

## Data Source Documentation

<b>Indicator</b>	Abuse and neglect reports, children
<b>Demographic Group</b>	Wisconsin children under age 18
<b>Numerator</b>	The number of child abuse and neglect reports in a given calendar year.
<b>Denominator</b>	The number of Wisconsin children under age 18.
<b>Details about Data Item</b>	<p>Tables show the total number of CPS (Child Protective Services) abuse/neglect reports screened in for investigation; the number of screened-in CPS reports per 1,000 population under age 18; and (beginning in 2003) the number of maltreatment victims per 1,000 population under age 18.</p> <p>Wisconsin recognizes four types of child maltreatment: physical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.</p> <p>A CPS report refers to one child identified by the reporter as an alleged victim of maltreatment or threatened maltreatment in a screened-in referral.</p> <p>Screened-in referrals are those that meet statutory definitions of alleged child abuse/maltreatment. Reported concerns that fail to meet statutory definitions of alleged maltreatment are not investigated.</p> <p>An allegation is an assertion of one type of child abuse or neglect (e.g., physical abuse) for one child by one maltreater. A screened-in referral may contain multiple allegations of abuse.</p> <p>A victim is a child who had at least one substantiated or likely-to-occur maltreatment finding as the result of an investigation.</p> <p>Abuse or neglect may be found likely to occur where the investigation determines that: 1) the child is unsafe; 2) the alleged maltreater's behavior placed the child at substantial risk of harm regardless of outcome; or 3) the alleged maltreater made a credible threat to injure/abuse/neglect the child.</p>
<b>Other Data Information</b>	<p>In Wisconsin, alleged child abuse and neglect is reported to county social and human services departments, except in Milwaukee County, where it is reported to the state Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare. Findings from investigated reports are sent to, and compiled by, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (formerly the Division of Children and Family Services in the Department of Health and Family Services).</p> <p>Prior to 2002, county child welfare agencies submitted child abuse and neglect data manually to the Department of Health and Family Services using <i>Child Abuse and Neglect Investigation Report</i> (CFS-40) forms. In 2002, 40% of report data were submitted using a new automated system, the Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child System (WiSACWIS). The remaining data for 2002 were submitted using the CFS-40. As of 2005, 100% of data were submitted using WiSACWIS.</p>

	<p>Data presented for 2005 and subsequent years differ from previous years due to changes in the annual <i>Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report</i>, from which they are taken.</p> <p>In September 2007, new comprehensive standards for receipt and response to child abuse and neglect referrals and completion of initial assessments of child maltreatment allegations were released. One of the most significant changes affects how reports of alleged child maltreatment resulting in a child's death are handled. Under the previous access and initial assessment standards, CPS agencies were not required to screen in reports and assess maltreatment allegations when a child died from suspected maltreatment and there were no other children in the household. The new standards require CPS agencies to screen in reports and conduct initial assessments of these cases so that family case and maltreater records contain this critical information in case of future concerns to child safety. This broadened requirement for assessing child maltreatment death led to a higher total number of reported child maltreatment fatalities in 2007 and subsequent years than in years before the new standards were released.</p>
<b>Time Period</b>	Calendar year
<b>Data Source</b>	<p><i>Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report</i>; Bureau of Program Integrity, Division of Safety and Permanence, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. These annual reports are available online:</p> <p><a href="http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/reports/RPTindx.htm">http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/reports/RPTindx.htm</a></p>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>Additional information about the Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System is available:</p> <p><a href="http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/WiSACWIS/knowledge_web/index.htm">http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/WiSACWIS/knowledge_web/index.htm</a> .</p>