

Data Source Documentation

Indicator	Abuse and neglect deaths, children
Demographic Group	Wisconsin children under age 18
Details about Data Item	<p>The tables show the number of deaths due to substantiated child abuse or neglect for a given year. Investigations of deaths attributed to child abuse or neglect are handled by law enforcement agencies. The role of Child Protective Services (CPS) in the case of a child's death is to ensure the safety of any other children present in the home. New standards (September 2007—see below) require CPS agencies to screen in reports and conduct initial assessments of such cases even when there is no other child present in the home so that family case and maltreater records contain this critical information in case of future concerns to child safety.</p>
Other Data Information	<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, all Wisconsin child abuse and neglect data were submitted manually to the Department of Health and Family Services by county child welfare agencies using Child Abuse and Neglect Investigation Report (CFS-40) forms. In 2002, 40% of report data were submitted using a new automated system, the Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (WiSACWIS); the remaining data for 2002 were submitted using the CFS-40. As of 2005, 100% of data have been submitted using WiSACWIS.</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>

Prepared for Tracking the State Health Plan, 2010—State-Level Data

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan/track2010> (July 2011)

Office of Health Informatics

Division of Public Health

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Reference Time Period	Calendar year
Data Source	<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: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/reports/RPTindx.htm

Additional Information	Information about the WiSACWIS reporting and case management system is available at http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/index.htm
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