

# **Child Maltreatment 1997**

Reports from the States to the  
National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System

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This document has been prepared for the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, by Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., in collaboration with the American Humane Association, under contract number ACF-10-95-1849. Members of the technical team who have contributed to this report are: Ying-Ying T. Yuan, Ph.D., Project Director; Linda Ingram, Research Associate; Ryan T. Mahon, Research Assistant; Patricia Pearson, Administrative Assistant; and Marian Bussey and Jim Pope, Technical Assistance Specialists. Editing and report design have been conducted by Earl Moore and Associates, Inc., under contract number ACF-105-97-1857.

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 on technical assistance, contact John Gaudiosi, Social Science Statistician, Children's Bureau, 330 C Street, SW, Room 2425, Washington, DC 20447 at (202) 205-8625 or [jgaudiosi@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:jgaudiosi@acf.hhs.gov).

Additional copies of this document and other information on child maltreatment can be obtained by contacting:

**National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information**  
**330 C Street, SW**  
**Washington, DC 20447**  
**1-800-FYI-3366**  
<http://www.childwelfare.gov>

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## **Acknowledgments**

One of the most important goals of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) is to address the needs of children who are abused and neglected. Through the collection of data, ACYF seeks to provide information to concerned citizens, communities, child welfare practitioners, administrators, researchers, and policymakers so that data are available to inform practice and policy. The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) is ACYF's primary data collection, analysis, and information dissemination program on child maltreatment.

The NCANDS was developed in consultation with representatives from State and local child protective services agencies. Through aggregate statistics and case-level data, it collects information on the nature of reports to child protective services agencies, the characteristics of children who are the subjects of these reports, and the response of the State and local agencies. This document, *Child Maltreatment 1997: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*, is the eighth annual report on national child abuse and neglect statistics published by the ACYF.

On behalf of the ACYF, I wish to express my appreciation to the State child protective services agencies and their program and technical staff who have supported this initiative for the past several years. Many administrators have shown leadership in ensuring that their information systems are capable of meeting the NCANDS specifications. The members of the State Advisory Group have been dedicated partners in helping the ACYF to implement this data collection and analysis system. Without the time, effort, and spirit of these people, we would not be able to publish this report.



Patricia Montoya  
Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth and  
Families

## Highlights of Findings



These highlights are based on responses from the States to the 1997 Summary Data Component. The italicized highlights are the findings required by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, as amended in 1996, to be included in all annual State data reports to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Because this is the first year that many of these data items have been required, not all States were able to provide data on every item. Results for items responded to by nine or fewer States have not been reported in the highlights.

### Services to Prevent Child Maltreatment

Child abuse and neglect prevention programs are designed to increase parental childrearing competence and knowledge of the developmental stages of childhood.

- *Thirty-one States reported that 636,079 families received preventive services, and, of these States, 28 reported that 716,512 children received preventive services.*

### Child Protective Services Investigations

The role of the Child Protective Services (CPS) agency includes receiving reports alleging that a child or children have been maltreated, determining whether such reports should be investigated or not, conducting an investigation or an assessment to determine whether a child has been maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment, and deciding whether to take any further action on behalf of protecting the child.

- More than half of child abuse and neglect reports were received from professionals; more than a quarter were received from other relatives, friends and neighbors, parents, and alleged victims; and one-fifth were received from anonymous or unknown sources, other sources, and alleged perpetrators. (42 States)
- *Forty-five States reported that nearly 3 million children were alleged victims of maltreatment.* The national rate of children who were reported was 42.0 children per 1,000 children in the population.
- *Approximately 19,000 workers were responsible for screening, intake, investigation, and assessment of reports.* (38 States) About 10,000 workers were responsible for screening and intake. (24 States)
- *The average annual workload of CPS investigation and assessment workers was 81 investigations.* (14 States)
- *Six States provided data on the average response time with respect to the initial investigation of reports.*
- *One-third of investigations resulted in a disposition of either substantiated or indicated child maltreatment. More than half resulted in a finding that child maltreatment was not substantiated. Ten percent of investigations had no finding or an "other" finding.* (46

*States) Four States provided data on the number of children in unsubstantiated reports that were determined to be intentionally false.*

- Three-fifths of substantiated or indicated reports were from professional sources--legal, medical, social service, or education. (16 States)

### **Child Maltreatment Victims: Who Are They?**

Victims of maltreatment are children who have been the subjects of allegations of abuse or neglect that have been substantiated or indicated by a CPS agency.

- *Based on data from 44 States, it was estimated that there were approximately 984,000 victims of maltreatment nationwide, a decrease from more than 1 million victims in 1996. The rate of victimization was 13.9 per 1,000 children.*
- *More than half of all victims suffered neglect, while almost a quarter suffered physical abuse. Twelve percent of the victims were sexually abused. Victims of psychological abuse, medical neglect, and "other" types of maltreatment accounted for less than 11 percent each. (43 States)*
- *Infants were the largest single-year age group of maltreatment victims, at 7 percent. (40 States)*
- *Excluding victims classified as "other" or "unknown," sixty-seven percent of all victims were white; 30 percent were African-American; 3 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native; and 1 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander. (40 States)*
- *The proportion of victims that was Hispanic was 13 percent, compared to 19 percent of the population. (35 States)*
- *Seven States provided data on the numbers of child victims who, in the past 5 years, had received family preservation services; nine States provided data on the numbers who had been reunified with their families.*

### **Service Responses**

Some of the children referred to CPS agencies received services in addition to investigation or assessment. Some were directed to community services for counseling or information, and others received ongoing child welfare services.

- *Based on data from 32 States, almost half of victims received post-investigation services. Of these States, 28 reported that two-fifths did not receive services.*
- *A victim, on average, received post-investigation services 56.0 days after CPS received the maltreatment report. (10 States)*
- *Sixteen percent of victims were removed from the home. (31 States) Two percent of children with unsubstantiated reports were removed. (14 States)*
- *About one-fifth of victims received court actions. (26 States) More than 90 percent of victims who received court actions had court-appointed representatives. (12 States)*
- *Two States provided data on the number of out-of-court contacts between the court-appointed representatives and the victims.*

### **Fatalities**

Child fatality estimates are based primarily on fatalities of abuse and neglect victims known to CPS agencies and fatalities of victims not previously reported as abused or neglected.

- *Forty-one States reported 967 child maltreatment fatalities, which were extrapolated to a national estimate of 1,197.*
- Children younger than age 4 accounted for more than three-quarters of all fatalities. (16 States)
- *Two percent of all fatalities occurred while the victim was in foster care. (31 States)*

## Perpetrators

Perpetrators are persons who have caused or knowingly allowed child maltreatment.

- Three-quarters of perpetrators of child maltreatment were parents, and an additional tenth were other relatives. (39 States)
- Almost two-thirds of perpetrators were female, and four-fifths of perpetrators were younger than age 40. (16 States)
- Male perpetrators were associated with three-quarters of sexual abuse victims, while female perpetrators were associated with four-fifths of medical neglect victims. (16 States)

## 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 (CPS) agencies. The NCANDS design has been guided by the needs of the child welfare field and the availability of data in State information systems. This year, findings from the NCANDS are based on aggregate data from 49 States and case-level data from 16 States. This is the eighth consecutive year that information based on data collected through the NCANDS has been published.

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

### 1.1 Development of the NCANDS

The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN)<sup>1</sup> established the NCANDS in response to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act ([Public Law 93-247](#)), as amended, which called for the creation of a coordinated universal and case-specific national data collection and analysis program. In 1988, the NCCAN embarked on a collaborative effort with the States to collect and analyze annual child abuse and neglect data, on a voluntary basis, from CPS agencies

in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the territories, and the Armed Services. The first report consisted of 1990 data.

During the initial design phase, the State Advisory Group helped to identify data items and definitions that would present a national profile of child maltreatment. This group ([appendix A](#)) continues to play an important role in the implementation of the NCANDS.

The NCANDS has two components. The SDC collects aggregate data from each State through an annual survey. The DCDC collects automated, case-level data on an annual basis from those States with the capacity to provide such data. Technical assistance is provided to the States to assist them in preparing their submissions.

## **1.2 The Summary Data Component**

Prior to 1996, the SDC collected information such as the number of reports alleging child abuse and neglect, the dispositions of these reports, the demographics of victims of maltreatment, the number of child fatalities resulting from maltreatment, the number of victims who received post investigative services, the number of victims who were placed in foster care and received court services, and the relationship of perpetrators to victims. Submission of data was voluntary.

In 1996, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was amended to require that any State receiving the Basic State Grant work with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide specific data on child maltreatment to the extent practicable.<sup>2</sup> The legislation specified the following data elements:

1. The number of children who were reported to the State during the year as abused or neglected.
2. Of the number of children described in paragraph (1), the number with respect to whom such reports were--
  - A. substantiated;
  - B. unsubstantiated; or
  - C. determined to be false.
3. Of the number of children described in paragraph (2)--
  - A. the number that did not receive services during the year under the State program funded under this section or an equivalent State program;
  - B. the number that received services during the year under the State program funded under this section or an equivalent State program; and
  - C. the number that were removed from their families during the year by disposition of the case.

4. The number of families that received preventive services from the State during the year.
5. The number of deaths in the State during the year resulting from child abuse or neglect.
6. Of the number of children described in paragraph (5), the number of such children who were in foster care.
7. The number of child protective services workers responsible for the intake and screening of reports filed in the previous year.
8. The agency response time with respect to each such report with respect to initial investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect.
9. The response time with respect to the provision of services to families and children where an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made.
10. The number of child protective services workers responsible for intake, assessment, and investigation of child abuse and neglect reports relative to the number of reports investigated in the previous year.
11. The number of children reunited with their families or receiving family preservation services that, within five years, result in subsequent substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, including the death of the child
12. The number of children for whom individuals were appointed by the court to represent the best interests of such children and the average number of out of court contacts between such individuals and children.

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) collaborated with the States to review these data elements. In a pilot test, the wording of the data elements, the definitions of the terms, and data collection methods were examined. After the pilot test was completed, the data elements were incorporated into the annual collection of child maltreatment data through the SDC, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Some specific data elements were reworded for clarity. The 1997 SDC Survey was the first survey in which all of the data elements specified in the CAPTA amendments were included in the SDC.

The SDC Survey ([appendix B](#)) and Glossary were mailed to the States in the fall of 1998. Data were collected from 48 States and the District of Columbia. (Throughout the text, the term "States" is used to include the District of Columbia.)

Because much of the data had not been routinely collected by the State child welfare information systems, the initial response rate for some of the new items was low (see [appendix C](#)). Many State contacts reported that they would program their child welfare information systems to collect these data in the future. The most problematical data elements were the number of out-of-court contacts between court-appointed representatives and the child victims they represent,



response time with respect to the initial investigation of child abuse or neglect, response time with respect to the provision of services, and the number of children reunited with their families or receiving family preservation services who, within 5 years, were victims of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

The completed forms were reviewed for cross-item and historical consistency, and for substantive clarity. SDC data tables, included in this report ([appendix D](#)), consist of the 1997 SDC data by State. Supplementary data tables are also included ([appendix E](#)). These consist of additional tables that provide supporting data.

The contacts from each State provided additional information or clarification about their responses to specific data items. State comments on 1997 SDC data ([appendix F](#)) are provided in this report. These comments are critical to understanding each State's responses to the survey.

### **1.3 The Detailed Case Data Component**

The DCDC collects automated, case-level data on children who are the subjects of reports alleging child maltreatment. These data permit a more detailed analysis of abuse and neglect than is possible with only aggregate data. For example, while the SDC can report on ages of victims and types of maltreatment experienced, it cannot present the analysis of maltreatment by age. Because the DCDC collects data at the case level, this and similar analyses can be conducted.

DCDC data are collected using a uniform record layout that contains 19 data elements on reports of alleged maltreatment, including the demographic characteristics of the subjects of the reports. An additional 98 data elements are collected on each child determined to be a victim of maltreatment, including type(s) of maltreatment, disabilities, family problems, services provided, and characteristics of perpetrator(s). In the data presented in this report, a child is counted every time he or she is the subject of a substantiated or indicated report.<sup>3</sup>

Sixteen States (Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming) submitted 1997 data for the DCDC. Although these States are not a statistically representative sample of the United States, this volume of data contributes additional insight into child abuse and neglect. The child population in these 16 States is nearly one-third of the population in the United States younger than 18 years old. Data on more than 465,000 reports that included more than 816,000 children were collected. Nearly 25 percent of the reports received by CPS agencies nationwide are included in the 1997 DCDC database.

### **1.4 Overview of the Report**

Sections 2 through 7 present the findings on child maltreatment based on 1997 data. Section 2 discusses preventive services. Section 3 examines the variables associated with the CPS intake and referral process, including the number of reports received, the number of reports screened out, the sources of reports, the number of CPS workers, the average response time to initial investigations, and the dispositions of such investigations. Section 4 describes the characteristics of abused and neglected children, including maltreatment types, age, sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity, and service history. Section 5 describes the provision of services to child victims and other children who were the subjects of reports. Section 6 discusses child fatalities, including

information on services previously provided to such children. Section 7 describes perpetrators by relation to the child victims and provides additional information about perpetrators from DCDC data on sex and age of perpetrator and type of maltreatment.

<sup>1</sup> In Fiscal Year 1998, the NCCAN was reorganized and merged with the Children's Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Public Law 104-235, 104th Congress.

<sup>3</sup> Additional information on the DCDC may be found in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. (1997). *National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS): Detailed Case Data Component Guidelines and Procedures*. Unpublished technical report.

## Section 2 Services to Prevent Child Maltreatment



The common objective of child abuse and neglect prevention programs is to avert child maltreatment through the provision of services to families and their children. Such services are designed to increase parental child rearing competence and knowledge of the developmental stages of childhood.

Thirty-one States reported that 636,079 families received preventive services. Of those 31 States, 28 reported that 716,512 children received preventive services. The types of services most frequently cited were family planning, parenting education, substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention, domestic violence services, emergency housing assistance, emergency shelter assistance, and respite care. The most commonly cited funding sources were the Children's Trust Fund; title IV–B, subpart 2, Promoting Safe and Stable Families; the Social Services Block Grant (title XX); and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

The data submitted by Virginia ([table 2–1](#)) demonstrate the range of funding sources that States may have used in providing prevention services.

The extent to which the reported count of preventive service recipients accurately represents the volume of children and families who received such services is not known. In general, State CPS agencies were unable to obtain data on local and community-level services that were not reported to a State agency. Some States specifically noted that the data provided included only the numbers of families and children who were known to the CPS agency. In addition, some States may not have counted recipients in all programs that funded child abuse and neglect prevention programs. However, the data may include duplicative counts of families and children who received services through more than one program. Clarification of these and related issues will be sought in future years.

### Table 2–1 Preventive Services in Virginia

| <b>Funding Source</b>                          | <b>Program</b>                                       | <b>Time Period</b>        | <b>Number of Families</b>         | <b>Number of Children</b> |
|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Child Abuse/<br>Neglect State Grant            | Parent Educator <sup>a</sup>                         | State Fiscal Year<br>1997 | 24                                |                           |
| Social Services Block<br>Grant,<br>Title XX    | Prevention<br>Programs                               | Calendar Year<br>1997     | 829 <sup>b</sup>                  |                           |
| Family Support Services –<br>Title IVB, Part 2 | Family<br>Preservation <sup>c</sup>                  | Calendar Year<br>1997     | 83,144 <sup>d</sup>               |                           |
| Maternal and Child Health<br>Block Grant       | CHIP <sup>e</sup>                                    | State Fiscal Year<br>1997 | 2,648                             | 5,118                     |
| Maternal and Child Health<br>Block Grant       | Resource<br>Mothers Project <sup>f</sup>             | State Fiscal Year<br>1997 | 2,311 <sup>g</sup>                | 1,019                     |
| Block Grant and State<br>Monies                | Virginia Family<br>Violence<br>Prevention<br>Program | State Fiscal Year<br>1997 | 90<br>families<br>2,638<br>adults | 2,114                     |
| <b>Total</b>                                   |  |                           | 91,684                            | 8,251                     |

<sup>a</sup> The Parent Educator program is used in 6 of 123 local agencies. Future data collection by State will include the number of children, in addition to the number of families. This project provides home-based treatment services and parent education classes to CPS families (prevention cases only).

<sup>b</sup> This is the number of individuals rather than families. There are plans to collect these data in family/children categories for State fiscal year 2000.

<sup>c</sup> This does not include public awareness campaigns.

<sup>d</sup> Data are not currently being collected on the number of children receiving preventive services under this program. Data on children will be collected manually for 1998. In response to Federal State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) requirements, Virginia's Online Automated Services Information Program will begin collecting the data in calendar year 1999.

<sup>e</sup> CHIP stands for Child Health Investment Partnership (in one city) and Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP of Virginia). They are the same model but incorporated separately. The numbers are combined.

<sup>f</sup> This project provides lay home visitors to pregnant teens and their families to improve mental and physical health outcomes for mothers and infants.

<sup>g</sup> Includes pregnant teenagers and women.

## Section 3 Child Protective Services Investigations



A CPS agency receives reports alleging that a child or children have been maltreated, determines whether such reports should be investigated or not, conducts investigations or assessments to determine whether a child has been maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment, and decides whether to take any further action on behalf of protecting the child. This section discusses the activities of the CPS agency from accepting reports to conducting investigations.

### 3.1 Screening of Reports (SDC)

Of the reports alleging child maltreatment that were made to CPS agencies in 1997, a number were screened out or not investigated. Twenty-five States were able to provide the number of reports that were screened out. These States received a total of 1,682,960 reports, of which 517,620 (30.8 percent) were screened out ([appendix E, table E-1](#)).

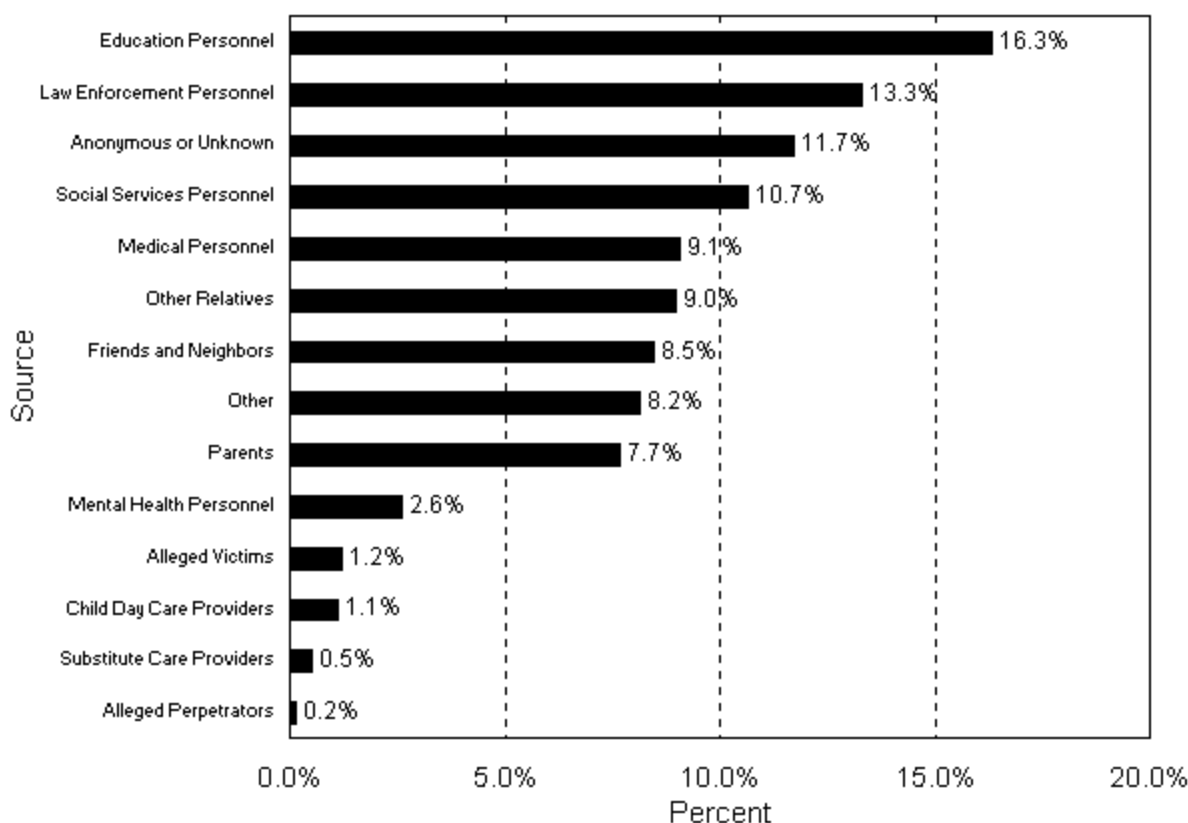
One set of standards for deciding whether or not to investigate a report of child abuse was established by the Child Welfare League of America. These standards specify that an accepted report include an alleged victim under the age of 18, the child's parent or caregiver as the alleged perpetrator, an allegation meeting the statutory definition of possible abuse or neglect, and sufficient information for the agency to identify and locate the child. <sup>4</sup>

State contacts discussed additional circumstances under which a report might be screened out. For example, one State contact explained that a report related to custody issues, poverty issues, educational neglect or truancy, an unborn child, or juvenile delinquency would be screened out. Another State representative noted that a shortage of available workers could influence the decision to screen out a report.

### 3.2 Sources of Reports (SDC)

Based on data from 42 States, professional reporters, including educators, law enforcement officials, social service personnel, medical personnel, mental health personnel, child day care providers, and substitute care providers, accounted for 777,637 reports (53.6 percent) of alleged maltreatment that were referred for investigation. Other relatives, friends and neighbors, parents, and alleged victims contributed 382,239 reports (26.4 percent.) Another 290,523 reports (20.0 percent) originated from anonymous or unknown sources, other sources, and alleged perpetrators. Educators initiated 236,719 reports (16.3 percent) and were the largest single source ([figure 3-1](#)). Law enforcement personnel constituted the second largest source, contributing 193,007 reports (13.3 percent). The distribution of report sources has remained virtually constant since 1990.

**Figure 3-1 Source of Reports, 1997 (SDC)**



N=1,450,399 reports from 42 States

### 3.3 Children in Reports Referred for Investigation (SDC)

Based on data received from 45 States, it was estimated that nationwide nearly 3 million children were reported to CPS agencies as alleged victims of maltreatment.<sup>5</sup> Some children may have been reported and counted more than once during the year.

The national rate of children who were the subjects of reports was estimated to be 42.0 children per 1,000 children in the general population.<sup>6</sup> (Throughout this report, "general population" refers to the population of children younger than 18 years of age in the Nation or in the States being discussed; the term "child population" is also used to refer to this group.) This rate is an increase from 39.1 per 1,000 children in the general population ([appendix E, table E-2](#)) in 1990. More than two-thirds of all jurisdictions reported or were estimated to have 1997 rates between 30 and 59 children per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>

The variation in rates may be influenced by differences in definitions of child maltreatment or agency policies and procedures. For example, States that included risk for maltreatment or types of maltreatment not included by other States may have had higher rates of reports accepted for

investigation. The factors that influence screening practice will also affect the number of reports accepted for investigation.

### **3.4 Workers Responsible for CPS Screening, Intake, Investigation, and Assessment (SDC)**

Thirty-eight States reported that a total of 18,843 workers were responsible for screening, intake, investigation, and assessment of reports. Typical job titles for these CPS workers included social worker, family resource specialist, caseworker, call floor counselor, and hotline supervisor. Twenty-four States differentiated between the number of workers who conducted investigations and assessments and the number who did screening and intake. These 24 States reported that of 9,941 CPS workers, 1,145 (11.5 percent) were responsible for screening and intake.

Fourteen States reported on the number of screened-in and screened-out reports and the number of CPS workers, including those who conducted intake and screening functions. To determine the number of investigation workers, the reported number of screening and intake workers was subtracted from the reported number of all CPS workers. Based on data from 14 States, it is estimated that investigation and assessment workers completed 81 investigations per worker during the course of the year ([appendix E, table E-3](#)). An investigation may have included more than one child and more than one allegation of maltreatment.

### **3.5 Conducting Investigations (SDC)**

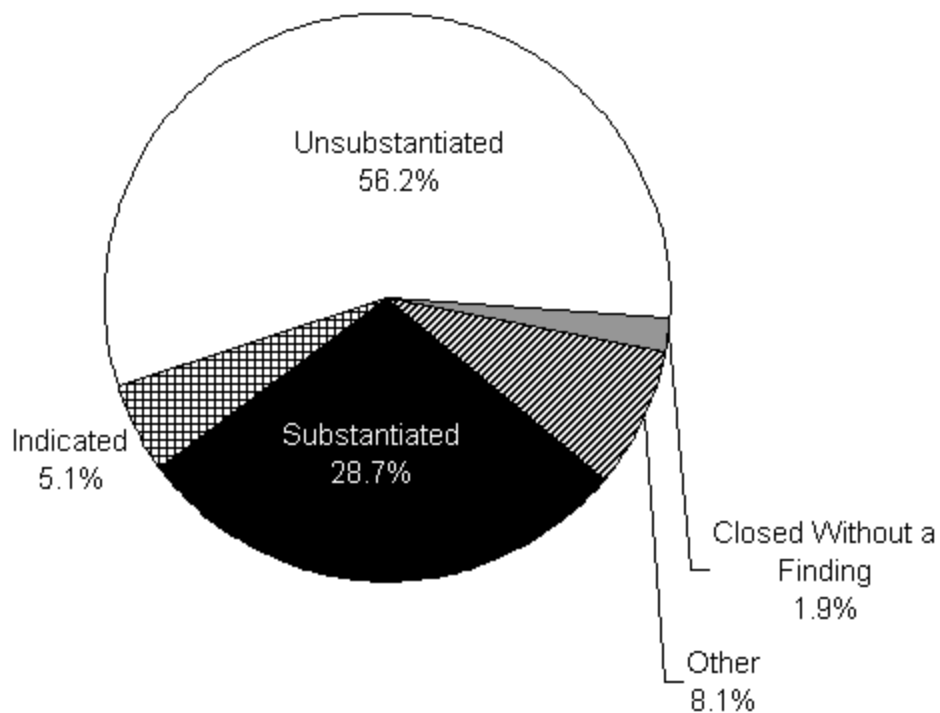
Most States require workers to respond to reports within specific time limits. Many States indicated that the response to a "most serious" or "emergency" report must be made "immediately" or "within 24 hours." Many States allow workers to respond to less serious reports within a week.

While several States described such standards, only six were able to provide actual average response times for the different priority standards. A few States reported the percentage of investigations that were initiated within the specified time requirements.

### **3.6 Investigations of Reports (SDC)**

Forty-six States reported on the dispositions of approximately 1,486,000 investigations of alleged abuse or neglect. [Figure 3-2](#) shows that 502,610 investigations (33.8 percent) resulted in a disposition of either substantiated or indicated child maltreatment. Another 834,353 investigations (56.2 percent) resulted in a finding that child maltreatment was not substantiated. In the four jurisdictions that identified intentionally malicious or false reports in unsubstantiated investigations, the 1,291 reports constituted approximately 1.0 percent of the 128,520 unsubstantiated dispositions. The 28,081 "Closed without a finding" reports accounted for 1.9 percent of all dispositions. The 120,614 other investigation dispositions accounted for 8.1 percent of all dispositions.

### **Figure 3-2 Dispositions of Investigated Reports, 1997 (SDC)**



N=1,485,658 reports from 46 States. "Other" includes In Need of Services, Unknown, and Other.

### 3.7 Report Sources and Dispositions (DCDC)

Based on data from the 16 States that submitted 1997 case-level data to the DCDC, 129,340 substantiated or indicated reports (58.8 percent) were referred by legal, medical, social service, or education professionals ([table 3-1](#)). Legal and medical professionals had more than half of their reports substantiated or indicated; the figures were 40,794 (66.1 percent) and 27,717 (57.8 percent), respectively.

**Table 3-1 Reports by Source and Disposition (DCDC)**

| Report Source                 | Disposition   |           |                 |                   |               | Total  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------|
|                               | Substantiated | Indicated | Unsubstantiated | Closed No Finding | Other/Unknown |        |
| Social Services/Mental Health | >17,992       | >11,056   | >28,809         | 529               | 1,786         | 60,172 |
| % within Report Source        | 29.9%         | 18.4%     | 47.9%           | 0.9%              | 3.0%          | 100.0% |
| % within Disposition          | 13.3%         | 13.1%     | 12.4%           | 16.7%             | 18.8%         | 12.9%  |
| Medical                       | 19,974        | 7,743     | 19,487          | 153               | 620           | 47,977 |

|  |        |        |        |       |       |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Personnel                              |        |        |        |       |       |        |
| % within Report Source                 | 41.6%  | 16.1%> | 40.6%  | 0.3%  | 1.3%  | 100.0% |
| % within Disposition                   | 14.7%  | 9.2%   | 8.4%   | 4.8%  | 6.5%  | 10.3%  |
| Legal Personnel                        | 29,105 | 11,689 | 19,935 | 244   | 789   | 61,762 |
| % within Report Source                 | 47.1%  | 18.9%  | 32.3%  | 0.4%  | 1.3%  | 100.0% |
| % within Disposition                   | 21.5%  | 13.9%  | 8.5%   | 7.7%  | 8.3%  | 13.3%  |
| Educational Personnel                  | 18,806 | 12,975 | 34,918 | 234   | 1,323 | 68,256 |
| % within Report Source                 | 27.6%  | 19.0%  | 51.2%  | 0.3%  | 1.9%  | 100.0% |
| % within Disposition                   | 13.9%  | 15.4%  | 15.0%  | 7.4%  | 13.9% | 14.7%  |
| Substitute Care Provider/Foster Parent | 1,949  | 1,166  | 4,154  | 27    | 142   | 7,438  |
| % within Report Source                 | 26.2%  | 15.7%  | 55.8%  | 0.4%  | 1.9%  | 100.0% |
| % within Disposition                   | 1.4%   | 1.4%   | 1.8%   | 0.9%  | 1.5%  | 1.6%   |
| Alleged Victim                         | 1,114  | 1,189  | 2,918  | 31    | 114   | 5,366  |
| % within Report Source                 | 20.8%  | 22.2%  | 54.4%  | 0.6%  | 2.1%  | 100.0% |
| % within Disposition                   | 0.8%   | 1.4%   | 1.3%   | 1.0%  | 1.2%  | 1.2%   |
| Parent                                 | 6,164  | 8,117  | 19,757 | 205   | 745   | 34,988 |
| % within Report Source                 | 17.6%  | 23.2%  | 56.5%  | 0.6%  | 2.1%  | 100.0% |
| % within Disposition                   | 4.5%   | 9.6%   | 8.5%   | 6.5%  | 7.8%  | 7.5%   |
| Other Relative                         | 7,463  | 7,433  | 18,164 | 471   | 1,082 | 34,613 |
| % within Report Source                 | 21.6%  | 21.5%  | 52.5%  | 1.4%  | 3.1%  | 100.0% |
| % within                               | 5.5%   | 8.8%   | 7.8%   | 14.9% | 11.4% | 7.4%   |



|                        |         |        |         |        |        |         |
|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Disposition            |         |        |         |        |        |         |
| Friends Neighbor       | 5,664   | 7,509  | 18,667  | 177    | 465    | 32,482  |
| % within Report Source | 17.4%   | 23.1%  | 57.5%   | 0.5%   | 1.4%   | 100.0%  |
| % within Disposition   | 4.2%    | 8.9%   | 8.0%    | 5.6%   | 4.9%   | 7.0%    |
| Alleged Perpetrator    | 261     | 85     | 302     | 1      | 4      | 653     |
| % within Report Source | 40.0%   | 13.0%  | 46.2%   | 0.2%   | 0.6%   | 100.0%  |
| % within Disposition   | 0.2%    | 0.1%   | 0.1%    | 0.0%   | 0.0%   | 0.1%    |
| Anonymous Reporter     | 7,667   | 8,175  | 30,859  | 424    | 1,236  | 48,361  |
| % within Report Source | 15.9%   | 16.9%  | 63.8%   | 0.9%   | 2.6%   | 100.0%  |
| % within Disposition   | 5.7%    | 9.7%   | 13.2%   | 13.4%  | 13.0%  | 10.4%   |
| Other                  | 13,000  | 6,151  | 24,280  | 383    | 1,161  | 44,975  |
| % within Report Source | 28.9%   | 13.7%  | 54.0%   | 0.9%   | 2.6%   | 100.0%  |
| % within Disposition   | 9.6%    | 7.3%   | 10.4%   | 12.1%  | 12.2%  | 9.7%    |
| Unknown                | 6,383   | 1,010  | 10,922  | 286    | 43     | 18,644  |
| % within Report Source | 34.2%   | 5.4%   | 58.6%   | 1.5%   | 0.2%   | 100.0%  |
| % within Disposition   | 4.7%    | 1.2%   | 4.7%    | 9.0%   | 0.5%   | 4.0%    |
| Total                  | 135,542 | 84,298 | 233,172 | 3,165  | 9,510  | 465,687 |
| % within Report Source | 29.1%   | 18.1%  | 50.1%   | 0.7%   | 2.0%   | 100.0%  |
| % within Disposition   | 100.0%  | 100.0% | 100.0%  | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0%  |

<sup>4</sup> Child Welfare of America, Inc., *Standards of Excellence: CWLA Standards of Excellence for Services for Abused or Neglected Children and Their Families*, revised edition (Washington, DC: Author, 199), 30.

<sup>5</sup> The national estimate of children reported as alleged victims was obtained by calculating a weighted average rate based on all States that reported in a given year, then multiplying the State population by this average rate for each State that was unable to provide these data. The national estimate includes the

50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

<sup>6</sup> The State rate of children reported as alleged victims of maltreatment was obtained by dividing the number of alleged child victims by the state child population and multiplying by 1,000. The national rate was obtained by dividing the total number of alleged child victims by the total number of children in the States that reported these data and multiplying by 1,000.

<sup>7</sup> Population and race data on children younger than 18 years of age by State were supplied by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Estimates of the population of States by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for 1990–1997 can be accessed at <http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/state/sasrh/sasrh97.txt>. Estimates of the population of Puerto Rico Municipios and demographic components of population change (PR–96–2) can be accessed at <http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/puerto-rico>. Estimates of the population of Puerto Rico Municipios, July 1, 1997, and demographic components of population change for April 1, 1990, to July 1, 1997, can be accessed at <http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/puerto-rico/prunnet.txt>. Data for Guam and the Virgin Islands (International Database, Table 004) can be accessed at <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbsum.html>.

## Section 4 Child Maltreatment Victims: Who Are They?

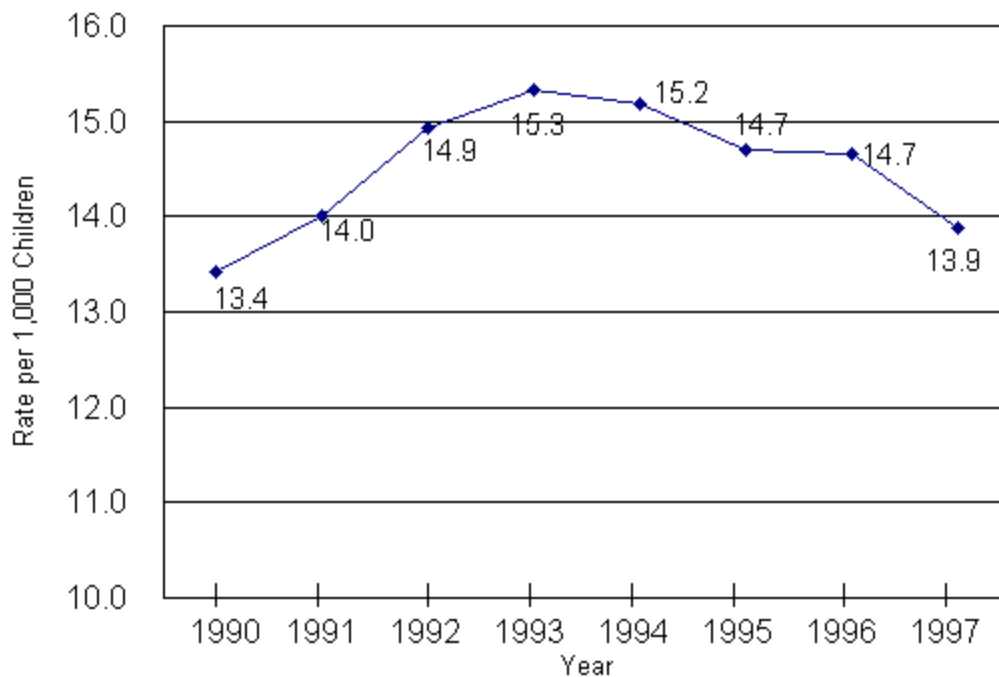


Victims of maltreatment are children who have been the subjects of allegations of abuse or neglect that have been substantiated or indicated by a CPS agency. This section describes the numbers and rates of victims; types and rates of maltreatment; victim demographics such as age, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity; and prior service histories.

### 4.1 Rate of Victimization (SDC)

Based on data from 44 States, it was estimated that there were approximately 984,000 victims of maltreatment ([appendix E, table E–4](#)), a decrease from more than 1 million victims in 1996 in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. The rate of child victims was 13.9 per 1,000 children in the general population in 1997, which is slightly higher than the rate of 13.4 victims per 1,000 children in 1990. The rate of child victims per 1,000 children has continued to drop since a peak in 1993 of 15.3 victims per 1,000 children in the general population ([figure 4–1](#)). Among States that reported data for 1997, 33.4 percent of all children who were the subjects of investigations were found to be victims of maltreatment.

**Figure 4–1 Victimization Rates, 1990–1997 (SDC)**



N=54 jurisdictions

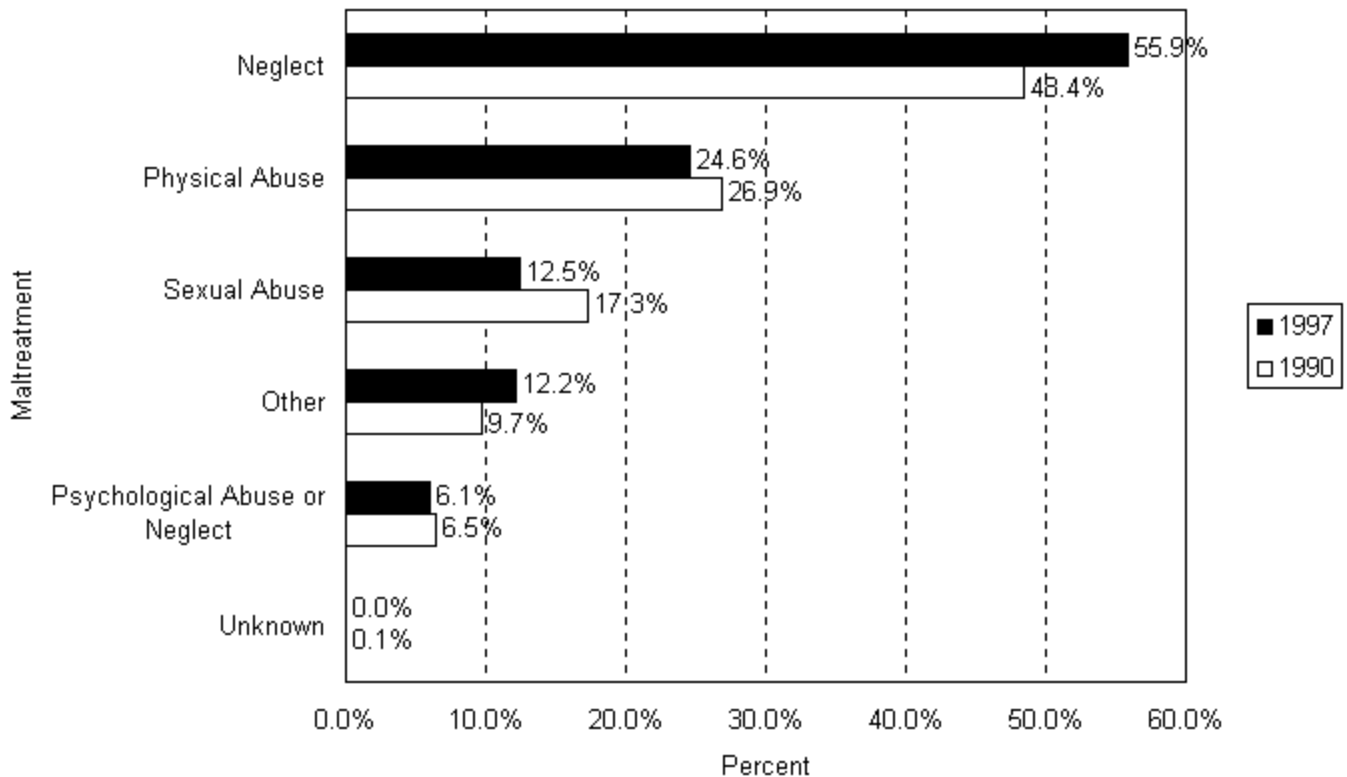
#### 4.2 Types of Maltreatment (SDC)

Forty-three States reported that there were 440,944 victims of neglect; 197,557 victims of physical abuse; and 98,339 victims of sexual abuse. There were 49,338 victims of psychological abuse or neglect; 18,894 victims of medical neglect; and 103,576 victims of unknown and other maltreatment.

Based on the number of child victims in the 41 reporting States (798,358), more than half of child victims (54.7 percent) were victims of neglect, while a quarter (24.5 percent) suffered physical abuse. Twelve percent were sexually abused. Child victims of psychological abuse or neglect or medical neglect accounted for 6.2 and 2.4 percent of all victims, respectively, while 11.0 percent were subjected to other types of maltreatment, such as "abandonment," "congenital drug addiction," and "threats to harm the child." Percentages add to more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of abuse.

Data from 35 States were compared across years ([figure 4-2](#)). The proportion of victims who were neglected increased by 7.5 percentage points between 1990 and 1997. The proportion of those who were sexually abused declined by 4.8 percentage points, while the proportion of those physically abused declined by 2.3 percentage points. The proportion of victims who experienced other types of maltreatment increased by 2.5 percentage points.

**Figure 4-2 Comparison of Victims by Type of Maltreatment, 1990 and 1997 (SDC)**



1990: N=611,924 victims in 35 States

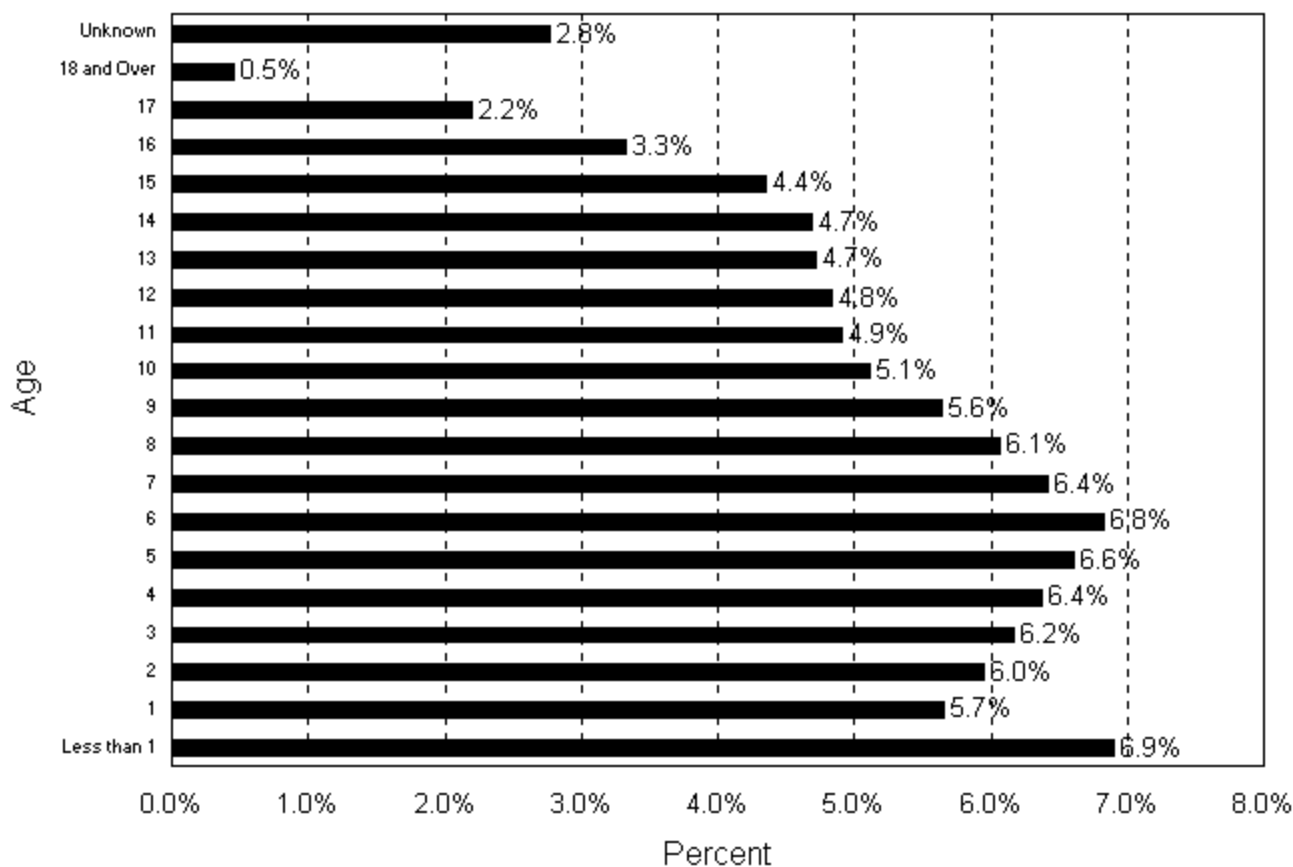
1997: N=689,513 victims in 35 States

#### 4.3 Age and Sex of Victims (SDC)

In 40 States, infants were the largest single-year age group of maltreatment victims, accounting for 6.9 percent ([figure 4-3](#)). Each single-year age group from age 1–9 had about 6 percent of all victims. Each single-year age group between 10–14 accounted for approximately 5 percent of all victims.

When victims are grouped in 4-year age categories, those 4–7 years old were the highest proportion of victims (26.2 percent). Children 0–3 were 24.7 percent of victims; children 8–11 years old were 21.7 percent; children 12–15 years old were 18.6 percent; and children older than 16 were 6 percent.

**Figure 4–3 Victims by Age, 1997 (SDC)**



N=668,059 victims in 40 States

There were 316,842 male victims (47.4 percent) and 349,606 female victims (52.3 percent). The sex of 2,609 victims (0.4 percent) was not reported. The percentage of victims by sex has remained stable over the 8 years of SDC data collection.

#### 4.4 Victims by Type of Maltreatment by Age and by Sex (DCDC)

Based on case-level data from 16 States, age was related to type of maltreatment ([table 4-1](#)). Neglect victims were more likely to be younger children; 82,361 (63.0 percent) were younger than 8 years old. Conversely, victims of physical abuse and victims of sexual abuse were more likely to be age 8 or older —28,370 (58.9 percent) and 14,177 (64.0 percent), respectively.

Slightly more victims of physical abuse, neglect, and medical neglect were male (96,390) than were female (89,941). However, female victims of sexual abuse (17,185) outnumbered male victims of sexual abuse (5,262) three to one ([table 4-2](#)).

**Table 4-1 Victims by Type of Maltreatment and Age (DCDC)**

[illegible]

|  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | nt |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| <b>Table 4-2 Victims by Type of Maltreatment and Sex (DCDC)</b> |                       |           |         |           |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Maltreatment  |                       | Child Sex |         | Total     |
|   |                       | Male      | Female  |           |
| Physical Abuse  | Count                 | 25,269    | 23,495  | 48,764    |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 51.8%     | 48.2%   | 100.0%    |
|   | % within Child Sex    | 17.0%     | 14.8%   | 15.9%     |
| Neglect   | Count                 | 67,966    | 63,625  | 131,591   |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 51.6%     | 48.4%   | 100.0%    |
|   | % within Child Sex    | 45.6%     | 40.1%   | 42.8%     |
| Medical Neglect   | Count                 | 3,155     | 2,821   | 5,976     |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 52.8%     | 47.2%   | 100.0%    |
|   | % within Child Sex    | 2.1%      | 1.8%    | 1.9%      |
| Sexual Abuse  | Count                 | 5,262     | 17,185  | 22,447    |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 23.4%     | 76.6%   | 100.0%    |
|   | % within Child Sex    | 3.5%      | 10.8%   | 7.3%      |
| Psychological Abuse   | Count                 | 5,382     | 5,647   | 11,029.00 |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 48.8%     | 51.2%   | 100.0%    |
|   | % within Child Sex    | 3.6%      | 3.6%    | 3.6%      |
| Other Abuse   | Count                 | 19,147    | 20,183  | 39,330    |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 48.7%     | 51.3%   | 100.0%    |
|   | % within Child Sex    | 12.9%     | 12.7%   | 12.8%     |
| Multiple Maltreatments  | Count                 | 22,789    | 25,541  | 48,330    |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 47.2%     | 52.8%   | 100.0%    |
|   | % within Child Sex    | 15.3%     | 16.1%   | 15.7%     |
| Total   | Count                 | 148,970   | 158,497 | 307,467   |
|   | % within Maltreatment | 48.5%     | 51.5%   | 100.0%    |

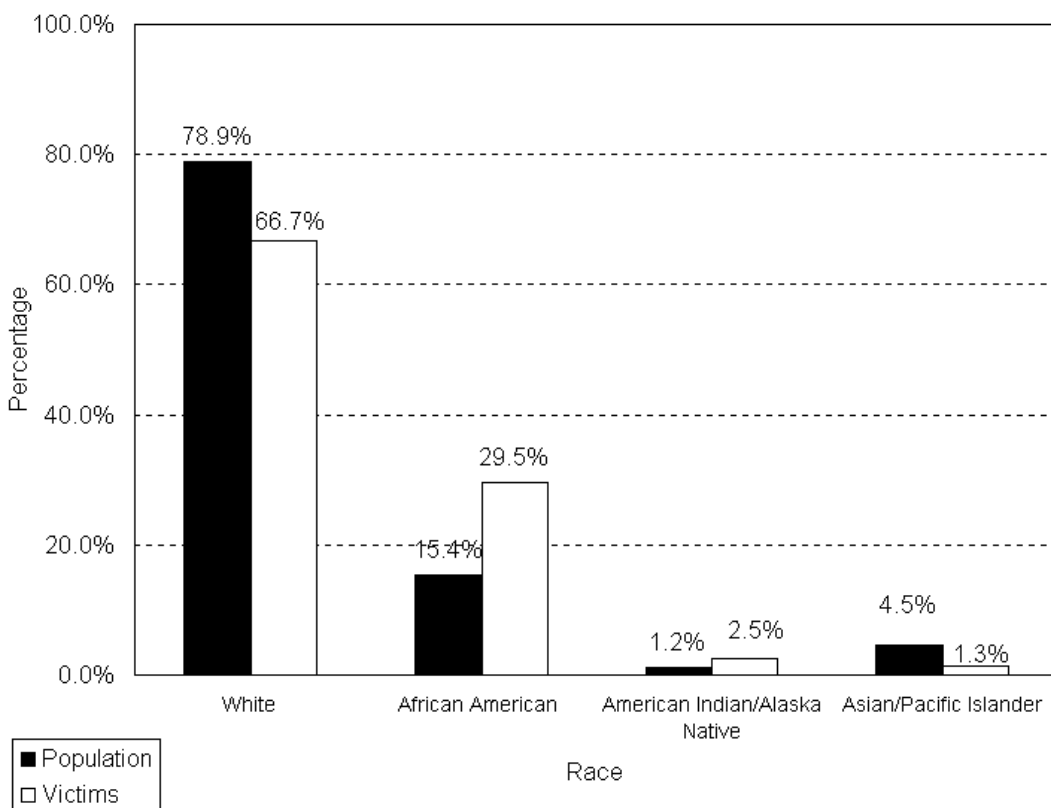
|  |                    |        |        |        |
|--|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | % within Child Sex | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
|--|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|

#### 4.5 Race and Hispanic Ethnicity of Victims (SDC)

Forty States provided data on race. Excluding victims classified as "other" or "unknown," two-thirds (66.7 percent) of all victims were white, 29.5 percent were African American, 2.5 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native, and 1.3 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander. In 35 States, 13.3 percent of victims were Hispanic, compared to 18.8 percent of the population of these States.

The proportions of victims who were African American or American Indian/Alaska Native were two times greater than the proportions of those children in the general population ([figure 4-4](#)). The proportion of victims who were White or Asian/Pacific Islander was lower than the proportions of those children in the general population.

**Figure 4-4 Comparison of Children in the Population and Child Victims by Race, 1997 (SDC)**



N = 585,512 victims in 40 States. Population data for children are 1997 estimates in the same 40 States. For comparison purposes, the SDC categories "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" have been combined, and "Other" and "Unknown" have been excluded.



#### **4.6 Prior Service Histories of Victims (SDC)**

Some victims of maltreatment had received family preservation services or had been reunified with their families in the previous 5 years. Family preservation services include services to prevent placement, to support the reunification of children with their families, or to support continued placement in permanent living arrangements. Data from seven States indicate that

33,338 victims (24.2 percent) had received family preservation services within the previous 5 years ([appendix E, table E-5](#)). Data from nine States indicate that 9,224 victims (5.3 percent) had been previously reunited with their families ([appendix E, table E-6](#)).

### **Section 5 Service Responses**



Some of the children referred to CPS agencies received services in addition to investigation or assessment. Some were directed to community services for counseling or advice; others received on-going child welfare services.

Because different information systems address child protective services, foster care services, in-home services, and court services, data on post-investigative services have been difficult to collect. With the recent development of more comprehensive child welfare information systems, data on service provision are expected to improve. However, significant gaps in this information remain and will need to be addressed in coming years. In this section, currently available service data are presented and discussed.

#### **5.1 Children Who Received Services (SDC)**

Thirty-two States reported that 321,962 child victims (49.1 percent) received post-investigative services, including in-home services, family preservation services, counseling, parent training, and foster care ([appendix E, table E-7](#)). Sixteen States reported that an additional 85,155 children who had unsubstantiated reports received post-investigative services. This represents 17.9 percent of children with unsubstantiated reports ([appendix E, table E-8](#)). It is likely that additional children received post-investigative services. The quantity or quality of these services cannot be determined.

Based on data from 10 States, post-investigative services were provided on average (weighted) 56.0 days after CPS received the maltreatment report ([appendix E, table E-9](#)).

#### **5.2 Post-Investigation Services by Type of Maltreatment and Age of Victims (DCDC)**

According to case-level data from 16 States, 164,962 child victims (53.4 percent) received services. In the DCDC, a victim is counted as having received services if the services occurred during an investigation or assessment and continued after the investigation was completed or if the services were initiated as a result of the investigation. To link services to specific investigations, only services that were initiated within 90 days of a report disposition date are included.

The proportion of victims receiving services did not vary greatly by type of maltreatment. It ranged from 41.4 percent (46,021) of psychological abuse victims to 55.0 percent (72,725) of neglect victims ([table 5–1](#)). However, 59.3 percent (28,735) of children suffering more than one maltreatment in the same report received post-investigation services.

Services provided to child victims did not vary greatly by age of victim. More than half of victims younger than 4 years old (48,619 or 57.0 percent) and victims older than 11 years old (38,552 or 54.1 percent) received services ([table 5–2](#)).

**Table 5–1 Type of Maltreatment by Receipt of Post-Investigation Services (DCDC)**

| Maltreatment        |                                      | Post-Investigation Services |               | Total   |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------|
|                     |                                      | Yes                         | No or Unknown |         |
| Physical Abuse      | Count                                | 24,930                      | 23,953        | 48,883  |
|                     | % within Maltreatment                | 51.0%                       | 49.0%         | 100.0%  |
|                     | % within Post-Investigation Services | 15.1%                       | 16.7%         | 15.8%   |
| Neglect             | Count                                | 72,725                      | 59,497        | 132,222 |
|                     | % within Maltreatment                | 55.0%                       | 45.0%         | 100.0%  |
|                     | % within Post-Investigation Services | 44.1%                       | 41.4%         | 42.8%   |
| Medical Neglect     | Count                                | 3,208                       | 2,824         | 6,032   |
|                     | % within Maltreatment                | 53.2%                       | 46.8%         | 100.0%  |
|                     | % within Post-Investigation Services | 1.9%                        | 2.0%          | 2.0%    |
| Sexual Abuse        | Count                                | 12,238                      | 10,239        | 22,477  |
|                     | % within Maltreatment                | 54.4%                       | 45.6%         | 100.0%  |
|                     | % within Post-Investigation Services | 7.4%                        | 7.1%          | 7.3%    |
| Psychological Abuse | Count                                | 4,602                       | 6,502         | 11,104  |
|                     | % within Maltreatment                | 41.4%                       | 58.6%         | 100.0%  |
|                     | % within Post-Investigation Services | 2.8%                        | 4.5%          | 3.6%    |
| Other Abuse         | Count                                | 18,524                      | 20,988        | 39,512  |
|                     | % within Maltreatment                | 46.9%                       | 53.1%         | 100.0%  |
|                     | % within Post-Investigation Services | 11.2%                       | 14.6%         | 12.8%   |
| Multiple            | Count                                | 28,735                      | 19,756        | 48,491  |

|               |                                      |         |         |         |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Maltreatments | % within Maltreatment                | 59.3%   | 40.7%   | 100.0%  |
|               | % within Post-Investigation Services | 17.4%   | 13.7%   | 15.7%   |
| Total         | Count                                | 164,962 | 143,759 | 308,721 |
|               | % within Maltreatment                | 53.4%   | 46.6%   | 100.0%  |
|               | % within Post-Investigation Services | 100.0%  | 100.0%  | 100.0%  |

### 5.3 Children Removed From the Home and Related Court Actions (SDC)

Thirty-one States reported that 109,776 child victims (16.1 percent) were placed in foster care to protect them from further maltreatment ([appendix E, table E-10](#)). Fourteen of these 31 States reported that an additional 12,054 children who were not victims (2.0 percent of children with unsubstantiated reports) were placed in foster care ([appendix E, table E-11](#)). Some of these placements might have occurred during the investigation of a report that was subsequently determined to be unsubstantiated.

Twenty-six States reported that court actions were initiated for 75,187 maltreatment victims (19.2 percent) ([appendix E, table E-12](#)). Court actions may have included States' filing for temporary custody of the victim, filing for guardianship, or filing a dependency petition. Some States have a legal requirement that the court appoint a representative for every victim for whom court action is taken. In 12 States, 92.6 percent of victims who received court actions had a court-appointed representative.

Only two States reported the average number of out-of-court contacts between the court-appointed representatives and the child victims. The average numbers of contacts for the two States were five and one.

**Table 5-2 Victim Age by Receipt of Post-Investigation Services (DCDC)**

| Child Age |                                      | Post-Investigation Services |               | Total  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|
|           |                                      | Yes                         | No or Unknown |        |
| 0-3       | Count                                | 48,619                      | 36,729        | 85,348 |
|           | % within Child Age                   | 57.0%                       | 43.0%         | 100.0% |
|           | % within Post-Investigation Services | 29.1%                       | 25.9%         | 27.6%  |
| 4-7       | Count                                | 44,386                      | 40,249        | 84,635 |
|           | % within Child Age                   | 52.4%                       | 47.6%         | 100.0% |
|           | % within Post-Investigation Services | 26.5%                       | 28.4%         | 27.4%  |
| 8-11      | Count                                | 35,736                      | 31,993        | 67,729 |
|           | % within Child Age                   | 52.8%                       | 47.2%         | 100.0% |

|       |                                      |         |         |         |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|       | % within Post-Investigation Services | 21.4%   | 22.6%   | 21.9%   |
| 12-15 | Count                                | 30,588  | 25,570  | 56,158  |
|       | % within Child Age                   | 54.5%   | 45.5%   | 100.0%  |
|       | % within Post-Investigation Services | 18.3%   | 18.0%   | 18.2%   |
| 16+   | Count                                | 7,964   | 7,188   | 15,152  |
|       | % within Child Age                   | 52.6%   | 47.4%   | 100.0%  |
|       | % within Post-Investigation Services | 4.8%    | 5.1%    | 4.9%    |
| Total | Count                                | 167,293 | 141,729 | 309,022 |
|       | % within Child Age                   | 54.1%   | 45.9%   | 100.0%  |
|       | % within Post-Investigation Services | 100.0%  | 100.0%  | 100.0%  |

#### 5.4 Children Who Did Not Receive Services (SDC)

Twenty-eight States reported that 177,686 child victims (39.6 percent) did not receive services from a CPS agency ([appendix E, table E-13](#)). Because some non-victims received child protective services and some victims did not receive services, the provision of service could have been influenced by the severity of the maltreatment, court orders, a family's willingness to receive non-mandated services, or service availability.

### Section 6 Child Fatalities



Child fatalities are the most serious result of child maltreatment and are of considerable concern to CPS agencies and the public. Reporting data on these cases is complicated by difficulties in identifying such cases and by the fragmented system of maintaining automated data among many agencies. The fatality numbers in this report include primarily those victims known to State CPS agencies either prior to or as a result of the death of a child.

#### 6.1 Number of Child Fatalities (SDC)

Forty-one States reported that there were 967 child maltreatment fatalities in 1997. Based on these numbers, it was estimated that there were 1,196 fatalities in the 50 States and the District of Columbia, a rate of 1.7 children per 100,000 children in the general population or 123 child fatalities per 100,000 victims of maltreatment.

#### 6.2 Sex and Age of Child Fatality Victims (DCDC)

The 317 fatalities reported to the DCDC represented about one-third of all fatalities reported to the SDC. The DCDC data indicate that children 3 and younger accounted for 77.0 percent of the fatalities. Of those fatalities, 56.6 percent were male and 43.4 percent were female ([table 6-1](#))

#### 6.3 Child Fatalities in Foster Care (SDC)

Twenty-three States indicated that no fatalities took place in foster care. Four reported one foster

care fatality; two reported two such fatalities; and two reported three fatalities. Of the total child fatalities in these States, 14 (2.1 percent) occurred while the victims were in foster care.

#### **6.4 Child Fatalities Who Had Received Family Preservation Services (SDC)**

Of 18 reporting States, 8 indicated that no families of fatality victims had received family preservation services in the past 5 years. In the remaining 10 States, the number of fatality victims whose families had received such services in the past 5 years ranged from 1 to 20. Overall, 64 victims (16.3 percent) were in families receiving family preservation services in the past 5 years ([appendix E, table E-14](#)).

#### **6.5 Child Fatalities Who Had Received Family Reunification Services (SDC)**

Twelve States reported that no fatality victims had been reunited with their families in the prior 5 years. In six States, the number of fatality victims in reunited families ranged from one to three. Overall, 10 fatality victims (2.7 percent) reported by these 18 States were in families that had been reunited in the prior 5 years ([appendix E, table E-14](#)).

**Table 6-1 Child Fatality Victims by Sex and Age (DCDC)**

| Age   |                    | Sex   |        | Total  |
|-------|--------------------|-------|--------|--------|
|       |                    | Male  | Female |        |
| 0-3   | Count              | 138   | 106    | 244    |
|       | % within Child Age | 56.6% | 43.4%  | 100.0% |
|       | % within Child Sex | 77.1% | 76.8%  | 77.0%  |
| 4-7   | Count              | 23    | 18     | 41     |
|       | % within Child Age | 56.1% | 43.9%  | 100.0% |
|       | % within Child Sex | 12.8% | 13.0%  | 12.9%  |
| 8-11  | Count              | 9     | 5      | 14     |
|       | % within Child Age | 64.3% | 35.7%  | 100.0% |
|       | % within Child Sex | 5.0%  | 3.6%   | 4.4%   |
| 12-15 | Count              | 7     | 4      | 11     |
|       | % within Child Age | 63.6% | 36.4%  | 100.0% |
|       | % within Child Sex | 3.9%  | 2.9%   | 3.5%   |
| 16+   | Count              | 2     | 5      | 7      |
|       | % within Child Age | 28.6% | 71.4%  | 100.0% |
|       | % within Child Sex | 1.1%  | 3.6%   | 2.2%   |
| Total | Count              | 179   | 138    | 317    |
|       | % within Child Age | 56.5% | 43.5%  | 100.0% |

|  |                    |        |        |  |
|--|--------------------|--------|--------|--|
|  | % within Child Sex | 100.0% | 100.0% |  |
|--|--------------------|--------|--------|--|

## Section 7 Perpetrators

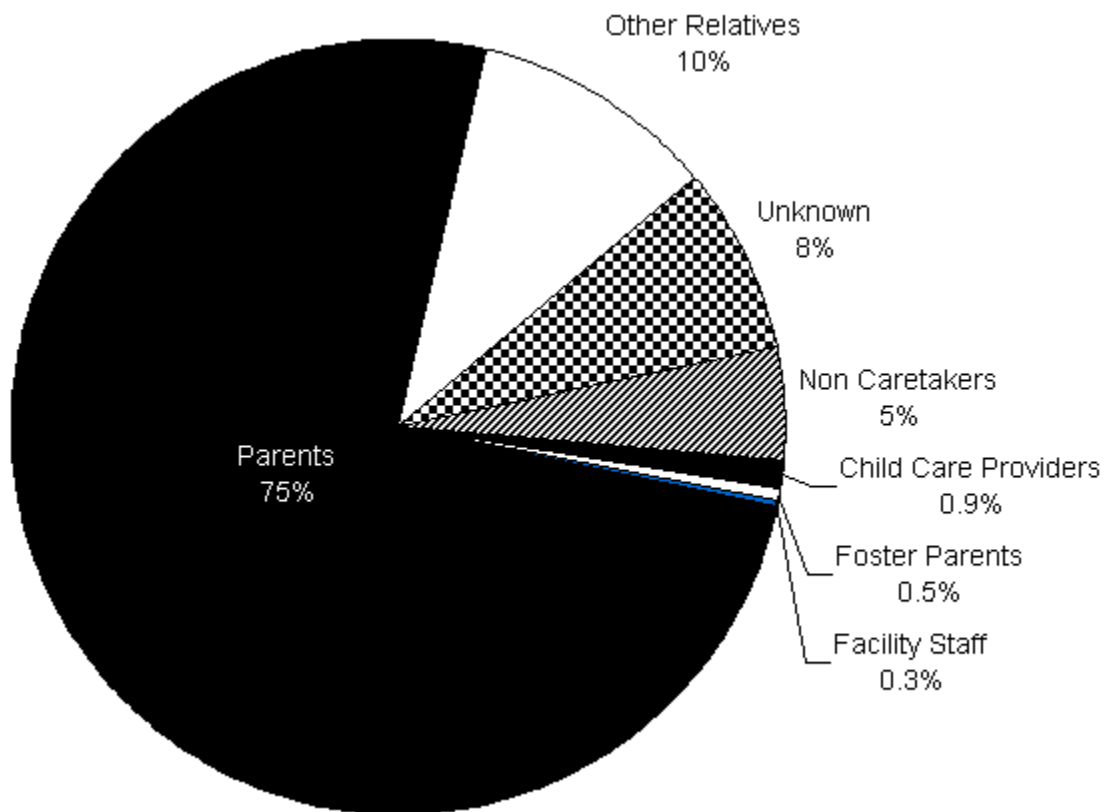


SDC data describe perpetrators' relationships to victims. DCDC case-level data describe the age and sex of perpetrators. In general, States follow Federal guidelines for defining a child abuse or neglect perpetrator. Under those guidelines, a perpetrator must be in a caretaking relationship to the abused or neglected child.

### 7.1 Relationship of Perpetrators to Victims (SDC)

Based on data from 39 States, 401,598 perpetrators (75.4 percent) were victims' parents, and 54,573 (10.2 percent) were other relatives; 9,646 perpetrators (1.8 percent) were people in other caretaking relationships (e.g., foster parents, facility staff, and child care providers); and 66,915 perpetrators (12.6 percent) were noncaretakers or had an "unknown" relationship with the victim ([figure 7-1](#)).

**Figure 7-1 Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victims, 1997 (SDC)**



N=532,732 victims in 39 States.

## 7.2 Age and Sex of Perpetrators (DCDC)

DCDC data reveal that 184,152 perpetrators (62.3 percent) were female, and 111,473 (37.7 percent) were male ([table 7–1](#)). Perpetrators tended to be young, with 237,865 (80.5 percent) younger than 40 years old. Of the perpetrators, 122,569 (41.5 percent) were between 30 and 39 years old, the most frequent age category. Only 16,441 perpetrators (5.6 percent) were 50 years old or older, the least frequent age category.

**Table 7–1 Perpetrators by Sex and Age (DCDC)**

| Age                   | Sex          |         | Total   |         |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                       | Male         | Female  |         |         |
| 19 years or younger   | Count        | 9,177   | 9,882   | 19,059  |
|                       | % within Age | 48.2%   | 51.8%   | 100.0%  |
|                       | % within Sex | 8.2%    | 5.4%    | 6.4%    |
| 20 to 29 years old    | Count        | 26,646  | 69,591  | 96,237  |
|                       | % within Age | 27.7%   | 72.3%   | 100.0%  |
|                       | % within Sex | 23.9%   | 37.8%   | 32.6%   |
| 30 to 39 years old    | Count        | 45,958  | 76,611  | 122,569 |
|                       | % within Age | 37.5%   | 62.5%   | 100.0%  |
|                       | % within Sex | 41.2%   | 41.6%   | 41.5%   |
| 40 to 49 years old    | Count        | 21,258  | 20,061  | 41,319  |
|                       | % within Age | 51.4%   | 48.6%   | 100.0%  |
|                       | % within Sex | 19.1%   | 10.9%   | 14.0%   |
| 50 years old or older | Count        | 8,434   | 8,007   | 16,441  |
|                       | % within Age | 51.3%   | 48.7%   | 100.0%  |
|                       | % within Sex | 7.6%    | 4.3%    | 5.6%    |
| Total                 | Count        | 111,473 | 184,152 | 295,625 |
|                       | % within Age | 37.7%   | 62.3%   | 100.0%  |
|                       | % within Sex | 100.0%  | 100.0%  | 100.0%  |

## 7.3 Type of Maltreatment and Sex of Perpetrators (DCDC)

DCDC data show that male perpetrators were associated with 74.1 percent (15,606) of sexual abuse victims. Female perpetrators were associated with 82.0 percent (4,716) of medical neglect victims and 73.9 percent (83,769) of

neglect victims. Males and females were each associated with approximately half of physical abuse and psychological abuse victims ([table 7–2](#)).

#### 7.4 Sex and Age of Fatality Perpetrators (DCDC)

Fatality perpetrators were younger than all perpetrators ([table 7–3](#)). Two hundred thirty-five (67.7 percent) were 29 years old or younger, compared to 115,296 (39.0 percent) of all perpetrators. Of the perpetrators age 29 or younger, 157 (66.8 percent) were female.

**Table 7–2 Type of Maltreatment by Sex of Perpetrator (DCDC)**

| Type of Maltreatment   | Perpetrator Sex               |        | Total  |         |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
|                        | Male                          | Female |        |         |
| Physical Abuse         | Count                         | 18,960 | 20,115 | 39,075  |
|                        | % within Type of Maltreatment | 48.5%  | 51.5%  | 100.0%  |
|                        | % within Sex                  | 17.5%  | 12.0%  | 14.1%   |
| Neglect                | Count                         | 29,587 | 83,769 | 113,356 |
|                        | % within Type of Maltreatment | 26.1%  | 73.9%  | 100.0%  |
|                        | % within Sex                  | 27.4%  | 49.8%  | 41.0%   |
| Medical Neglect        | Count                         | 1,035  | 4,716  | 5,751   |
|                        | % within Type of Maltreatment | 18.0%  | 82.0%  | 100.0%  |
|                        | % within Sex                  | 1.0%   | 2.8%   | 2.1%    |
| Sexual Abuse           | Count                         | 15,606 | 5,453  | 21,059  |
|                        | % within Type of Maltreatment | 74.1%  | 25.9%  | 100.0%  |
|                        | % within Sex                  | 14.4%  | 3.2%   | 7.6%    |
| Psychological Abuse    | Count                         | 6,540  | 7,005  | 13,545  |
|                        | % within Type of Maltreatment | 48.3%  | 51.7%  | 100.0%  |
|                        | % within Sex                  | 6.0%   | 4.2%   | 4.9%    |
| Other Abuse            | Count                         | 14,511 | 18,355 | 32,866  |
|                        | % within Type of Maltreatment | 44.2%  | 55.8%  | 100.0%  |
|                        | % within Sex                  | 13.4%  | 10.9%  | 11.9%   |
| Multiple Maltreatments | Count                         | 21,881 | 28,888 | 50,769  |
|                        | % within Type of Maltreatment | 43.1%  | 56.9%  | 100.0%  |
|                        | % within Sex                  | 20.2%  | 17.2%  | 18.4%   |



|       |                               |         |         |         |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total | Count                         | 108,120 | 168,301 | 276,421 |
|       | % within Type of Maltreatment | 39.1%   | 60.9%   | 100.0%  |
|       | % within Sex                  | 100.0%  | 100.0%  | 100.0%  |

**Table 7–3 Perpetrators of Child Fatalities by Sex and Age (DCDC)**

| Fatality Perpetrator Age | Perpetrator Sex |        | Total  |        |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                          | Male            | Female |        |        |
| 19 years or younger      | Count           | 15     | 30     | 45     |
|                          | % within Age    | 33.3%  | 66.7%  | 100.0% |
|                          | % within Sex    | 11.6%  | 13.8%  | 13.0%  |
| 20 to 29 years old       | Count           | 63     | 127    | 190    |
|                          | % within Age    | 33.2%  | 66.8%  | 100.0% |
|                          | % within Sex    | 48.8%  | 58.3%  | 54.8%  |
| 30 to 39 years old       | Count           | 26     | 30     | 56     |
|                          | % within Age    | 46.4%  | 53.6%  | 100.0% |
|                          | % within Sex    | 20.2%  | 13.8%  | 16.1%  |
| 40 to 49 years old       | Count           | 20     | 16     | 36     |
|                          | % within Age    | 55.6%  | 44.4%  | 100.0% |
|                          | % within Sex    | 15.5%  | 7.3%   | 10.4%  |
| 50 years old or older    | Count           | 5      | 15     | 20     |
|                          | % within Age    | 25.0%  | 75.0%  | 100.0% |
|                          | % within Sex    | 3.9%   | 6.9%   | 5.8%   |
| Total                    | Count           | 129    | 218    | 347    |
|                          | % within Age    | 37.2%  | 62.8%  | 100.0% |
|                          | % within Sex    | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

### Appendix A State Advisory Group Representatives 1997–1998



Appendix A is a list of the State Advisory Group representatives. This group is composed of State staff with responsibility for child abuse/neglect programs and/or the information systems that support such

programs. These representatives develop recommendations to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) on child protective services (CPS) practices and data issues.

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## **Appendix B Summary Data Component Survey**



The form presented in this appendix was sent to all States, the District of Columbia, the territories, and the Armed Services in 1998 to collect 1997 data.

**NOTE: TABLES ARE BEST PRINTED IN LANDSCAPE FORMAT.**

[Instructions](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Section 1. Preventive Services](#)

[Section 2. Reports and Investigations](#)

[Section 3. Children Subject of a Report Referred for Investigation  
or Assessment](#)

[Section 4. Child Victims](#)

[Section 5. Child Fatalities](#)

[Section 6. Perpetrators of Child Maltreatment](#)

[Section 7. Child Protective Service Workforce](#)  
[Section 8. Comments](#)

### Appendix C State Response Table



This appendix indicates the SDC items for which each State was able to provide data. The numbers in the column headings represent the item numbers from the survey. Items that are required by CAPTA are marked with an asterisk.

**NOTE: TABLES ARE BEST PRINTED IN LANDSCAPE FORMAT.**

[Page 1 \(Survey Items 1-3\)](#)

[Page 2 \(Survey Item 4\)](#)

[Page 3 \(Survey Items 5-7\)](#)

### Appendix D 1997 State Data Tables



This appendix presents the data tables of State responses to the Summary Data Component Survey. Data are presented by State and are totaled across States for each data item.

**NOTE: TABLES ARE BEST PRINTED IN LANDSCAPE FORMAT.**

[Child Population by State](#)

[1.1 Preventive Services](#)

[2.1 Reports](#)

[2.2 Report Source](#)

[2.3 Investigations by Disposition](#)

[3.1 & 3.2 Children Subject of a Report and Children by Disposition](#)

[3.3 Children Who Received Services](#)

[3.4 Children Who Did Not Receive Services](#)

[3.5 Children Who Were Removed from the Home](#)

[4.1 Victims by Maltreatment](#)

[4.2 Victims by Age](#)

[4.3 Victims by Sex](#)

[4.4 Victims by Hispanic Origin](#)

[4.5 Victims by Race](#)  
[4.6 through 4.10 Victims by Service Category](#)  
[5.0 Fatalities](#)  
[6.0 Perpetrators](#)  
[7.1 & 7.2 Workforce](#)  
[7.3 Response Time to Investigation](#)  
[7.4 Response Time to Services](#)

## **Appendix E Supplementary Data Tables**



This appendix presents tables of SDC data that support findings in the text of this document. The supplementary data tables were derived from data presented in Appendix D, 1997 State Data Tables.

**NOTE: TABLES ARE BEST PRINTED IN LANDSCAPE FORMAT.**

[Table E-1 Screening of Reports, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-2 Children Subject of A Report Referred for Investigation, 1990 and 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-3 Screening and Workers, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-4 Rate of Victimization](#)  
[Table E-5 Family Preservation, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-6 Reunification, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-7 Victims Who Received Services, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-8 Services to Non-Victims, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-9 Days to Service, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-10 Victims Removed From Home, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-11 Non-Victims Removed From Home, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-12 Court Actions, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-13 Victims Not Receiving Services, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)  
[Table E-14 Fatalities, 1997 \(SDC\)](#)

## Appendix F State Comments on 1997 SDC Data



State contacts provided clarifications and elaborations of their data submissions. These comments are provided below. Item numbers refer to the item numbers used in the 1997 data collection survey. The name of the State contact is also listed.

[Alabama](#)

[Alaska](#)

[Arizona](#)

[Arkansas](#)

[California](#)

[Colorado](#)

[Connecticut](#)

[Delaware](#)

[District of Columbia](#)

[Florida](#)

[Georgia](#)

[Hawaii](#)

[Idaho](#)

[Illinois](#)

[Indiana](#)

[Kansas](#)

[Kentucky](#)

[Louisiana](#)

[Maine](#)

[Maryland](#)

[Massachusetts](#)

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[Mississippi](#)

[Missouri](#)

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[Nevada](#)

[New Hampshire](#)

[New Jersey](#)

[New Mexico](#)

[New York](#)

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