

CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE IN MINNESOTA



Child neglect and abuse threaten the safety and well-being of children. In 2009, there were nearly 26,000 reports of child maltreatment in Minnesota; 44 children suffered life-threatening injuries and 21 children died from maltreatment. Experiences of child neglect and abuse shape child development and have life-long effects.

Reports of Child Neglect and Abuse 2009	
Non-medical neglect	16,485
Physical abuse	7,052
Sexual abuse	2,046
Medical neglect	281
Total number of maltreatment reports	25,864



19 children under the age of 2 died from maltreatment and 29 children under the age of 2 suffered life-threatening injuries in 2009

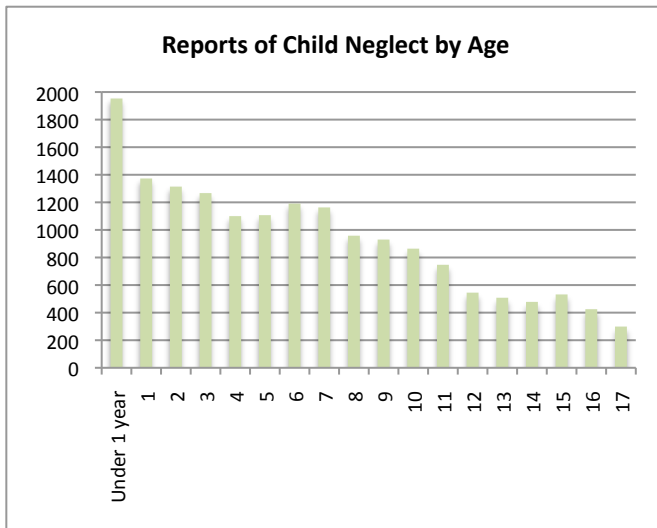
Reports of child maltreatment come from a variety of people, including individuals who are mandated by law to report suspected child maltreatment.

Person Reporting Suspected Child Maltreatment	Percent of Reports
Law enforcement/courts	27.8
School personnel	22.0
Social worker/health practitioner	23.3
Parent or relative	9.6
Non-relative caregiver	2.9
Friend/acquaintance/neighbor	4.4
Other/anonymous	9.7

Child neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment and occurs when a child's caregiver fails to:

- supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical, or mental health care, education or appropriate supervision;
- protect the child from conditions or actions that endanger the child; or
- take steps to ensure that a child is educated according to the law.

Children 0-3 are reported for neglect at the highest rate of all age groups.



Children whose parents cannot safely care for them are placed in family foster homes or group residential facilities. In 2009, approximately 12,000 children spent some time in out-of-home care.

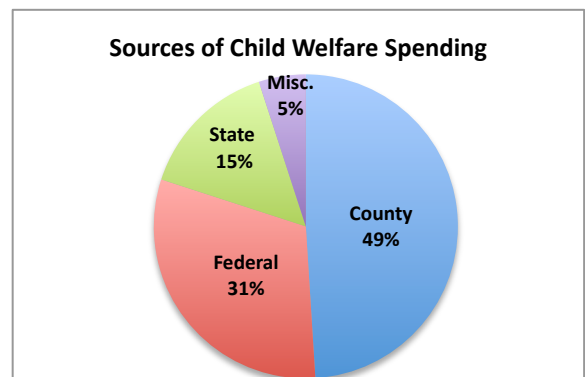
American Indian and African American/Black children are disproportionately represented in out-of-home care:

- American Indian children are 12 times more likely than a White child to be placed in out-of-home care; and
- African American/Black children are 5 times more likely than a White child to be placed in out-of-home care.

Counties are responsible for nearly half of all funding in Minnesota's child welfare system.

Child abuse can be physical, mental or sexual.

- *Physical abuse* is any physical injury or threat of harm or injury, inflicted by a caregiver upon a child other than by accidental means.
- *Mental injury* is harm to the child's psychological capacity or emotional stability evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment of the child's functioning.
- *Sexual abuse* is the subjection of a child to a criminal sexual act or threatened act.



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Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports per 1,000 in the Child Population by County

County/Tribe	Children per 1,000	County/Tribe	Children per 1,000
Aitkin	33.1	Marshall	23.7
Anoka	11.9	Meeker	7.8
Becker	35.3	Mille Lacs	19.5
Beltrami	18.9	Morrison	20.0
Benton	13.2	Mower	17.5
Big Stone	46.5	Nicollet	10.5
Blue Earth	24.1	Nobles	10.2
Brown	22.1	Norman	25.9
Carlton	18.5	Olmsted	17.3
Carver	9.7	Otter Tail	17.8
Cass	30.9	Pennington	13.2
Chippewa	10.9	Pine	23.4
Chisago	7.9	Pipestone	18.9
Clay	17.4	Polk	44.7
Clearwater	35.3	Pope	24.1
Cook	16.4	Ramsey	13.9
Cottonwood	13.0	Red Lake	8.5
Crow Wing	17.0	Redwood	20.7
Dakota	14.7	Renville	9.3
Dodge	24.6	Rice	19.6
Douglas	26.8	Rock	1.2
<i>Faribault-Martin</i>	42.8	Roseau	7.0
Fillmore	14.3	St. Louis	36.2
Freeborn	21.3	Scott	12.0
Goodhue	7.0	Sherburne	8.9
Grant	16.7	Sibley	19.9
Hennepin	20.7	Stearns	11.2
Houston	15.0	Steele	15.6
Hubbard	24.3	Stevens	34.1
Isanti	14.7	Swift	49.0
Itasca	23.6	Todd	17.6
Jackson	34.0	Traverse	34.3
Kanabec	19.9	Wabasha	14.5
Kandiyohi	26.6	Wadena	28.7
Kittson	14.8	Waseca	12.9
Koochiching	45.8	Washington	10.6
Lac qui Parle	12.0	Watonwan	7.7
Lake	24.0	White Earth	74.8
Lake of the Woods	24.1	Wilkin	25.4
Leech Lake	51.8	Winona	25.8
Le Sueur	13.4	Wright	12.8
<i>Lincoln-Lyon-Murray</i>	13.8	Yellow Medicine	19.4
McLeod	23.3	Minnesota	17.7
Mahnomen	10.2		

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services. Minnesota's Child Welfare Report 2009. Report to the 2010 Minnesota Legislature (2010).