



Child Maltreatment 2010: Summary of Key Findings

This factsheet presents excerpts from *Child Maltreatment 2010*, a report based on data submissions by State child protective services (CPS) agencies for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2010. The full *Child Maltreatment 2010* report is available on the Children's Bureau website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10>

How many allegations of maltreatment were reported and investigated?

During FFY 2010, an estimated 3.3 million referrals involving the alleged maltreatment of approximately 5.9 million children were made to CPS agencies. More than 3.6 million children (duplicate count) or just under 3 million children (unique count) were the subjects of one or more reports.¹

- Approximately 61 percent (60.7 percent) of referrals were screened in for investigation or assessment by CPS agencies.
- Approximately one-fifth of the investigations or assessments found at least one child to be a victim of abuse or neglect, with the following report dispositions: 19.5 percent

¹ The duplicate count of child victims counts a child each time he or she was found to be a victim. The unique count of child victims counts a child only once, regardless of the number of times he or she was found to be victim during the reporting year.



Use your smartphone to access these numbers and trends online.



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substantiated, 1.0 percent indicated, and 0.5 percent alternative response victim.²

- More than four-fifths of the investigations or assessments determined that the child was not a victim of maltreatment, with the following dispositions: 58.2 percent unsubstantiated, 9.1 percent no alleged maltreatment, 8.7 percent alternative response nonvictim,³ 1.3 percent “other,” 1.5 percent closed with no finding, 0.1 percent intentionally false, and 0.2 percent unknown or missing.

Who reported child maltreatment?

For FFY 2010, three-fifths (58.6 percent) of all reports of alleged child abuse or neglect were made by professionals. The term “professional” means that the person had contact with the alleged child maltreatment victim as part of the report source’s job. The remaining reports were made by nonprofessionals, including friends, neighbors, sports coaches, and relatives.

The most common report sources were education personnel (16.4 percent), legal and law enforcement personnel (16.7 percent), social services staff (11.5 percent), and medical personnel (8.2 percent). Professionals have submitted more than one-half of all reports for the past 5 years, and that percentage has increased slightly each year since 2006.

Who were the child victims?

During FFY 2010, the number of estimated duplicate victims of abuse or neglect was 754,000; the number of estimated unique victims was 695,000. Among the children confirmed as victims by CPS agencies in 2010 (all of the following numbers refer to unique victims):

- Children in the age group of birth to 1 year had the highest rate of victimization at 20.6 per 1,000 children of the same age group in the national population.

² The NCANDS disposition category of “alternative response victim” is defined as a conclusion that the child was identified as a victim when a response other than an investigation was provided.

³ The NCANDS disposition category of “alternative response nonvictim” is defined as a conclusion that the child was not identified as a victim when a response other than an investigation was provided.

What were the most common types of maltreatment?

- More than one-half (51.2 percent) of the child victims were girls, and 48.5 percent were boys. The gender was unknown for fewer than 1 percent of victims.
- Three races or ethnicities comprised 88 percent of victims: African-American (21.9 percent), Hispanic (21.4 percent), and White (44.8 percent).

As in prior years, neglect was the most common form of child maltreatment. CPS investigations determined the following (all of the following numbers refer to unique victims):

- More than 75 percent (78.3 percent) of victims suffered neglect.
- More than 15 percent (17.6 percent) of the victims suffered physical abuse.
- Fewer than 10 percent (9.2 percent) of the victims suffered sexual abuse.
- Fewer than 10 percent (8.1 percent) of the victims suffered psychological maltreatment.

How many children died from abuse or neglect?

Child fatalities are the most tragic consequence of maltreatment. During FFY 2010 (all of the following numbers refer to unique victims):

- An estimated 1,560 children died due to abuse and neglect.
- The overall rate of child fatalities was 2.07 deaths per 100,000 children.
- More than 30 percent (32.6 percent) of child fatalities were attributed to neglect only, 22.9 percent died exclusively from physical abuse, and 40.8 percent of fatalities were caused by multiple maltreatment types.
- Nearly 80 percent (79.4 percent) of the children who died due to child abuse and neglect were younger than 4 years old.
- Boys had a higher child fatality rate than girls at 2.51 boys per 100,000 boys in the population (compared to 1.73 girls per 100,000 girls in the population).

Who abused and neglected children?

In FFY 2010, States reported a total duplicate count of 891,218 perpetrators (counting an individual each time a report is made) and a total unique count of 510,824 perpetrators (each perpetrator counted once, regardless of the number of children or reports involved).

- More than 80 percent (81.2 percent) of duplicate perpetrators of child maltreatment were parents, 6.1 percent were other relatives, and 4.4 percent were unmarried partners of parents.
- Women comprised a larger percentage of all unique perpetrators than men: 53.6 percent compared to 45.2 percent.
- Four-fifths (84.2 percent) of all unique perpetrators were between the ages 20 and 49 years.
- Fewer than 7 percent (6.2 percent) of duplicate perpetrators committed sexual abuse, while 9.8 percent committed physical abuse, and 61.3 percent committed neglect.

Who received services?

During an investigation, CPS agencies provide services to children and their families, both in the home and in foster care. For the 2010 duplicate count of children:

- Three-fifths (61.2 percent) of victims and 26.2 percent of nonvictims received postresponse services.
- 36.0 percent of victims who received services and 13.7 percent of nonvictims who received services were removed from their homes.

The statistics in the Child Maltreatment reports are based on data submitted to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). NCANDS is a voluntary reporting system that was developed by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to collect and analyze annual statistics on child maltreatment from State CPS agencies.

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