Location of Incident	Count	%
Child's home	16	76%
Licensed foster care home	1	5%
Relative's home	1	5%
Unlicensed day care home	1	5%
Vehicle	2	10%
Total	21	100%

Other Children in Household

Other Children in Household	Count	%
No	4	19%
Yes	17	81%
Total	21	100%

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

Caregiver Employment Status

Caregiver 1	Count	%
Employed	8	38%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	2	10%
Unemployed	4	19%
Unknown	7	33%
Total	21	100%

Caregiver 2	Count	%
Employed	7	33%
On disability	1	5%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at-home	0	0%
Unemployed	4	19%
Unknown	9	43%
Total	21	100%

Caregiver Education Level

Caregiver 1	Count	%
Less than high school	1	5%
High school	4	19%
College	0	0%
Post graduate	0	0%
Unknown	16	76%
Total	21	100%

Caregiver 2	Count	%
Less than high school	0	0%
High school	2	10%
College	2	10%
Post graduate	1	5%
Unknown	16	76%
Total	21	100%

*Not all children had a secondary caregiver.



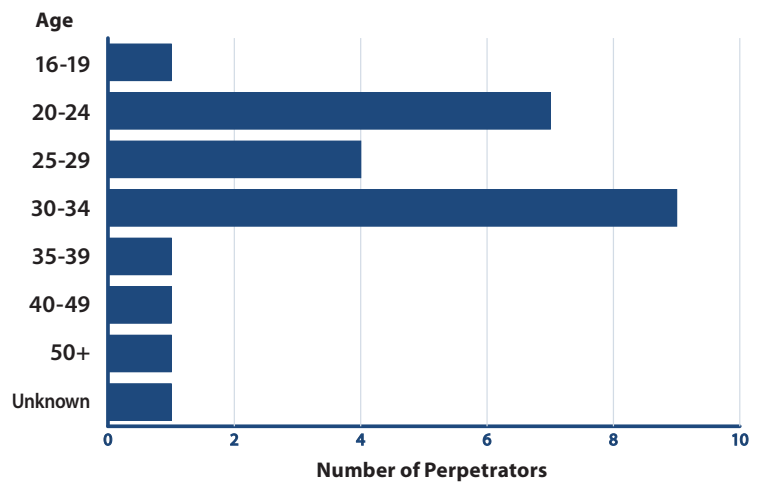
Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

Abuse Statistics—Characteristics of the Perpetrator

(For SFY 2017)

Age of the Perpetrator

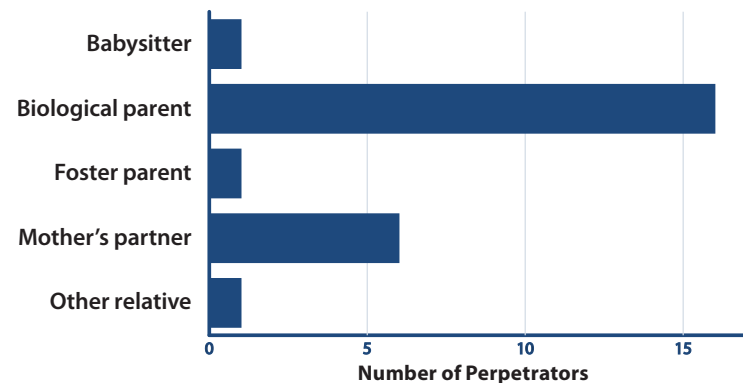
Age	Count	%
16-19	1	4%
20-24	7	28%
25-29	4	16%
30-34	9	36%
35-39	1	4%
40-49	1	4%
50+	1	4%
Unknown	1	4%
Total	25	100%



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

Relationship of Perpetrator to Child

Relationship	Count	%
Babysitter	1	4%
Biological parent	16	64%
Foster parent	1	4%
Mother's partner	6	24%
Other relative	1	4%
Total	25	100%



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

Gender of Perpetrator

Gender	Count	%
Female	12	48%
Male	13	52%
Total	25	100%

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



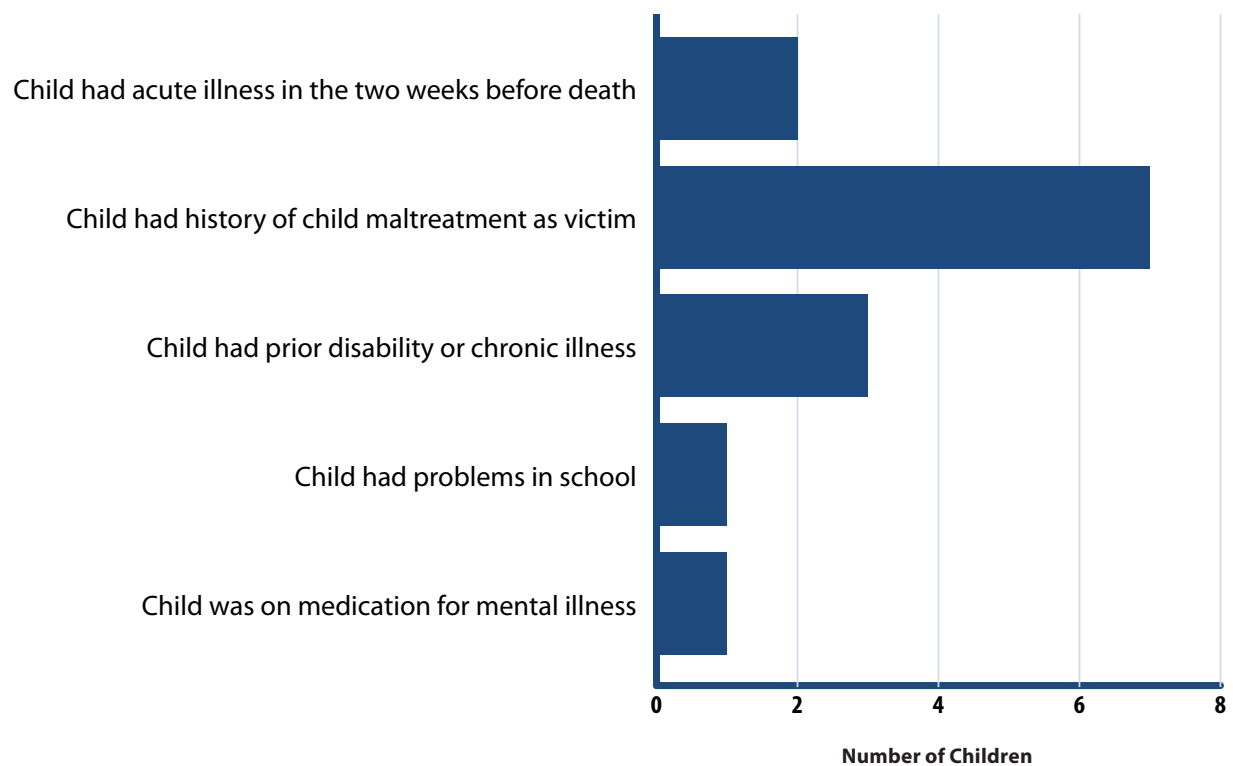
Abuse Statistics—Victim Stress Factors

(For SFY 2017)

Victim Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Child had acute illness in the two weeks before death	2
Child had history of child maltreatment as victim	7
Child had prior disability or chronic illness	3
Child had problems in school	1
Child was on medication for mental illness	1
Total	14

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



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

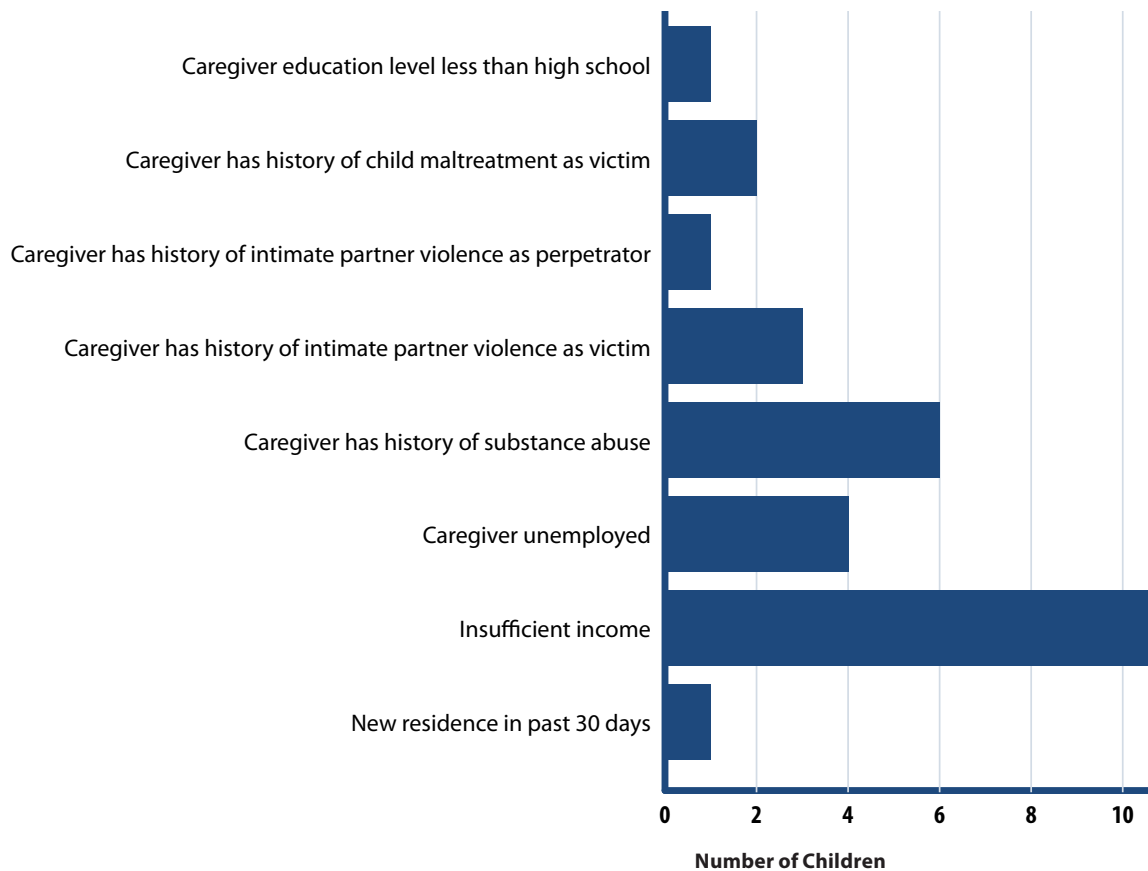
Abuse Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors

(For SFY 2017)

Caregiver 1 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver education level less than high school	1
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment as victim	2
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	1
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	3
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	6
Caregiver unemployed	4
Insufficient income	11
New residence in past 30 days	1
Total	29

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



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

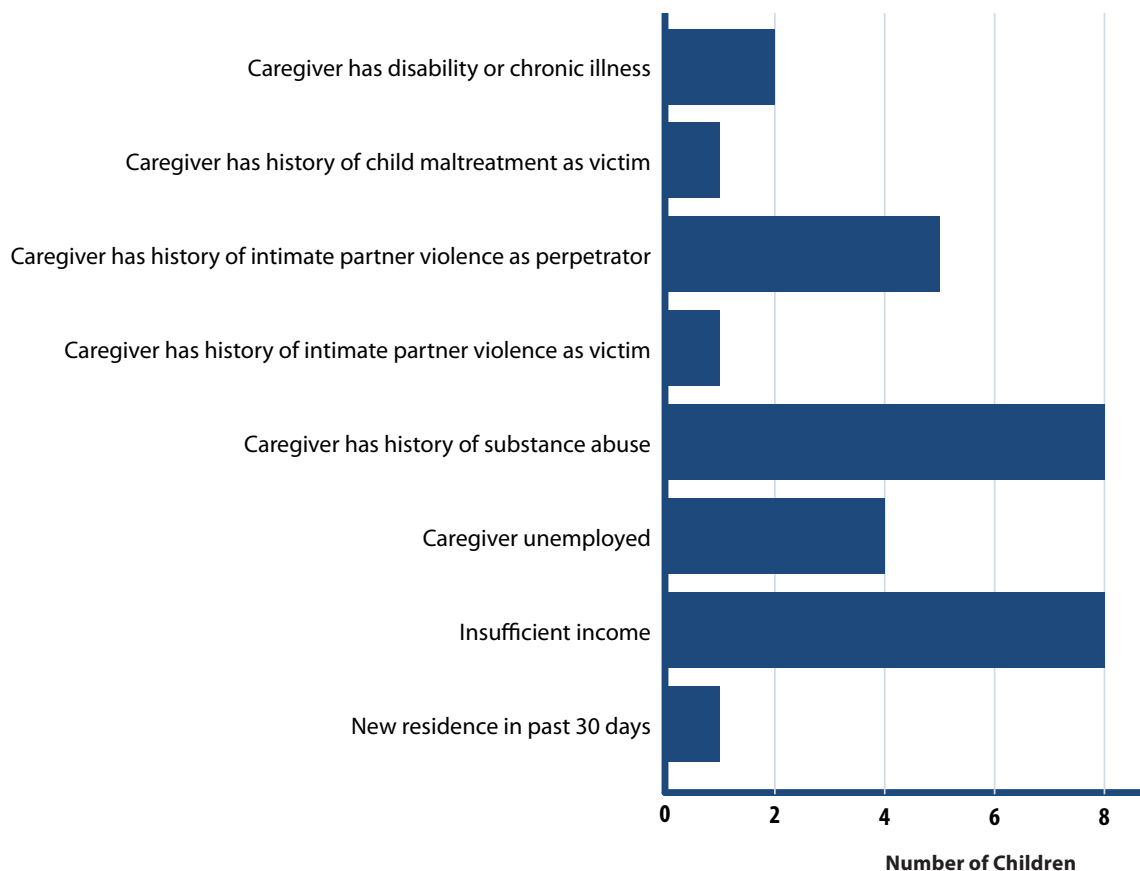
Abuse Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors (Cont'd)

(For SFY 2017)

Caregiver 2 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	2
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment as victim	1
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	5
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	1
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	8
Caregiver unemployed	4
Insufficient income	8
New residence in past 30 days	1
Total	30

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

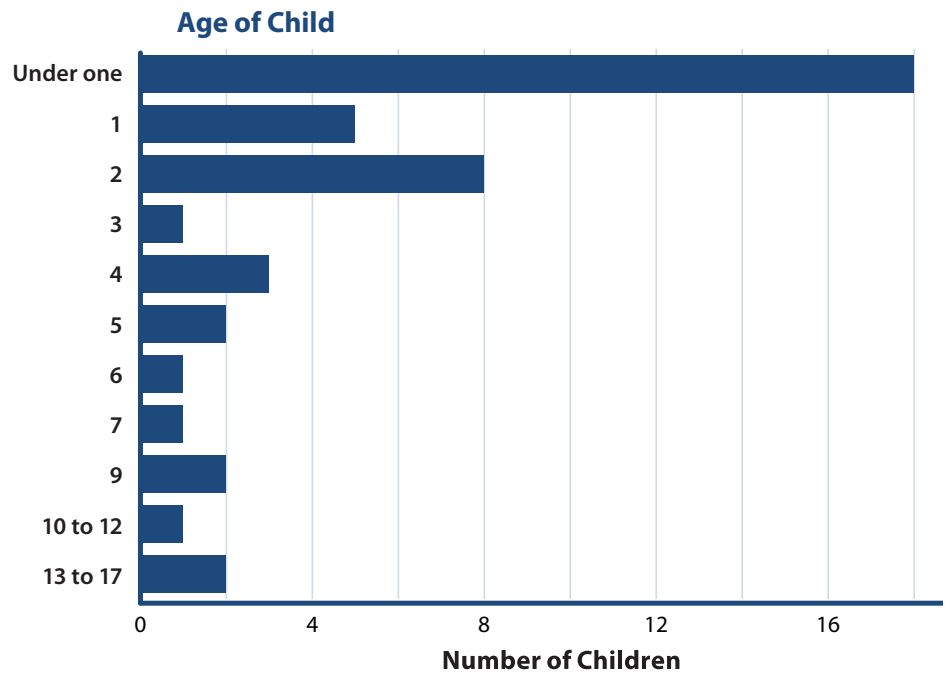


Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

Neglect Statistics—Demographic Characteristics of the Child

(For SFY 2017)

Age of Child	Count	%
Under one	18	41%
1	5	11%
2	8	18%
3	1	2%
4	3	7%
5	2	5%
6	1	2%
7	1	2%
9	2	5%
10-12	1	2%
13-17	2	5%
Total	44	100%



Race of Child

Race of Child	Count	%
Asian	1	2%
Multi-racial	4	9%
Black, African American	6	14%
White	33	75%
Total	44	100%

Ethnicity of Child

Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Hispanic or Latino	5	11%
Not Hispanic or Latino	39	89%
Total	44	100%

Gender of Child

Gender of Child	Count	%
Female	17	39%
Male	27	61%
Total	44	100%



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

Neglect Statistics—Characteristics of the Case

(For SFY 2017)

Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	Count	%
Asphyxia	9	20%
Drowning	10	23%
Malnutrition/dehydration	4	9%
Motor vehicle and other transport	9	20%
Other	4	9%
Other medical condition	2	5%
Poisoning, overdose or acute intoxication	3	7%
Weapon, including body part	3	7%
Total	44	100%

Detailed Information of Cause of Death

Detailed Information of Cause of Death	Count	%
Drowning	10	23%
Firearm	3	7%
Medical Condition	6	14%
Other	4	9%
Poisoned: Accidental overdose	1	2%
Poisoned: Acute intoxication	2	5%
Suffocation	8	18%
Suffocation: Other	1	2%
Vehicle	9	20%
Total	44	100%



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

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

(For SFY 2017)

Type of Neglect	Count	%
Child died after father struck child with vehicle while drug impaired	1	1%
Child died after ingesting methadone	2	2%
Child died after mother drove into oncoming train while impaired	2	2%
Child died after parents wrapped blanket around the child's mouth to hold in the pacifier	1	1%
Child died after swallowing grandmother's fentanyl patch	1	1%
Child died after finding and ingesting prescription morphine left on floor of home	1	1%
Child died as a result of mother signing child out of hospital against medical advice	1	1%
Child died as a result of the adult caregiver not providing child life-saving measures	1	1%
Child died by committing suicide with a rifle	1	1%
Child died by drowning in a retention pond	1	1%
Child died from a series of untreated injuries, including arm fracture and head injuries	1	1%
Child died from complications of near-drowning in a tub	1	1%
Child died from complications of near-drowning incident in retention pond	1	1%
Child died from gunshot wound to head	2	2%
Child died from malnutrition	3	3%
Child died in ATV accident where driver/caregiver was impaired	1	1%
Child died in car accident where driver was impaired by alcohol	1	1%
Child died in motor vehicle accident while not properly restrained	2	2%
Child died in vehicle accident when mother was intoxicated and engaged in domestic violence scenario	1	1%
Child died while sleeping in toppled over care seat while father was intoxicated	1	1%
Child died while sleeping on couch with adults	1	1%
Child died while sleeping with impaired caregiver	8	9%

Type of Neglect	Count	%
Child drowned in a bathtub	2	2%
Child drowned in a lake after she removed her life jacket	1	1%
Child drowned in creek near home	1	1%
Child drowned in pool	3	3%
Child suffocated in grain bin while father was watching her	1	1%
Child was struck by truck after leaving the house unseen	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate child restraint	2	2%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate hydration	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate hydration and medical treatment	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate medical care	2	2%
Failure to provide necessities - appropriate supervision	17	19%
Failure to provide necessities - caregiver failed to provide supervision and medical attention	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - Food	3	3%
Failure to provide necessities - safe environment free from dangerous prescriptions	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - safe environment free from loaded weapons	1	1%
Failure to provide necessities - safe sleeping environment	10	11%
Failure to provide necessities - sober caregiver as driver	5	6%
Failure to seek/follow treatment - caregiver failed to seek medical attention for the child	1	1%
Failure to seek/follow treatment - mother signed ill child out of hospital AMA and failed to seek treatment	1	1%
Failure to seek/follow treatment - parents failed to provide child with medical treatment for known illness	1	1%

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



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

Neglect Statistics—Characteristics of the Household

(For SFY 2017)

Location of Incident

Location	Count	%
Child's home	32	73%
Friend's home	1	2%
Other recreation area	1	2%
Relative's home	2	5%
Roadway	8	18%
Total	44	100%

Other Children in Household

Other Children in Household	Count	%
No	6	14%
Yes	38	86%
Total	44	100%

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

Caregiver Employment Status

Caregiver 1	Count	%
Employed	19	43%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	1	2%
Stay-at home	2	5%
Unemployed	11	25%
Unknown	11	25%
Total	44	100%

Caregiver 2	Count	%
Employed	21	54%
On disability	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Stay-at home	2	5%
Unemployed	6	15%
Unknown	10	26%
Total	39	100%

Caregiver Education Level

Caregiver 1	Count	%
Less than high school	1	2%
High school	11	25%
College	2	5%
Post graduate	1	2%
Unknown	29	66%
Total	44	100%

Caregiver 2	Count	%
Less than high school	3	8%
High school	9	23%
College	2	5%
Post graduate	0	0%
Unknown	25	64%
Total	39	100%

*Not all children had a secondary caregiver.

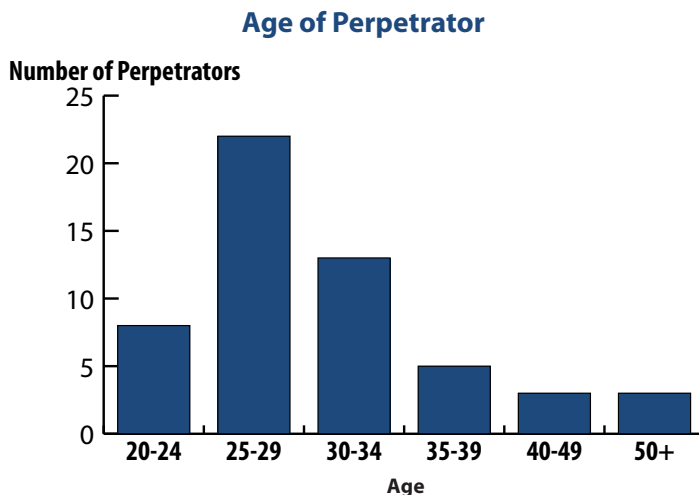


Neglect Statistics—Characteristics of the Perpetrator

(For SFY 2017)

Age of Perpetrator

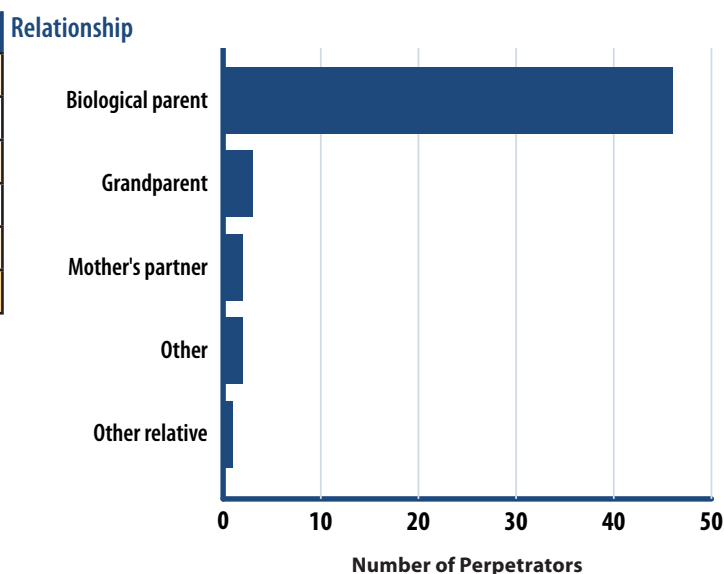
Age	Count	%
20-24	8	15%
25-29	22	41%
30-34	13	24%
35-39	5	9%
40-49	3	6%
50+	3	6%
Total Perpetrators	54	100%



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

Relationship of Perpetrator to Child

Relationship	Count	%
Biological parent	46	85%
Grandparent	3	6%
Mother's partner	2	4%
Other	2	4%
Other relative	1	2%
Total	54	100%



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

Gender of Perpetrator

Gender	Count	%
Female	31	58%
Male	22	42%
Total	53	100%

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



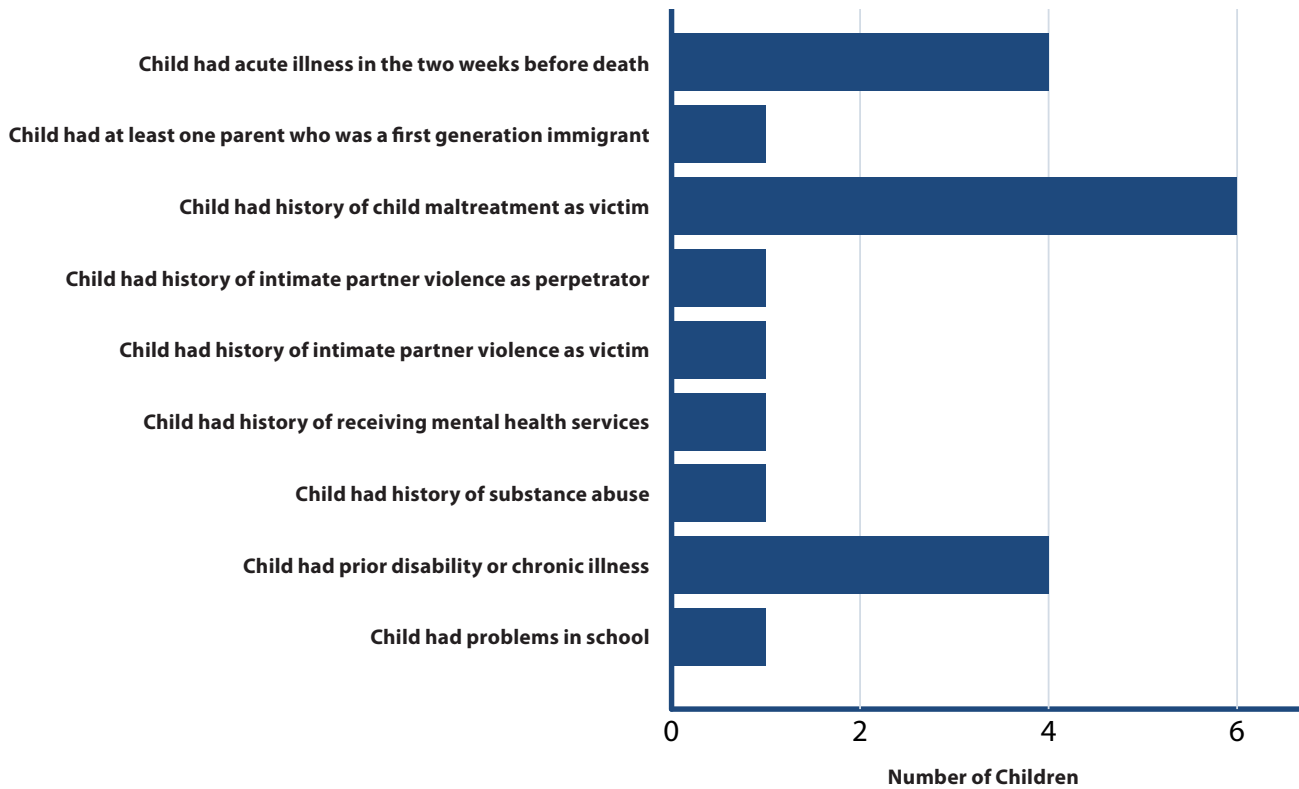
Neglect Statistics—Victim Stress Factors

(For SFY 2017)

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	1
Child had history of child maltreatment as victim	6
Child had history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	1
Child had history of intimate partner violence as victim	1
Child had history of receiving mental health services	1
Child had history of substance abuse	1
Child had prior disability or chronic illness	4
Child had problems in school	1
Total	20

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



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

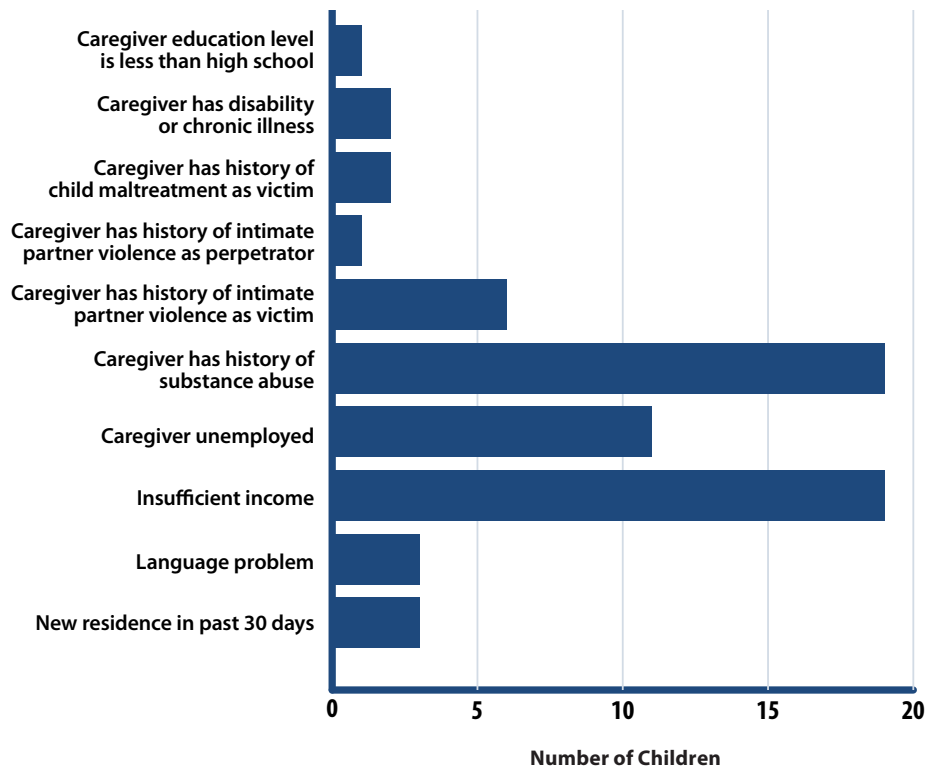
Neglect Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors

(For SFY 2017)

Caregiver 1 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver education level is less than high school	1
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	2
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment as victim	2
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	1
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	6
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	19
Caregiver unemployed	11
Insufficient income	19
Language problem	3
New residence in past 30 days	3
Total	67

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



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

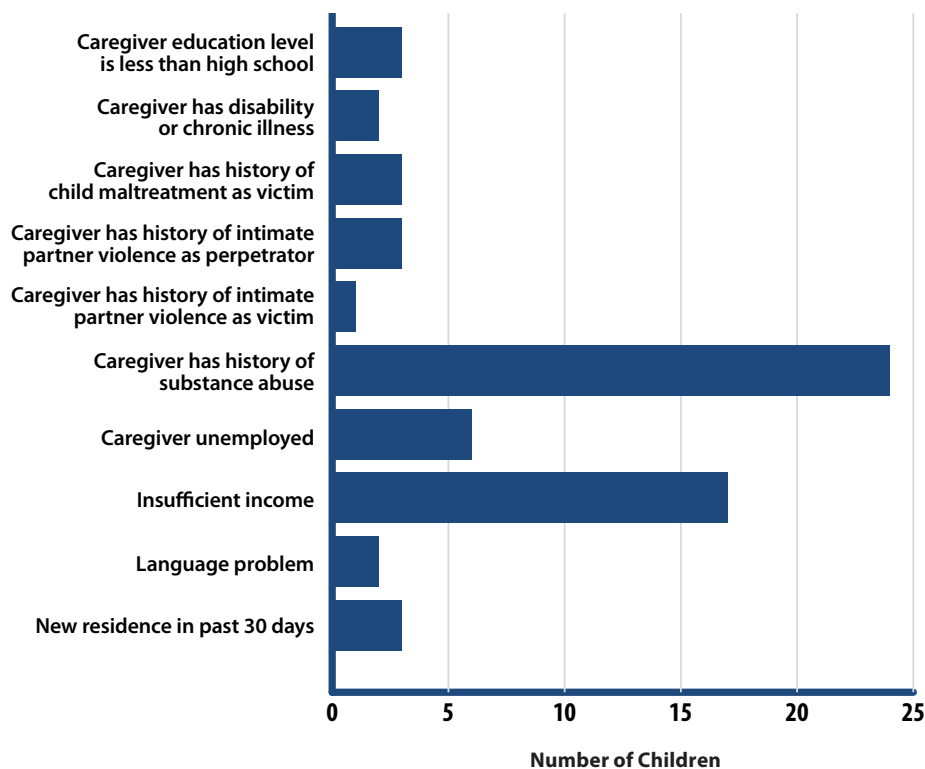
Neglect Statistics—Caregiver Stress Factors (Cont'd)

(For SFY 2017)

Caregiver 2 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver education level is less than high school	3
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	2
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment as victim	3
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as perpetrator	3
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence as victim	1
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	24
Caregiver unemployed	6
Insufficient income	17
Language problem	2
New residence in past 30 days	3
Total	64

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



Source:
MAGIK Monthly Data
Version 1.0

