

CHILD MALTREATMENT 1995: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System CONTENTS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT 1995

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Some of the tables presented below are best printed in Landscape format.

## **Acknowledgements**

## **Highlights of Findings**

## **Introduction**

**Development of NCANDS**  
**SDC Data Collection Methods**  
**SDC Data Analysis Process**  
**Overview of Report**

## **National Findings**

**Report Data**  
**Disposition Data**  
**Victim Data**  
**Service Responses**  
**Child Fatalities**  
**Perpetrator Data**  
**Armed Services Data**

## **1995 State Data Tables and State Commentary**

**Data Tables**  
**Comments on 1995 State Data**

## **Appendix A. State Advisory Group Representatives 1995-1996**

## **Appendix B. Summary Data Component Data Collection Form**

## **Appendix C. Technical Notes**

## **Appendix D. Supporting Data Tables**

## **Additional Information**

**Credits**  
**Technical Assistance Opportunities**  
**How to Order Copies of Child Maltreatment 1995**

**Acknowledgments**

The maltreatment of our Nation's children continues to be a problem of great concern to all Americans. The Administration on Children, Youth and Families is committed to providing the most reliable and complete information possible to assist policy makers, child welfare practitioners, and concerned citizens in their efforts to address this problem. As part of this assistance, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, through a Federal-State partnership, developed the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). This is the sixth consecutive year that findings have been reported from the NCANDS, a voluntary, national data collection and analysis program.

This document, *Child Maltreatment 1995: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*, is based on child maltreatment data that are aggregated and submitted by the States. These data represent the most complete national information about child maltreatment known to the State child protective services agencies. It is hoped that this information will help in the development of policies, programs, and services aimed at the protection of our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

The work of many people has made this document possible. Specifically, the efforts of State child protective services agencies and their staffs in providing data to the NCANDS have been indispensable. The members of the State Advisory Group have been a source of sound advice and continuing support for the NCANDS. The contributions of all involved are gratefully acknowledged.

James A. Harrell  
Acting Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

**Highlights of Findings**

*Child Maltreatment 1995: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System* (NCANDS) discusses the characteristics of child abuse and neglect investigated by child protective services (CPS) agencies in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

**Victims**In 1995, more than 1 million children were identified as victims of abuse or neglect. Nationwide, the rate of victimization of children was approximately 15 per 1,000 children younger than 18 years of age. About 80 percent of the perpetrators of child maltreatment were the parents of the victims. Another 10 percent of the perpetrators were other relatives of the victims. About 2 percent were persons in other caretaking roles (e.g., foster parents, facility staff, and child care providers).

Twice as many victims suffered from neglect (52 percent) as were victims of the next most frequent type of maltreatment, physical abuse (25 percent). About 13 percent of the victims were sexually abused. More than half of all victims were 7 years of age or younger, with about 26 percent younger than 4 years old. About 21 percent of the victims were teenagers. Case-level data suggest that the majority of victims of neglect and medical neglect were younger than 8 years old, while the majority of victims of other forms of maltreatment were 8 years old or older.

One of the most severe consequences of child maltreatment is child death. Forty-five States reported that 996 children were known by the CPS agency to have died as a result of abuse or neglect. Case-level data suggest that the majority of these deaths were children 3 years of age or younger.

**Reports** Child protective services agencies investigated nearly 2 million reports alleging maltreatment of an estimated 3 million children. The national rate of children who were reported was 43 per 1,000 children. Reports were received from professionals (53 percent), persons within the family of the victims, including parents and other relatives (19 percent), and friends and neighbors (9 percent). Anonymous, unknown, and other sources accounted for 19 percent.

**Dispositions** Nationwide, about 36 percent of investigations for maltreatment resulted in a disposition of either substantiated or indicated maltreatment, and more than half (58 percent) resulted in a finding that child maltreatment was not substantiated.

The 1995 case-level data suggest that substantiated or indicated reports were more likely to be from professional sources than from nonprofessional sources. For example, 66 percent of investigations that were substantiated and 54 percent of investigations that were indicated were from four professional sources: education, social services, law enforcement, and medicine. However, the majority of reports from all report sources, both professional and nonprofessional, with the exception of the legal and medical professionals, were not substantiated.

## **Section 1 Introduction**

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) is the primary source of national information on abused and neglected children known to State child protective services agencies. Findings from the NCANDS are based on aggregate data from all States and case-level data from a number of States that provide automated case records for analysis. The rate of children reported to State agencies and the rate of child victims per 1,000 children younger than 18 years of age are included in this report. This is the sixth consecutive year that information based on the findings of the NCANDS has been published.

This section of the document discusses the background of the NCANDS, describes its two components, the Summary Data Component (SDC) and the Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC), summarizes data collection methods, and provides an overview of the report.

### **1.1 Development of the NCANDS**

The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) established the NCANDS to respond to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93-247), as amended, which called for the creation of a coordinated national data collection and analysis program, both universal and case-specific in scope. In 1988, the NCCAN embarked on a collaborative effort with the States to collect and analyze annual child abuse and neglect data from child protective services agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the territories, and the Armed Services.

A State Advisory Group (appendix A) helped to identify data items and definitions that represent a national profile of child maltreatment. Subsequently, the State representatives assisted in the pilot testing and implementation of the NCANDS. The State Advisory Group continues to play an important role in the development of the NCANDS.

The design of the NCANDS was guided by the needs in the field of child welfare and the capabilities of State data systems to produce the information. The resulting two-pronged approach of the NCANDS allows for the collection and analysis of aggregate data collected through the SDC and case-level data collected through the DCDC. Brief descriptions of the SDC and DCDC follow:

- **Summary Data Component (SDC)**-The SDC is a compilation of 15 key aggregate indicators of State child abuse and neglect statistics. The data items cover reports of alleged maltreatment, dispositions of investigations of alleged child abuse and neglect, and characteristics of the victims and perpetrators of substantiated and indicated maltreatment.
- **Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC)**-The DCDC is a compilation of case-level data about children who are the subjects of reports alleging child maltreatment. The DCDC permits more detailed analysis of State child abuse and neglect data than is possible with the aggregate data in the SDC. The DCDC contains 117 data elements including information on reports of alleged maltreatment, characteristics of children who are the subjects of these reports, types of substantiated or indicated maltreatments, child disabilities, family problems, services provided to victims, and characteristics of perpetrators.

This report is based on the aggregate data collected through the 1995 SDC. In addition, case-level data collected through the 1995 DCDC are used to elaborate on key SDC findings. A discussion of the DCDC data collection methods and analyses of its data elements may be found in *Child Abuse and Neglect Case-Level Data 1993: Working Paper 1*. Copies of this document are available from the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information.

Eleven States (Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, and Washington) that were able to produce case-level data from their automated information systems submitted 1995 data for the DCDC. Although these States are not a statistically representative sample of the United States, the volume of data that is available contributes additional insight into the characteristics of child abuse and neglect. Data on nearly 360,000 unduplicated reports including more than 530,000 children were collected. The child population in these 11 States is approximately one-third of the

population in the United States younger than 18 years old. Data on selected topics are presented in this report. Additional findings will be published later in 1997.

## **1.2 SDC Data Collection Methods**

The SDC data collection instrument (appendix B) consists of 15 data items on four child maltreatment data topics. The topics include report data, disposition data, victim data, and perpetrator data. The SDC Data Collection Forms and Glossary were mailed to the States in the spring of 1996. Technical assistance was available to those States that requested help in responding to the SDC. Data analyzed in this document were collected from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Armed Services.

In addition to providing the data, representatives from each State agency were asked to provide supplementary information or clarifications regarding their responses to specific data items. These comments provide a more thorough understanding of each State's data and the national findings. The State comments on 1995 data are included in section 3.

As the completed forms were received, they were reviewed for data consistency and logic as well as substantive clarity. When necessary, follow-up questions were sent to the States. States were also able to review and modify data submissions from previous years. Consequently, some of the findings in this report may differ from those cited in earlier publications.

## **1.3 SDC Data Analysis Process**

After the 1995 SDC data were reviewed and finalized, they were entered into a spreadsheet and subsequently analyzed using statistical software. To determine national figures for some important data items, estimates were computed for missing data. In addition, in several analyses, rates per unit of the population were calculated. Population estimates were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## **1.4 Overview of the Report**

Section 2 of this document presents the main findings based on the SDC data submitted by the States for 1995. Data collected from 11 States through the DCDC are used to supplement the SDC findings. Section 3 presents the data tables that were generated from the 1995 SDC data submissions and provides explanatory comments related to each State's data.

Appendix A lists the participants in the State Advisory Group. The SDC Data Collection Forms and Instructions are provided in appendix B. Additional information on the issues involved in the data analyses is presented in appendix C, Technical Notes. Issues that are discussed include estimating procedures, calculation of population rates, and duplicated and unduplicated counts of children. Data tables supporting the DCDC findings are included in appendix D.

## **Section 2 1995 National Findings**

This section presents the analyses of data on reports, dispositions, victims, services, and perpetrators collected through the SDC for 1995. In addition, analyses of selected 1995 DCDC case-level data from 11 States are presented to elaborate on key topics, including sources of reports, types of maltreatment, child fatalities, and perpetrator relationships to the victims. An analysis of data from the Armed Services is also provided.

## **2.1 Report Data**

The SDC findings presented in this section include the number of reports of alleged abuse and neglect, the number of children in reports, the rate of children who were subjects of reports, and the sources of reports.

### **Reports of Alleged Maltreatment**

Child protective services agencies received and referred for investigation almost 2 million reports of alleged child abuse and neglect in 1995, involving both incident-based and child-based reports. An incident-based system counts each alleged maltreatment incident as one report, regardless of the number of children involved. A child-based system counts each child who is alleged to be a victim of maltreatment as a single report. Of the total of 1,988,514 reports, incident-based reports from 41 States made up 1,697,210, and the remaining 291,304 reports were child-based reports received from 10 States. The total number of reports referred for investigation in 1995 was about the same as in 1994.

### **Children in Reports**

An estimated 3 million children were reported as alleged victims of maltreatment and referred for investigation. This number includes children who may have been reported and counted more than once during the year. The rate of children who were the subjects of reports was 43 children per 1,000 children younger than 18 years of age in the general population. If each child were counted only once, the rate per 1,000 children would be somewhat lower.

The rate of children reported and referred for investigation varied considerably from State to State, ranging from about 8 to 108 per 1,000 children. However, the range in reporting rates was much smaller (between 35 and 53) for more than half of the States.

Several factors may influence the variation in rates. These factors include differences in State definitions of maltreatment and agency policies and procedures related to receiving and investigating reports. For example, the Pennsylvania child abuse registry does not collect data on general neglect cases. State policy addresses cases of neglect through a general protective services investigation rather than through a child protective services investigation. In Vermont, the lack of supervision of a child, classified as neglect in many States, is not legally defined as maltreatment. On the other hand, States that have broader definitions of maltreatment may have higher rates of reports accepted for investigation.

### **Sources of Reports**

As seen in [FIGURE 2-1](#), reports from professionals accounted for more than half of all reports. Professional sources include educators, law enforcement and justice officials, and professionals from the fields of medicine and health, social services, child care, and substitute care. Persons within the families of the alleged victims, including parents, other relatives, and the alleged victims themselves, accounted for nearly one out of every five reports (19 percent). The percentage distribution of the sources of reports has remained consistent over the 6 years of SDC data collection.

## **2.2 Disposition Data**

The findings discussed in this section include the dispositions of investigated reports of alleged maltreatment and of children involved in these reports.

### **Investigations of Reports**

Forty-eight States reported that about 1,675,000 investigations of alleged abuse or neglect were conducted in 1995. [FIGURE 2-2](#) shows that about 36 percent of the investigations resulted in a disposition of either substantiated or indicated child maltreatment. More than half of all dispositions resulted in a finding that child maltreatment was not substantiated. Based on data from five States, which identify intentionally false reports, malicious or intentionally false reports constituted about 4 percent of not substantiated investigations. All other investigation dispositions, including "unknown," "closed without a finding," and "other" accounted for 6 percent of all dispositions.

Data from the DCDC show that there is some variation in the dispositions of investigations by the source of the report of alleged maltreatment (see [TABLE D-1](#)). About 66 percent of substantiated investigations and about 54 percent of indicated investigations resulted from reports from four professions - law enforcement, medicine, social services, and education.

In general, reports from professional sources were more likely to be substantiated or indicated than those from nonprofessional sources. However, with the exception of reports from the legal and medical professions, the majority of investigations from all report sources were not substantiated.

### **Children in Investigated Reports**

Slightly more than 1 million children were reported by 49 States to have been victims of either substantiated or indicated maltreatment. Due to expungement practices, some States were unable to provide the number of children for whom maltreatment was not substantiated. [FIGURE 2-3](#) is based on data from the 40 States that were able to provide data on both substantiated and not substantiated dispositions of children. About 34 percent of the children were determined to have been maltreated, 60 percent were unsubstantiated, and less than 2 percent of the children had investigations resulting in either "no finding" or "unknown finding." For about 4 percent of the children, a disposition of "other" was made.

Some of the investigations resulting in a disposition of "other" are from States such as Florida, Missouri, and New Jersey, which are implementing alternative methods for screening, assessing, and responding to reports to CPS agencies. Such changes in practice can affect the categorization of CPS dispositions and child victims in these States.

The experience of New Jersey illustrates how changes in State policy and practice can affect disposition data. Beginning in 1993, New Jersey instituted a Case Practice Initiative that classified screened-in reports of alleged maltreatment as "child abuse and neglect" or as a "family problem." Family problems include homelessness; domestic violence; unresolved child-related medical, emotional, or substance abuse problems; inappropriate supervision; and inadequate parenting skills. Families classified as having only family problems have not committed child maltreatment according to State law, and the children in those families are not classified as victims of maltreatment. Rather, these families are referred to voluntary services for the identified family problems that present a risk of maltreatment.

The Case Practice Initiative has resulted in changes in patterns of disposition data for New Jersey. In 1995, about 15 percent of all children had a disposition of substantiated maltreatment, and 55 percent were placed in the "other" category. These percentages compare with 1992 SDC data prior to the initiation of the Case Practice Initiative in which 35 percent of the children were determined to be victims of maltreatment and no children received an "other" disposition. However, among only the child abuse and neglect cases, the distribution of substantiated and unsubstantiated cases remains proportionally similar to previous years. With the implementation of the Case Practice Initiative, fewer cases receive such dispositions. New Jersey has continued to adjust its screening and investigation classification schema. Most notably, in situations in which caregiver substance abuse is identified as a problem, the presence of risk of abuse or neglect is assumed. This issue is addressed in new Case Handling Standards. It is anticipated that these guidelines will have some effect on the classification of cases during 1996.

## **2.3 Victim Data**

This section analyzes the characteristics of victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment. Topics include rates of victims, types of maltreatment, rates and types of maltreatment, and victim demographics such as age, sex, and race/ethnicity. Also, DCDC data are used to discuss type of maltreatment by age of victims.

### **Rates of Victims**

In 1995, data from 49 States indicate a national maltreatment rate of 15 victims per 1,000 children in the population younger than 18. However, State maltreatment rates are influenced by differences in the classification of dispositions. Some States use a two-tier system that shows the allegation as substantiated or unsubstantiated. Other States use a three-tier system that includes a third category called indicated. In these States, this classification is used when there is sufficient reason to suspect that the child may have been maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment, but the allegation cannot be substantiated to the level of evidence required by State law. There were 13 victims per 1,000 children in the population younger than age 18 in the 38 States that use a two-



tier system of dispositions compared to a rate of 23 victims per 1,000 children in the 11 three-tier States.

[FIGURE 2-4](#) presents data by State on the rate of children reported as alleged victims of maltreatment and children found to be substantiated or indicated victims of maltreatment. In general, there is a correspondence between reporting rates and child victim rates. Furthermore, of the 10 States with the highest rates of child victims, 7 use a three-tier classification system. In order to compare child reporting rates to child substantiation rates, only data from the 37 States that provided duplicated counts and complete data for both items were used. The rates include some children who may have been reported more than once during the year.

### **Types of Maltreatment**

Forty-nine States reported that there were 523,049 substantiated or indicated victims of maltreatment who suffered from neglect; 244,903 victims of physical abuse; 126,095 victims of sexual abuse; and 44,648 victims of emotional maltreatment. These numbers include multiple types of maltreatment for some children.

[FIGURE 2-5](#) shows that twice as many children were victims of neglect (52 percent) as were victims of the next-most-frequent type of maltreatment, physical abuse (25 percent). About 13 percent of the victims had been sexually abused. Victims of medical neglect and emotional maltreatment accounted for 3 percent and 5 percent of all victims, respectively. Approximately 14 percent of the victims encountered "other" types of maltreatment, such as "abandonment," "congenital drug addiction," and "threats to harm the child."

### **Rates of Maltreatment Types**

Based on data from 49 State child protective services agencies, it is estimated that for every 1,000 children younger than 18 years of age there were eight victims of neglect, four victims of physical abuse, and two victims of sexual abuse. The victim rates for emotional maltreatment and medical neglect were each less than 1 child per 1,000 children in the population younger than 18 years old.

### **Age of Victims**

[FIGURE 2-6](#) presents the percentage of child maltreatment victims by age. Similar to previous years of the SDC data collection, a general pattern is observed of a decreasing percentage of victims among older children. About 26 percent of victims of maltreatment were 3 years old or younger. More than half of all victims were younger than 8 years old. About 26 percent of the victims were ages 8-12. Another 21 percent of the child victims of abuse and neglect were teenagers (13-18 years old).

Data from the DCDC (see [TABLE D-2](#)) suggest that the ages of victims and the types of maltreatment are related. The majority of victims of neglect and medical neglect were younger than 8 years old, while the majority of victims of other forms of maltreatment were 8 years old or older.

Victims in all age groups were more likely to suffer from neglect than any other single type of maltreatment. Victims younger than 4 years of age were about five times more likely to have been neglected than physically abused. Children older than 7 years of age were about 1.5 times more likely to have been neglected than physically abused.

### **Sex of Victims**

About 47 percent of the victims of maltreatment were male, and about 52 percent were female. The sex for less than 1 percent of the victims was not reported. The distribution of sex of victims has remained stable over the 6 years of the SDC data collection.

Findings from case-level data in the 1995 DCDC (see [TABLE D-3](#)) suggest that there are some differences in the types of maltreatment experienced by male and female children. Females were about three times more likely than males to be victims of sexual abuse. Females were also slightly more likely to suffer emotional abuse. Males were slightly more likely than females to be victims of other types of maltreatment.

### **Race/Ethnicity of Victims**

Forty-four States provided data on race/ethnicity. More than half (55 percent) of all victims were white. African American children represented the second-largest group of victims at about 27 percent. Hispanic children made up about 10 percent, Native American children made up about 2 percent, and Asian/Pacific Islander children accounted for about 1 percent of victims. Victims of unknown racial/ethnic origin made up about 3 percent of all victims, and victims of other racial/ethnic backgrounds accounted for about 2 percent of the victims. As in the other demographic areas of age and sex, the distribution of race/ethnicity of victims has been similar in all years of the SDC data collection.

## **2.4 Service Responses**

Based on the findings of the investigation of maltreatment, the State agency often provides services to victims and their families, including placing children in protective custody, instituting court action, and offering additional services such as parenting classes, counseling, and in-home services. The following discussion addresses data submitted by the States in these service areas.

### **Victims Removed From the Home**

Child protective services agencies in 35 States reported that 130,685 victims were removed from their homes in 1995. This figure accounts for about 15 percent of the victims of maltreatment in these States, the same as in 1994. In some cases, siblings of victims are removed from the home when a child whose maltreatment has been substantiated or indicated is removed. Most States provided data on removals related only to victims, while the data from some States include both victims and their siblings. There was little difference in the percentage of children removed from their homes between those States that provided only victim data and those States that provided data for victims and siblings.

## **Court Actions**

Twenty-five States reported that 78,273 court actions were initiated in 1995. This represents about 16 percent of the number of victims of maltreatment in these States. This percentage has remained stable over the 6 years of the SDC data collection.

The requirements for court action vary from State to State. Court actions may include the State filing for temporary custody of the victim, filing for guardianship, or filing a dependency petition. In some States, the court may hear criminal actions. Because court data may be maintained in an information system separate from the information system of the child protective services agency, data concerning court action related to victims often are not complete.

## **Victims and Families Receiving Additional Services**

Data from 24 States revealed that 249,230 families received additional child welfare services. Twenty-three States reported that 439,119 child victims received additional services. Services counted by the States may include the full range of direct and indirect services aimed at family preservation and family reunification. However, for most States, the collection of data about the number of children and families who received additional services remains difficult. Fewer than half of the States provided these data, and only 15 States were able to provide data for both victims and families. Also, information systems in some States are not able to distinguish between victims and their siblings who receive additional services. Data about reports of maltreatment and data about the provision of services may be contained in different and unlinked information systems. These issues are being examined by States that are redesigning their child welfare information systems.

## **2.5 Child Fatalities**

This section discusses the findings about child fatalities. It is generally accepted that fatality figures include mostly those victims who were known to the child protective services agency as clients, and may not include other victims who were not reported to the agency.

Forty-five States reported that 996 child fatalities resulted from child maltreatment in 1995. The rate of child fatalities in the reporting States was less than 2 per 100,000 children in the general population younger than 18 years of age. Based on the number of victims of maltreatment, not the general population younger than age 18, it is estimated that there were about 110 child fatalities per 100,000 child victims of maltreatment in 1995. Unlike other rates in this report, the child fatality rate is based on one unit per 100,000 children younger than 18 in order that the rate can be expressed as a whole number. Forty States provided fatality data in both 1994 and 1995. A comparison of these data shows that there was about a 10-percent decrease in the number of child deaths and a slight decrease in the rate of fatalities in 1995.

There were 237 fatalities reported by a subset of 8 of the 11 States from the DCDC (see [TABLE D-4](#)). These fatalities represent about 24 percent of all fatalities reported to the SDC. The DCDC data suggest that death due to child abuse and neglect is found mostly among very young children. Children younger than 1 year old accounted for 44 percent of all fatalities, and 77

percent were 3 years of age or younger. Males accounted for 57 percent of fatalities, and females accounted for 43 percent.

## **2.6 Perpetrator Data**

Data on the types of perpetrator relationships to the victims are discussed in this section. In addition, case-level data from the DCDC are used to describe the age and sex of perpetrators.

Based on the data from 44 States, about 80 percent of perpetrators of child maltreatment were parents, and an additional 10 percent were other relatives of the victim. People who were in other caretaking relationships to the child victims made up only 2 percent of perpetrators (e.g., foster parents, facility staff, and child care providers). About 5 percent of all perpetrators were noncaretakers. In many States, perpetrators of maltreatment by definition must be in a child caretaking role.

Data from the DCDC reveal that females were more often identified as perpetrators than males (see [TABLE D-5](#)). The mean age for male perpetrators was 37 years of age and for female perpetrators the mean was 34 years of age.

## **2.7 Armed Services Data**

This section examines data that were submitted to the SDC by the Armed Services. The data apply to reports of maltreatment that occurred worldwide in 1995 in the four branches of the Armed Services (the Air Force, the Army, the Marines, and the Navy). Personnel in the Family Advocacy Program are required to report all cases of child maltreatment to the child abuse registry in the State in which the child resides, and these reports are included in State totals.

There were a total of 17,902 reports of alleged maltreatment in 1995. This figure is a slight decrease from the most recently available figures from 1993. Investigations of 46 percent of the reported children resulted in a disposition of substantiated maltreatment, while allegations of maltreatment were found to be not substantiated for 54 percent of the children.

The most frequent type of maltreatment experienced by children was neglect (37 percent), followed closely by physical abuse (36 percent). About 13 percent of victims were found to have been sexually abused, and another 14 percent suffered emotional abuse.

About 60 percent of the victims were 7 years of age or younger, with about 32 percent of the victims younger than 4 years of age. Teenagers made up about 15 percent of all victims. Victims were about evenly split between males and females, each representing about half of the victim population. Twenty-one victims died as a result of maltreatment.

# **Section 3**

1995 State Data Tables and State Commentary

This section contains two parts. The first part presents the SDC Data Tables for 1995. The second part presents clarification of each State's data submission. The reader is urged to consult the State Commentary section when analyzing or comparing the SDC data.

### 3.1 Data Tables

The Data Tables consist of several sections. Data are presented by State in each section.

**NOTE:** Please make sure your images are **turned on** to view this report.

Some of the tables presented below are best printed in Landscape format.

- [Section I: Background](#) This section presents the estimated population of children younger than 18 years of age for each State and the District of Columbia. Forty of the States reported on the 1995 calendar year; 9 States reported using their State fiscal year; and 2 States reported 1994 data.
- [Section II: Report Data](#) This section contains the number of reports of alleged child maltreatment that were referred for investigation, the number of children who were the subject of a report, and the [Number of Reports By Source](#). Forty States counted reports by either incident or the number of families that were the subject of a report; 10 States counted reports based on each child for whom maltreatment was alleged (1 State provided both child-based and incident-based counts); 1 State was not able to provide data on the number of reports. The number of children who were the subject of a report was submitted by each State or was estimated. The rate per 1,000 children who were the subject of a report has been estimated. The rate is based on the duplicated count of children. (See [Appendix C: Technical Notes](#).) Forty-two States reported on the source of reports. Some States collect data on the report sources for substantiated reports only, rather than all reports. Data from these States are not included in this section of the data table.
- **Section III: Investigation Data** This section includes data on the number of investigations by disposition, the [Number of Children Who Were the Subject of an Investigation](#), the [Number of Families That Were the Subject of an Investigation](#), and the [Number of Children by Disposition](#). Forty-eight States reported on the dispositions of investigations. Forty-nine States reported on children by disposition. Of these, 9 States were unable to provide the number of children who were not substantiated victims of maltreatment. This reflects expungement procedures of the States.
- **Section IV: Victim Data** This section includes the Number of Victims categorized by Type of Maltreatment: [Physical Abuse, Neglect, Medical Neglect, Sexual Abuse](#); and [Emotional Abuse, Other Abuse, Unknown, and Total Number of Victims Abused](#). The section also includes data on [Age \(<1-8\)](#), [Age \(9-18+\)](#), [Sex, and Race/Ethnicity](#). Eleven States provided unduplicated counts of victims and the balance of States provided duplicated counts of victims. Forty-nine States reported on types of maltreatment, 45 States reported on age of victims, 46 States reported on sex of victims, 44 States reported on race/ethnicity of victims, and 45 States reported on [Child Fatalities](#). Thirty-five States reported on the [Number of Victims who were Removed from their Homes](#), and fewer States reported on

[Service-Related Data Items](#). As noted on the data tables, for [Items 11-14](#), States reported on either only victims (V) or victims and their siblings (VS).

- [Section V: Perpetrator Data](#) This section presents data on the number of perpetrators of maltreatment categorized by relationship to the child victim. Half of the States report a perpetrator count based on the number of incidents, and half report numbers of perpetrators based on the number of children in the incident. The number of States able to provide data on perpetrators has increased since the submission of 1994 data.

### **Comments on 1995 State Data**

States have provided clarifications and elaborations of their data submissions. Comments provided in previous years, which may be useful in reading the 1995 data, are also included. Item numbers refer to the items as listed in the data tables and may not correspond to the item numbers used in the 1995 data collection form. Each State also has provided a name of a State contact who is able to provide additional information if needed.

[Alabama](#)

[Alaska](#)

[Arizona](#)

[Arkansas](#)

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[Colorado](#)

[Connecticut](#)

[Delaware](#)

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[Armed Services](#)

## **Appendix A**

State Advisory Group Representatives 1995-1996

Appendix A is a list of the State Advisory Group representatives, who provided guidance, ideas, and recommendations to the NCANDS during 1995-1996.

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## **Appendix B**

### Summary Data Component Data Collection Form

These forms and instructions and a glossary were sent to all States, the District of Columbia, the territories, and the Armed Services in the spring of 1996. Some items in the 1995 form have been renumbered in the data tables and the discussion throughout the report in order to facilitate comparisons with previous years. Item 11 in the data form is renumbered as item 14 in the data table; item 12 in the data form is renumbered as item 13; item 13 is renumbered as item 11; and item 14 is renumbered as item 12.

[Cover Page](#)

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## Section I - General Information

### **Section II - Report Data**

1. Number of Reports Alleging Maltreatment

2. Number of Children Who Were the Subject of a Report

3. Number of Reports by Source

### **Section 3 - Disposition Data**

4. Number of Completed Investigation or Assessments by Disposition

5. Number of Children and Families Who Were The Subject of a Completed Investigation

6. Number of Children by Disposition

## Section IV - Victim Data

7. Number of Victims by Maltreatment Type

8. Age of Victims

9. Sex of Victims

10. Race/Ethnicity of Victims

11. Number of Victims Who Died as a Result of Child Abuse or Neglect

12. Number of Victims and Families Receiving Additional Services

13. Number of Victims Removed From the Home

14. Number of Victims For Whom Court Action Was Initiated

## Section V - Perpetrator Data

### **Appendix C Technical Notes**



In this section, notes are provided on the data validation and analytic procedures used in this report.

## **Validation Steps**

Several steps occur prior to the analysis of the Summary Data Component (SDC) data. The 15 data items in each State submission are validated. Each submission is checked to ensure internal consistency and to gauge whether data are within an expected range. In addition, data are compared to the previous year's submission on the same item. State comments from the current reporting year and previous years are reviewed and updated to further clarify the data submission.

## **Analytical Methods**

The 1995 National Findings are based on data submitted to the NCANDS by all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Armed Services. Data from Montana and West Virginia are from 1994. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands were unable to provide data for 1995.

In the data tables, data from the Armed Services are provided below the national totals, since Armed Services personnel also report to State agencies.

Unless otherwise noted, rates were calculated using population averages for the reported population and were based on the number per 1,000 children younger than age 18 in the reporting States. The population of children younger than 18 years of age for each State was derived from data for 1995 supplied by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## **Data Items**

Clarification of the analyses of selected data items is provided below. The item numbers correspond to the item numbers in the SDC data tables (section 3).

### **Item 1: Reports**

States count reports alleging child maltreatment by child or by incident. Screened-out reports were not included in the number of reports provided. Only those reports that were referred for investigation were counted.

### **Item 2: Children Subject of a Report**

Item 2 presents duplicated counts of children who were the subject of a report. The number of children was estimated for those States unable to provide these data. Using the data from States that reported incident-based data and the duplicated number of children in these reports, a mean ratio of incident-based reports to duplicated counts of children was computed. The Tukey biweight estimator was computed on the resultant mean rate. A multiplier of 1.62 was used to multiply the incident-based reports for those States that did not provide duplicated child data. The resulting products were used as estimates. The rate of duplicated children reported as alleged



victims of maltreatment was calculated using the State child population. The rate is somewhat higher than a rate of unduplicated children per 1,000 children.

### **Item 3: Reports by Source**

The percentages discussed in the report are based on the distribution of report sources from 42 States (1,486,605 reports). Most States collect data on only the primary source of the report, but some States record multiple sources of the same report. The same categories of report sources are not used by all States. For example, many States do not classify substitute care providers and perpetrators as report sources. Some States classify parents with other relatives.

### **Item 4: Investigations by Disposition**

The percentages discussed in the report are based on the total number of dispositions (1,675,372) in 48 States. The percentage of intentionally false reports is based on the number of unsubstantiated reports that were considered to be "intentionally false" by five States.

### **Item 5: Children and Families Subject of a Completed Investigation**

Data on children subject of a completed investigation are analyzed using item 6. Item 5 provides an indication of the ratio of children to families in the States that are able to provide both children subject of an investigation and families subject of an investigation in item 5.

### **Item 6: Children by Disposition**

Percentages of children by disposition have been calculated using only those States that reported on both substantiated and unsubstantiated dispositions. The percentages are not significantly different from data submitted for 1994 if this subset of States is used.

The rates of victimization discussed in the report are based upon the 1,000,502 substantiated or indicated child victims in 49 States. The child population in these States (67,046,118) was used as a denominator and the resulting quotient was multiplied by 1,000 to express the rate in terms of every 1,000 children. The rate for the two-tier States is based upon 688,752 substantiated children among a child population of 53,235,427 children in these 38 States. The three-tier rate is based on 311,750 substantiated and indicated children among the 13,810,691 children in these 11 States. The calculations of these overall rates included submissions of duplicated or unduplicated numbers from the States and should be considered as best estimates.

In order to compare child reporting rates to child substantiation rates, only data from the 37 States that provided duplicated counts for both items and provided the number of unsubstantiated children were used in the analysis.

### **Item 7: Types of Maltreatment**

Percentages discussed in this report are based on the number of maltreatments suffered by the confirmed victims (1,000,502 substantiated and indicated children) in 49 States. Rates for

maltreatment types for every 1,000 children are based on the child population (67,046,118) in these States. Most States were able to collect and report data on the multiple types of maltreatment suffered by a child. However, many States do not record "unknown" as a type of maltreatment, and some States do not use the "other" category.

#### **Item 8: Age of Victims**

Most States provided age data in 1-year increments, but some States reported data by age group (e.g., ages 0-2, ages 3-5). For these States, the age of victims was estimated for each year by dividing the grouped figure by the number of intervals included in that grouping. Percentages in the report are based on the total number of victims (833,115) for whom age data were provided.

#### **Item 9: Sex of Victims**

Percentages in the report are based on the total number of victims (834,174) for whom age was reported.

#### **Item 10: Race/Ethnicity of Victim**

Percentages in the report are based on the total number of victims (822,609) for whom race/ethnicity was reported.

#### **Item 11: Victims Removed From the Home**

The percentage of victims removed from the home is based on the responses for the total number of victims (852,540) in the States that reported this item. For some States, the number of victims removed from the home included the siblings of these victims.

#### **Item 12: Court Action Initiated**

The percentage of victims for whom court action was initiated is based upon the responses for the total number of victims (487,233) in the States that reported this item.

#### **Item 13: Receiving Additional Services**

For most States, the numbers do not include information on services that are not captured on the State child protective services information system. These counts are from States that provided unduplicated numbers and from States that provided duplicated numbers.

#### **Item 14: Died from Abuse or Neglect**

The fatality figures refer primarily to those victims who were known to the child protective services agency. States are continuing to develop interagency child death investigation teams that might identify instances of death due to maltreatment more completely. Montana and West Virginia did not submit 1995 data. Therefore, 1994 data were used for those two states.

The rate of fatalities is based on the child population of those States that submitted fatality data. For this calculation, a denominator of 61,241,428 children is used. The resulting quotient is multiplied by 100,000 to obtain a rate expressed in terms of every 100,000 children.

### Item 15: Relationship of Perpetrator to Victim

States that count perpetrators by incident may count fewer perpetrator relationships than States that use victim-based reporting, since an incident may include more than one child victim. Percentages are based on a total of 653,736 perpetrators.

### Appendix D Supporting DCDC Data Tables

These data tables display the results of analysis conducted on the 1995 case-level data submitted by Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, and Washington.

Data on fatalities are from only 8 (Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington) of the 11 States.

**Table D-1 Disposition of Unduplicated Reports by Report Source**

	Substantiated	Indicated	Unsubstantiated	Closed / No Finding	Other	Unknown	TOTAL
Social Services	16,848 (34.26%)	4,776 (9.71%)	26,169 (53.22%)	143 (0.29%)	1,103 (2.24%)	132 (0.27%)	49,171 (100.00%)
Medical	18,652 (43.43%)	1,949 (4.54%)	18,873 (43.95%)	58 (0.14%)	3,320 (7.73%)	93 (0.22%)	42,945 (100.00%)
Legal	19,306 (46.31%)	2,462 (5.91%)	16,342 (39.20%)	113 (0.27%)	3,358 (8.05%)	108 (0.26%)	41,689 (100.00%)
Education	16,197 (29.74%)	3,916 (7.19%)	30,055 (55.18%)	131 (0.24%)	4,057 (7.45%)	113 (0.21%)	54,469 (100.00%)
Substitute Care	1,689 (24.96%)	712 (10.52%)	4,161 (61.48%)	6 (0.09%)	199 (2.94%)	1 (0.01%)	6,768 (100.00%)
Alleged Victim	989 (28.83%)	155 (4.52%)	1,876 (54.69%)		408 (11.80%)	2 (0.06%)	3,430 (100.00%)
Parent	5,336 (22.84%)	2,158 (9.24%)	13,744 (58.83%)	2 (0.01%)	2,122 (9.08%)	1 (0.00%)	23,363 (100.00%)
Other Relative	6,952 (27.01%)	1,997 (7.76%)	14,812 (57.56%)	31 (0.12%)	1,940 (7.54%)	3 (0.01%)	25,735 (100.00%)
Friend	4,590 (19.91%)	2,745 (11.91%)	13,933 (60.45%)	7 (0.03%)	1,774 (7.70%)		23,049 (100.00%)
Alleged Perpetrator	72 (90.00%)		107 (59.44%)	1 (0.56%)			180 (100.00%)
Anonymous	5,693 (16.25%)	2,214 (6.32%)	23,791 (67.92%)	4 (0.01%)	3,252 (9.28%)	76 (0.22%)	35,030 (100.00%)
Other	6,545 (28.11%)	1,182 (5.08%)	13,032 (55.97%)	5 (0.02%)	2,098 (9.01%)	423 (1.82%)	23,285 (100.00%)
Unknown	4,197 (14.84%)		23,421 (82.79%)	607 (2.15%)		66 (0.23%)	28,291 (100.00%)
TOTAL (Percentage)	107,066 (29.96%)	24,266 (6.79%)	200,316 (56.05%)	1,108 (0.31%)	23,631 (6.61%)	1,018 (0.28%)	357,405 (100.00%)

**Table D–2 Age of Victim by Maltreatment Type**

	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Medical Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	TOTAL
0 – 3	7,594 (20.02%)	35,946 (33.74%)	3,831 (53.80%)	2,473 (11.56%)	1,040 (17.54%)	50,884 (28.44%)
4 – 7	9,960 (26.25%)	30,767 (28.88%)	1,484 (20.84%)	6,226 (29.09%)	1,606 (27.09%)	50,043 (27.97%)
8 – 11	8,501 (22.41%)	21,190 (19.89%)	962 (13.51%)	5,066 (23.67%)	1,574 (26.55%)	37,293 (20.84%)
12 and Older	11,886 (31.33%)	18,643 (17.50%)	844 (11.85%)	7,636 (35.68%)	1,708 (28.81%)	40,717 (22.75%)
TOTAL (Percentage)	37,941 (100.00%)	106,546 (100.00%)	7,121 (100.00%)	21,401 (100.00%)	5,928 (100.00%)	178,937 (100.00%)

**Table D–3 Sex of Victim by Maltreatment Type**

	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Medical Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	TOTAL
Male	20,289 (51.98%)	55,534 (50.94%)	3,918 (53.13%)	5,412 (24.72%)	2,912 (46.79%)	88,065 (47.98%)
Female	18,627 (47.72%)	53,012 (48.63%)	3,429 (46.49%)	16,461 (75.18%)	3,296 (52.96%)	94,825 (51.66%)
Unknown	117 (0.30%)	476 (0.44%)	28 (0.38%)	22 (0.10%)	16 (0.26%)	659 (0.36%)
TOTAL (Percentage)	39,033 (100.00%)	109,022 (100.00%)	7,375 (100.00%)	21,895 (100.00%)	6,224 (100.00%)	183,549 (100.00%)

**Table D–4 Child Fatalities by Age and Sex**

	Male	Female	TOTAL
0 – 3	108 (80.00%)	75 (73.53%)	183 (77.22%)
4 – 7	14 (10.37%)	13 (12.75%)	27 (11.39%)
8 – 11	10 (7.41%)	9 (8.82%)	19 (8.02%)
12 and Older	3 (2.22%)	5 (4.90%)	8 (3.38%)
TOTAL (Percentage)	135 (100.00%)	102 (100.00%)	237 (100.00%)

**Table D-5 Age of Perpetrator by Sex**

	Male	Female	TOTAL
0 – 19	3,948 (8.66%)	5,055 (6.81%)	9,003 (7.52%)
20 – 24	4,180 (9.17%)	12,546 (16.91%)	16,726 (13.97%)
25 – 29	6,205 (13.61%)	15,943 (21.49%)	22,148 (18.49%)
30 – 34	8,474 (18.59%)	16,704 (22.52%)	25,178 (21.02%)
35 – 39	7,846 (17.21%)	11,135 (15.01%)	18,981 (15.85%)
40 – 44	4,981 (10.93%)	4,864 (6.56%)	9,845 (8.22%)
45 – 49	2,592 (5.69%)	2,214 (2.98%)	4,806 (4.01%)
50 – 75	7,357 (16.14%)	5,723 (7.71%)	13,080 (10.92%)
TOTAL (Percentage)	45,583 (100.00%)	74,184 (100.00%)	119,767 (100.00%)

**Additional Information**

This document has been prepared for the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect by

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In addition to compiling and analyzing annual statistics from the States, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Technical Assistance Program helps States to improve their child protective services information systems, address technical and programmatic issues of submitting data to NCANDS, and enhance the analytical capability of their agencies. For further information regarding technical assistance contact the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Technical Assistance Program, Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 310, Rockville, Maryland 20852-1606, (301) 881-2590.

Additional copies of this document, updated State data tables for previous years, and other information regarding child maltreatment can be obtained by contacting:

[National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information](#)

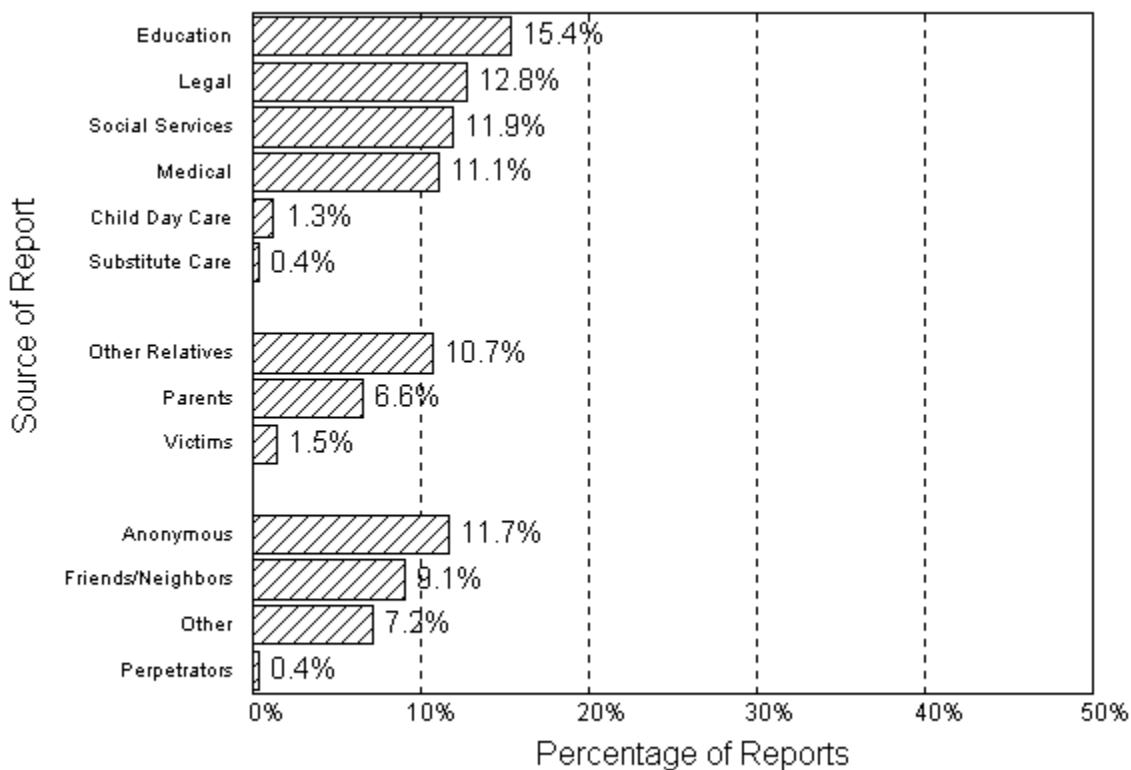
P.O. Box 1182, Washington, DC 20013-1182  
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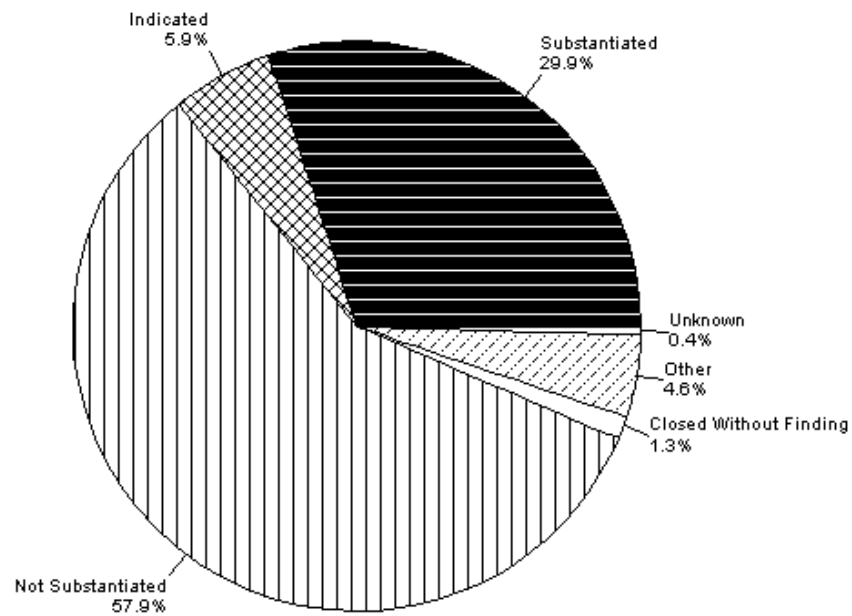
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, *Child Maltreatment 1995: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1997).

**FIGURE 2-1 Sources of Reports**



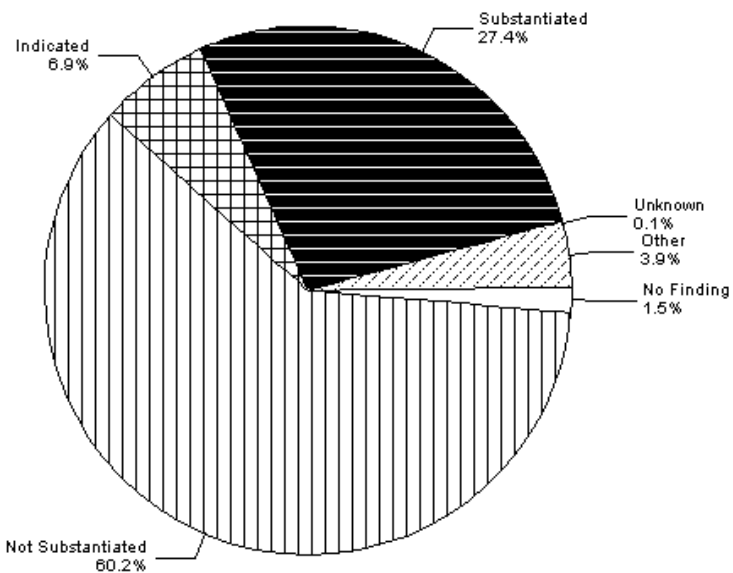
Note: 1,486,605 reports from 42 States.

**Figure 2.2 Investigated Reports by Disposition**



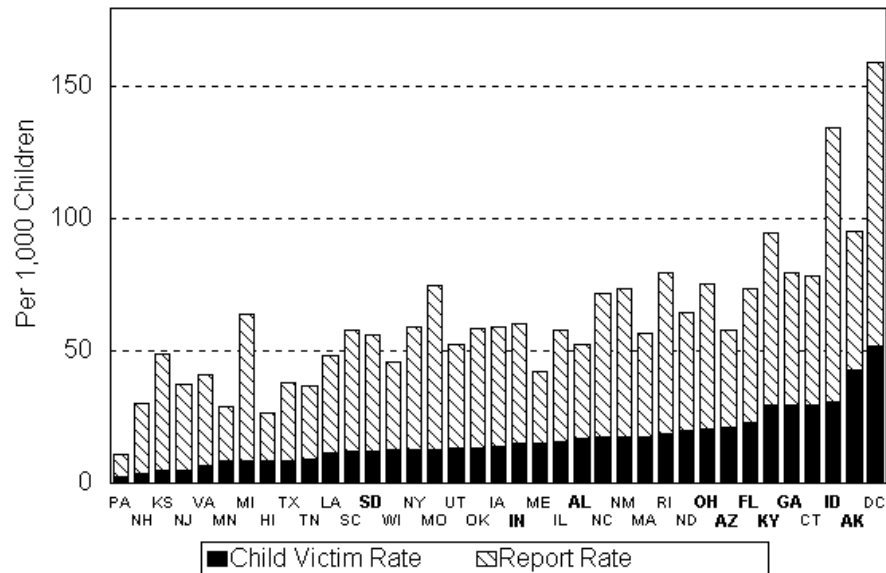
N = 1,675,372 reports from 48 States.

**Figure 2-3 Children by Disposition**



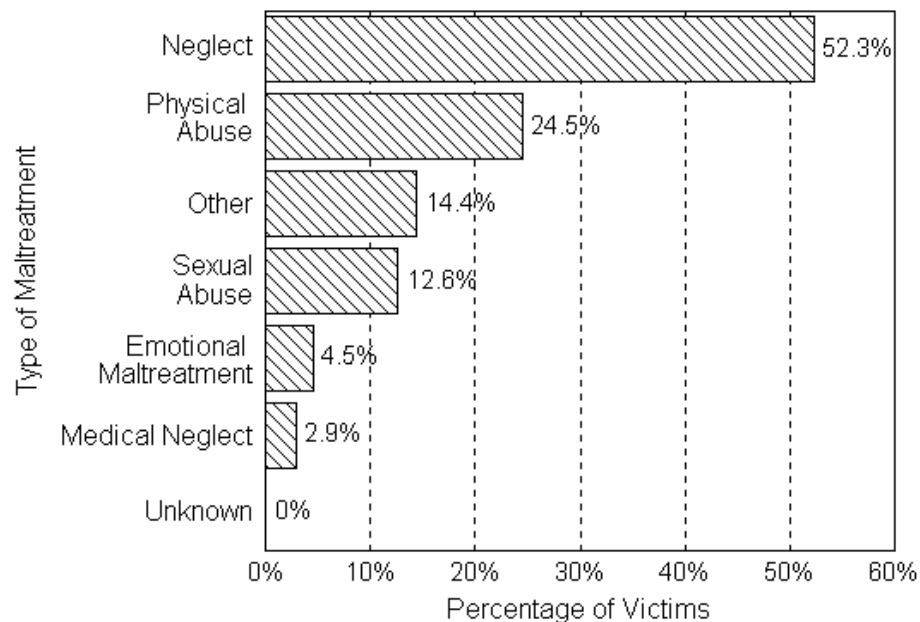
N = 2,177,014 children #40 States.

**Figure 2-4 Child Victim and Child Reporting Rates Ordered by Value of Victim Rate**



N = 37 States. Note: States in bold use a three-tier disposition classification.

**Figure 2-5 Types of Maltreatment**

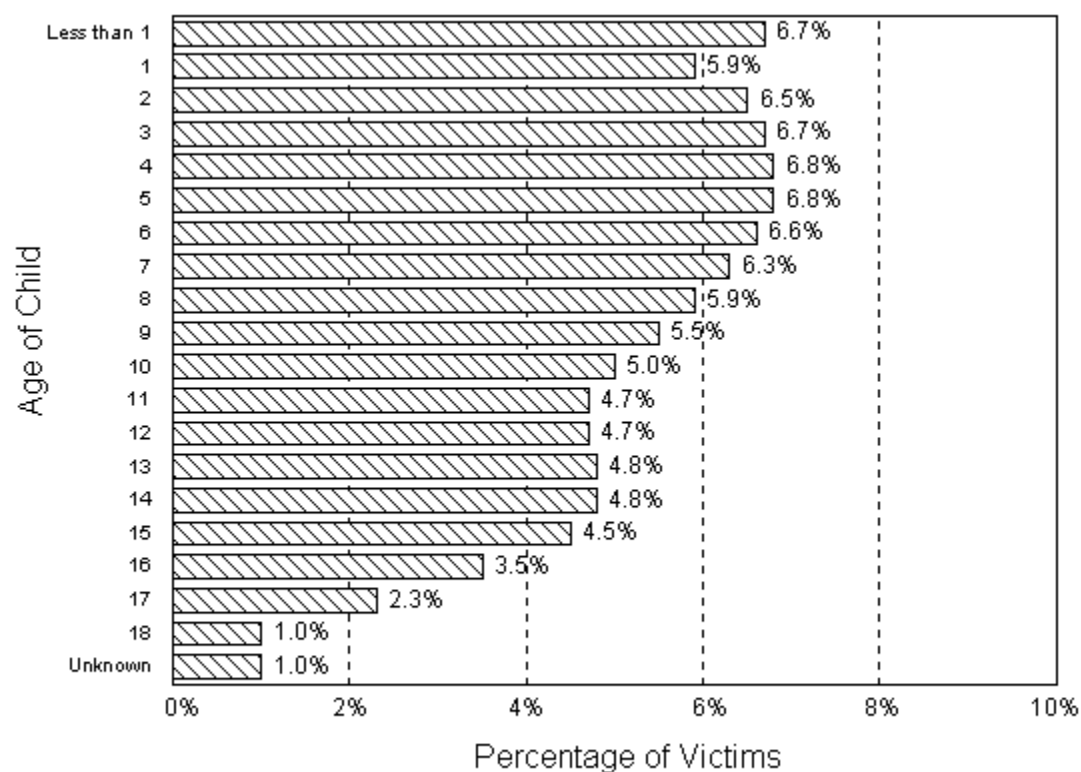


N = 1,000,502 victims in 49 States.

Note: Percentages total more than 100 percent because some States report more than one type of maltreatment per victim.



**Figure 2-6 Victims by Age**



N = 833,115 victims in 45 States.