



Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report of Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities State Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)

Mandate

KRS 620.050(12)(c), mandates that the cabinet submit an annual report to the Governor, the General Assembly and the state child fatality review team summarizing the abuse or neglect related child fatality and near fatality cases where DPP had prior involvement with the child or family including historical trends and actions the cabinet is taking in response to reviews.

Introduction

During the period covered by SFY 00 – 04 child fatalities due to abuse more than doubled (from 16 to 36). Additionally, during that time there was a significant increase in fatalities where DCBS had prior involvement (16 to 25). That trend of dramatic increases has reversed. Data from SFY 05 show a decrease in overall abuse/neglect fatalities (34) and those with prior DCBS involvement (21). Preliminary data from SFY 06 remains encouraging (fatalities -31, fatalities with prior DCBS involvement – 19).

This is especially noteworthy given that there was an increase of over 20,000 reports of child abuse and neglect from SFY 01 to SFY 06.

This encouraging and hopeful trend is due to hard work and dedication of DCBS staff and to a series of programs and interventions specifically designed to reduce child abuse in general and child fatalities due to abuse and neglect in particular. These programs and interventions are outlined starting on page 3 and are described in depth in Section IV.

The Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP), under the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, investigates allegations of child abuse or neglect that result in a fatality and near fatality.¹ As mandated by KRS 620.050(12)(c), the cabinet submits an annual report to the Governor, the General Assembly and the state child fatality review team summarizing the cases where DPP had prior involvement with the child or family.² This report only includes cases where DPP has prior involvement with the child or family and is organized into four sections: executive summary; historical trends from state fiscal years 2000-2006; case data for state fiscal year 2006; and actions the cabinet is taking as a result of findings from internal reviews.

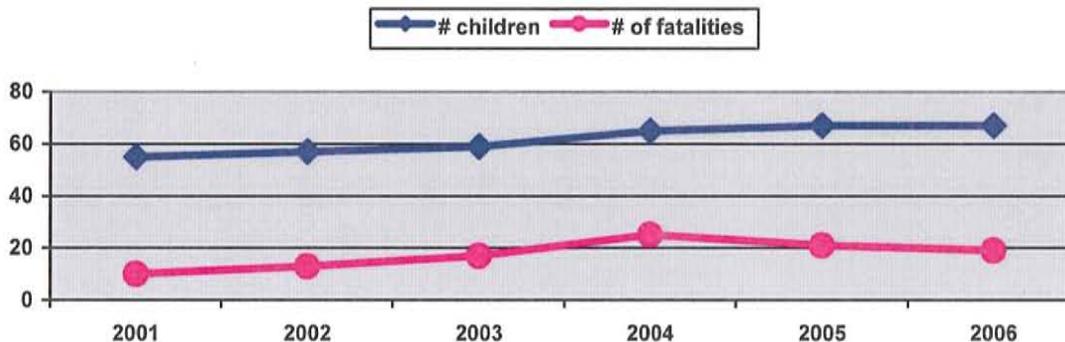
¹ Near Fatality is defined by KRS 600.020(37) as an injury that, as certified by a physician, places the child in serious or critical condition.

² Prior involvement is defined by 922 KAR 1:420 as any assessment or investigation of which the Cabinet has record, with child or family in the area of protection and permanency

Section I- Executive Summary

In the seven year period between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2006 (SFY 2000-2006), 169 children have died or been seriously injured as a result of caretaker abuse or neglect in cases where DPP had prior involvement with the child or family.

Table 1- Number of children in investigations of abuse/neglect (X 1000) and the actual number of child fatalities with prior DPP involvement



As table 1 shows, the number of reports of children experiencing abuse or neglect increased from state fiscal year 2001 to state fiscal year 2006. The number of child fatalities where DPP had prior involvement with the child or family increased from 2001 to 2004. However, the number of child abuse or neglect related fatalities decreased during state fiscal year 2005. Data for 2006 is subject to revision due to still pending investigations but continues to show an encouraging trend.

Historical Trends- Overview of SFY 2000-2006

In the 169 child abuse or neglect resulting in death or serious injury in cases where DPP had prior involvement with the family included in this analysis:

- 76.3% of child victims were 3 years of age or younger (national average: 81%)
- 58% were male and 42% were female (same as national average)
- 80% of children were Caucasian (national average: 43%)
- type of maltreatment
 - 59% Neglect- most often death or injury was the result of lack of adult supervision or substance related impairment of the caregiver (national average: 36%)
 - 41% Physical Abuse- most often the death or injury was the result of inflicted head injury (shaken baby syndrome) (national average: 28%)
- 78% of perpetrators were one or both parents (same as national average)
- Caretaker Risk Factors (national averages not available)
 - Caretaker substance abuse was present in 71% of cases
 - Caretaker criminal history was present in 56% of cases
 - domestic violence was present in 51% of cases
- median age of female caregiver was 25.3 years and median age of male caregiver was 32.6 years (national average: female- 25 yrs and male- 30 yrs)

- 40% of cases had 1 previous CPS report
- 62% of families had 2-3 siblings in the home at the time of the incident.

SFY 2006 Overview- Child Fatality and Near Fatality Case Data

During state fiscal year 2006, 34 children³ in Kentucky were victims of abuse or neglect related child fatalities or near fatalities where the child or family had prior involvement with DPP. Of the 34 total cases, 19 were child fatalities and 15 were near fatalities. In these cases:

- 79% of child victims were 3 years of age or younger
- 88% of child victims were Caucasian
- type of maltreatment- neglect 74% and physical abuse 26%
- 76% of perpetrators were one or both parents
- risk factors present in fatality and near fatality cases
 - caretaker substance abuse was present in 71% of cases
 - caretaker criminal history was present in 88% of cases
 - domestic violence was present in 71% of cases

The Division of Protection and Permanency continues to work to understand the differences between child protective service cases that result in fatal or serious child abuse and neglect and those that do not. DPP utilizes these data to identify the children and families who had had prior involvement with child and adult protective services and to assess the risk factors indicated in those cases.

Action Steps Taken by the Cabinet as Result of Internal Review

Training and Pilot Projects

- Root Cause Analysis (RCA): Analyzes *system* factors in complex child abuse fatality cases to develop improvements in child welfare practice
- Partnership with University of Louisville to develop bio-mechanical models of head injuries to differentiate between accidental injuries and inflicted injuries.
- Two day trainings were conducted throughout the state by child abuse experts to help DCBS staff and community partners understand and identify cases of fatality abuse and neglect.
- In partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky initiated project CARE (Child Abuse Recognition Education) to work with physicians and their staff at identifying child abuse and assisting in child abuse investigations.

Development of Supportive Resources to CPS investigations

- Drug Testing. Secured a state-wide vendor that will be able to process drug tests of caregivers in CPS cases. Improvements in chain of custody, availability, and intent-of-use issues.

³ 18 fatality cases, 8 of which have prior DPP involvement and 5 near fatality cases with prior DPP involvement are still under review.

- Availability of Medical Support staff to provide consultation to CPS investigator on analyzing injuries and medical reports. In partnership with the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs, nine nurses will be assigned to initially oversee medically fragile children and provide CPS consultation.
- Child Fatality Medical Resources: Child Fatality Nurse Service Administrator is developing fact sheets and on line resources to assist CPS investigators.

Enhanced Policy and Practices to improve child protection

- Staff De-Briefing. CPS investigators and others experience secondary trauma in fatality investigation due to the subject matter. De-Briefing through the Crisis Response Board as well as KEAP supports them in their work and allows them to function at a higher level.
- Fatality Investigative Tool. The Child Fatality Specialist in DPP is adapting the Center for Disease Control's investigative forms to aide works in their investigations.
- Safety Checklist for Foster and Adoptive Homes. DPP has developed and implemented a Safety Checklist for all Resource Homes to further protect children in these living environments.
- Dynamic Family Assessment (DFA). DCBS is designing and testing a comprehensive assessment tool that will assist front line workers in their investigations and protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Data and Technology

- Outcome Based Data Tracking System. The Cabinet has developed a data tracking system to track elements of child welfare. This information is sent to Service Regions and used for quality assurance and improvement.
- Mobile Technology Tool kit. DCBS is deploying lap top computers, digital camera and cell phones to investigative workers. This technology will allow workers to enhance protective services through increased ability to consult with supervisors and more precisely document injuries and living conditions of children.
- Child Fatality Data Base. The Cabinet has developed a data base to track and trend cases of child fatality and near fatality. This information is used to guide improvements throughout Kentucky's child welfare system.
- Child Fatality Research. Using all the resources listed above, Kentucky has become a recognized leader in Child Fatality research and investigation. The most recent national presentation on this subject was at the National Resource Center for Child Welfare conference on Data and Technology.

Section II- Historical Trends

The occurrence of every child fatality is so keenly felt and highly visible that reporting multiple cases can appear dauntingly large. Thus without diminishing the personal impact of a single occurrence, it is instructive to understand the relative infrequency of these cases in relationship to all child protective service cases. In the seven year period between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2006 (SFY 2000-2006), 169 children have died or been seriously injured as a result of caretaker abuse or neglect in cases where DPP had prior involvement with the child or family. Table 2 shows that in SFY 2001, DPP received 44,128 reports of child abuse and neglect. In SFY 2006, that number reached 64,988 reports; an increase of over 20,000 reports. The number of children involved in these cases has increased proportionally from 55,062 in SFY 01 to 66,592 in SFY 06; an increase of over 11,500 children⁴.

Table 2- SFY 2000-2006 Abuse and Neglect Data

	SFY 00	SFY 01	SFY 02	SFY 03	SFY 04	SFY 05	SFY 06
Number of abuse/neglect reports rec'd	Data not available	44,128	45,357	46,494	50,318	65,408	64,988
Number of children involved	Data Not available	55,062	56,934	59,071	64,767	67,252	66,592
Number of reports abuse/neglect was found	Data Not collected	11,959	10,828	11,151	12,131	12,201	12,358
Number of children involved in abuse/neglect cases	Data Not collected	16,633	15,795	16,586	18,275	18,827	19,003
Number of <i>fatalities</i> where abuse/neglect found	16	26	29	32	36	34	31*
Number of abuse/neglect fatalities with DPP history	16	10	13	17	25	21 ▪	19 *
Number of <i>near fatalities</i> where abuse/neglect found	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	16	36	24*
Number of abuse/neglect near fatalities with DPP history	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	10	23 ▪	15 *

*numbers are not final as there are child fatality and near fatality cases still under review.

▪numbers differ from SFY 05 report due to cases under review at the time of submission, now being final.

Beginning in SFY 2004, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has submitted an annual report outlining individual state fiscal year trends. However, the small number of annual occurrences results in significant fluctuation in trends from year to year and does

⁴ Data source: TWS- Y084 run for respective SFY time periods

not provide a representative picture of child abuse or neglect related fatality and near fatality cases. In order to establish a context against which the data can be evaluated and improvement measured; this year's annual report provides an analysis of Kentucky's data across 7 state fiscal years and compares Kentucky's child fatality data to the most recent national data.

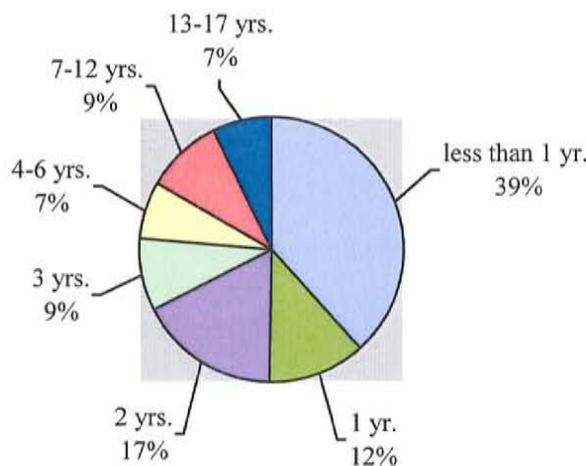
As table 2 shows the number of individual children experiencing abuse or neglect in Kentucky has risen by approximately 2,370 children since SFY 2001. The number of child abuse or neglect related fatalities increased from .15% of all cases where child abuse or neglect was found in SFY 2001 to .19% in SFY 2003 and remained constant in SFY 2004. Data from SFY 2005 and 2006 show a slight decrease in the percentage of abuse or neglect related fatalities from .19% in SFY 2004 to .16% in SFY 2006. Near fatalities are not included in this comparison due to the limited number of years data were available.

Once the context of data is established, consideration can be given to the trends in basic demographic information on the child victim; caretaker risk factors and family/household dynamics. Since July 1, 1999, 169 children who have prior involvement with DPP have either died or been seriously injured as a result of abuse or neglect. The analysis of these data is presented into three categories: victim characteristics, caretaker demographics and family/household dynamics.

Victim Characteristics- Age and Gender

In Kentucky, child victims 3 years of age or younger account for 129 of the 169 total fatality and near fatality cases (76.3%). The national average in 2004 for child fatalities is 81%⁵. Children under the age of 1 year comprised 39% of KY deaths or serious injuries compared to 45% of child deaths nationally.

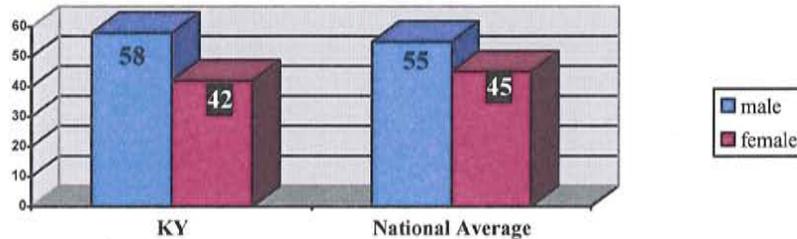
Table 3- Percentage of children by age (KY N=169)



⁵ All National Data referenced is taken from: ACF Children's Bureau 2004 Child maltreatment report

Of the 169 children in this data set whose death or serious injury was the result of abuse or neglect, 98 victims were male (58%) and 71 were female (42%). In the 2004 national data, males accounted for 55% of victims and females 45%.

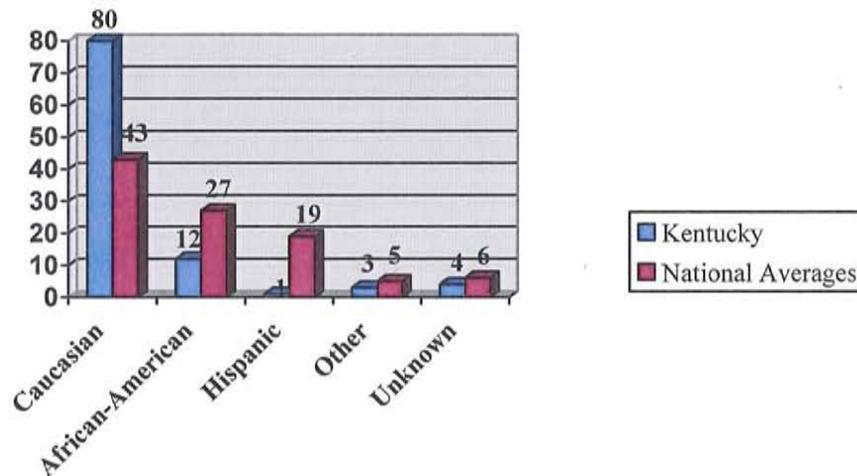
Table 4- **Percentage** of child victims by gender (KY N=169)



Victim Characteristics- Race and Ethnicity

Caucasian children account for 136 of the 169 child fatalities and near fatalities from SFY 01-06 (80%). African American children account for 20 of the child victims (12%), and bi-racial children account for 5 of the child victims (3%). One child is of Hispanic ethnicity (1%) and the race or ethnicity of 7 children was unknown (4%). The chart below shows how Kentucky's rates compare with the national data.

Table 5- **Percentage** of KY child victims by race/ethnicity (N=169)

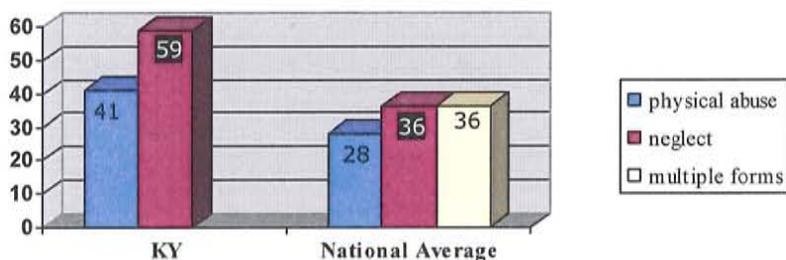


Victim Characteristics- Type of Maltreatment

In this analysis, child maltreatment is broken into two categories; physical abuse and neglect. Of the 169 cases in the Kentucky, 70 died or were seriously injured as a result of physical abuse (41%) and 99 died or were seriously injured as a result of neglect (59%). These data vary from the national data where 28% of fatalities result from physical abuse and 36% of fatalities result from neglect and the remaining 36% were the result of

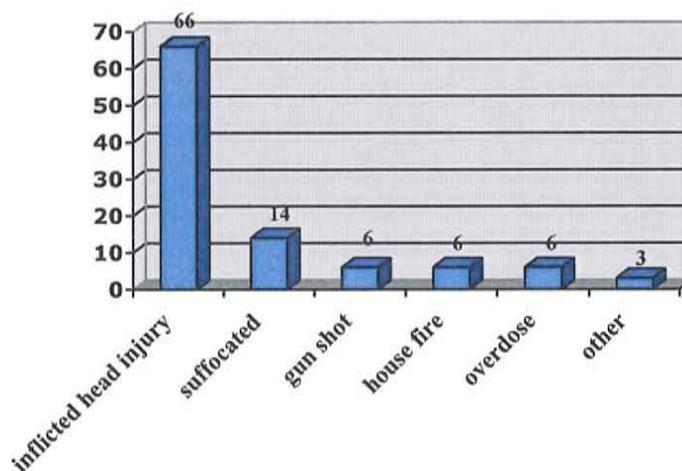
combinations of maltreatment which is accounted for by varying ways of reporting among states. For child fatality or near fatality reporting purposes, Kentucky only reports the maltreatment type that most directly resulted in death or serious injury of the victim.

Table 6- Percentage of child victims by maltreatment type (KY N=169)



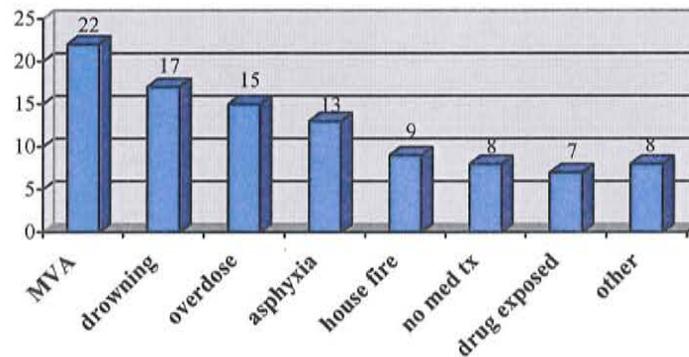
Of the physical abuse fatalities and near fatalities in KY, the number one cause of death or serious injury was inflicted head injury, otherwise referred to as shaken baby syndrome, and accounted for 66% of injuries resulting from physical abuse. Manual strangulation or suffocation accounted for 13% of child deaths or serious injuries. Table 7 below shows the distribution of inflicted injury included in this category. Child fatalities and near fatalities co-occur with domestic violence. In the cases that were the result of gun shot, the victims were deliberately shot during 4 separate domestic violence incidents; in the cases that were the result of house fires, the fires were deliberately set during 3 separate domestic violence incidents; and in the cases of overdose, the victims were administered an overdose of medication by an adult caregiver.

Table 7- Percentage of KY child victims- physical abuse (N=70)



Of the neglect fatalities and near fatalities, the number one cause of death or serious injury was motor vehicle accidents involving an impaired driver and accounted for 22% of cases. Drowning, resulting from lack of adult supervision, accounted for 17% of neglect cases, child overdose accounted for 15% and positional asphyxia accounted for 13% of neglect cases. Included in the category “other” which comprises a total of 8% are: dog attack (2 child victims), gun shot (2 child victims), left alone in motor vehicle (1 child victim), and undetermined (3 child victims).

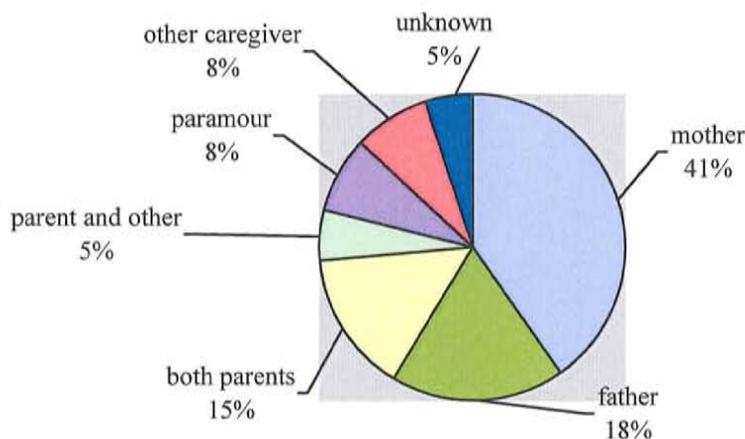
Table 8- Percentage of KY child victims- neglect (N=99)



Caregiver Information- Relationship to victim

In the 169 cases included in this analysis, 78.7% of perpetrators of abuse or neglect related child fatalities and near fatalities are either one or both biological parents. Kentucky data are nearly identical to the 2004 national average of 78.9% for this element.

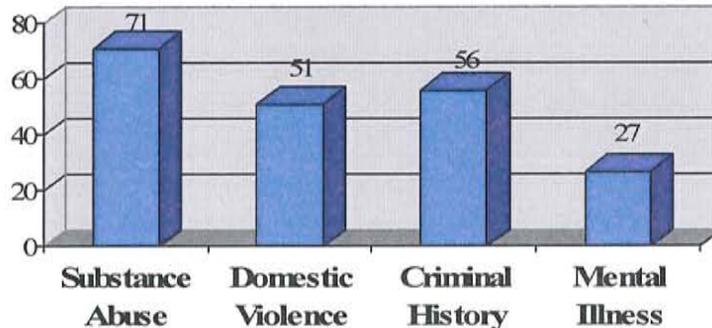
Table 9- Percentage of KY caregiver relationship to victim (N=169)



Caregiver Information- Risk Factors

Substance abuse, domestic violence, criminal history and mental illness are commonly known antecedents in child abuse and neglect cases and child fatality and near fatality cases are no exception. Of the 169 cases included in this report, 120 had substance abuse indicated by one or both caretaker (71%), in 94 cases one or both caregivers had a criminal history not including traffic violations (56%), 86 families experienced domestic violence (51%) and in 46 cases at least one caregiver struggled with mental illness (27%).

Table 10- **Percentage** of risk factors in KY fatality and near fatality cases (N=169)

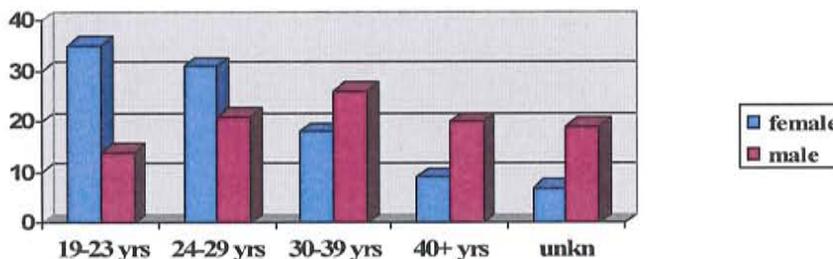


It is often the case that there are multiple risk factors in families that experience a child fatality or serious injury. Substance abuse and criminal history co-occurred most frequently and domestic violence was often an additional risk factor. When compared to all CPS cases, mental illness occurred more often in fatality and near fatality cases than in other child protective services cases. Serial relationships, an element that was not collected for all state fiscal years and therefore not included in this analysis, also occurred more often in child fatality and near fatality cases than in all child protective services cases.⁶

Family/Household Dynamics- Age of Caregivers

The median age of female caregivers in abuse or neglect related fatality and near fatality cases was 25.3 years of age and the median age of male caregivers was 32.6 years of age. The 2004 national average in fatality cases was 25 years of age for female caregivers and 30 years of age for male caregivers.

Table 11- Caregiver age in **Percentage** N=169

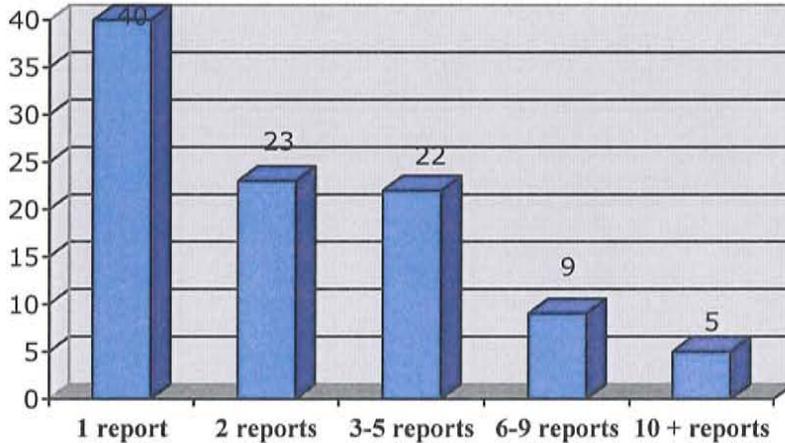


⁶ Building and Using Models of Lethality: R. Huebner, T. Webb, G. Cox 2006

Family/Household Dynamics- Number of previous CPS reports

All cases included in this analysis have at least one previous child protective services (CPS) report resulting in an assessment of the child or family. Table 11 below depicts the amount of CPS history associated with child fatality and near fatality cases.

Table 12- Percentage of cases by number of previous CPS reports (N=169)



Family/Household Dynamics- Number of siblings

The number of siblings in homes where a child fatality or near fatality occurred ranges from no siblings in 24 cases (19%) to 7 siblings in 2 cases (1%). The majority of families had either 2 or 3 siblings (62%). Eleven percent of cases had 3 siblings and 6% of families had 4 siblings in the home at the time of the fatality.

Regional Differences- Fatality and Near Fatality Data SFY01-SFY06

Jefferson County has had the highest number of fatality and near fatality cases that were the result of abuse or neglect with 26 cases. Kentucky River region has the second highest number at 15. Northern KY and Cumberland Valley had 14 cases each. The regions with the fewest number of abuse or neglect related fatality and near fatality cases are KIPDA Rural and Lake Cumberland both with 3 child fatality and near fatality cases. Table 13 on the following page shows the number of child fatalities and near fatalities for each of the 16 service regions. See Appendix A for a regional map showing counties included in each service region.

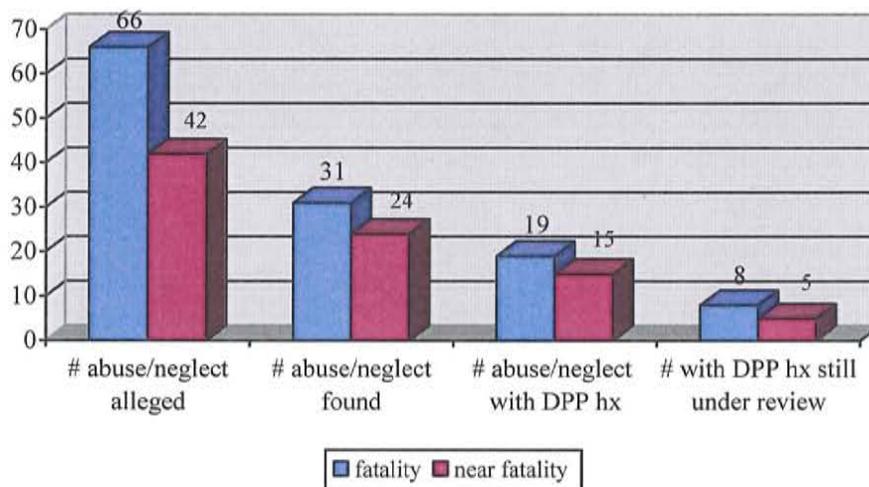
Table 13- Abuse/Neglect Fatality and Near Fatality cases by region N=169

Service Region	# of abuse/neglect fatalities with DPP history	# of abuse/neglect near fatalities with DPP history	Total fatality/near fatality with DPP history
Barren River	7	5	12
Big Sandy	8	4	12
Bluegrass Rural	8	2	10
Cumberland Valley	7	7	14
Fayette	5	5	10
FIVCO	6	1	7
Gateway	5	0	5
Green River	10	3	13
Jefferson	21	5	26
KY River	10	5	15
Lake Cumberland	1	2	3
Lincoln Trail	10	1	11
Northern KY	10	4	14
Pennyrile	9	0	9
Purchase	4	1	5
KIPDA Salt River	0	3	3
Statewide Totals	121	48	169

Section III- Child Fatality and Near Fatality Analysis SFY 2006

During SFY 2006, (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006) DPP received a total of 64,988 child abuse and neglect reports involving 66,592 children. Child abuse or neglect was found in 12,358 of those cases (19%) and involved 19,003 children. Of the 19,003 children, 31 died as a result of abuse or neglect (.16%) and 24 were seriously injured as a result of abuse or neglect (.13%). Of the 31 child fatality cases, 19 (61%) had prior involvement with DPP; two fewer child fatalities from last SFY. Of the 24 near fatality cases 15 (62.5%) had prior involvement with DPP; eight fewer near fatality cases than last SFY.⁷

Table 14- Number of abuse/neglect related fatalities and near fatalities SFY 2006



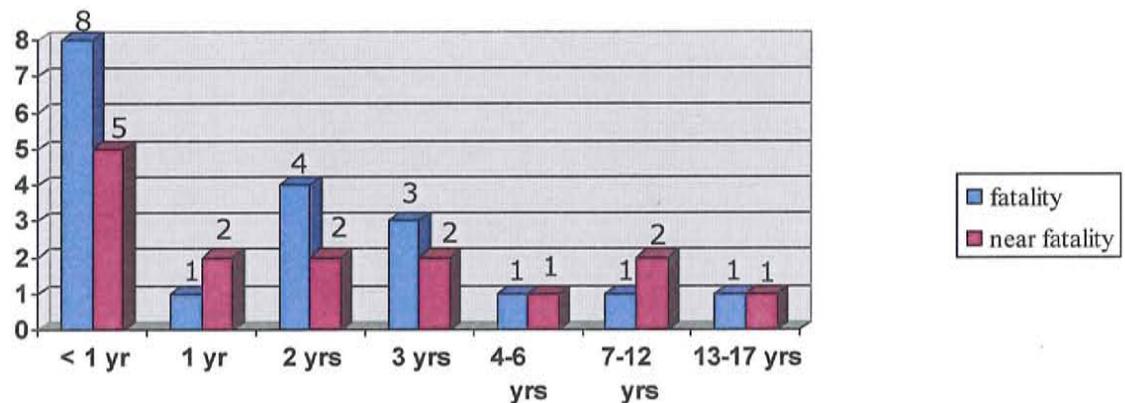
State Fiscal Year 2006 data is presented in four categories: the child victim, caretaker risk factors, family/household dynamics and regional differences. Due to the small number of cases presented, all data for this section will be reported in numbers and supplemented with percentages.

Victim Characteristics- Age and Gender

There were 19 child fatalities and 15 near fatalities that were the result of abuse or neglect where the family had prior involvement with DPP. As was true in the previous section, children 3 years of age and younger comprise the majority of the victims (79%). The age range of children in this reporting period was 0-17 years. Table 15 shows the number of child fatality and near fatality victims by age group.

⁷ 18 fatality cases, 8 of which have prior DPP involvement and 5 near fatality cases with prior DPP involvement are still under review

Table 15 – Age distribution by **number** of victims (N=34)



The distribution of the victim gender varied somewhat during this state fiscal year, with 15 of the fatality victims being male (79%) and 4 female (21%). The near fatality victims showed a similar gender distribution with 10 of the victims being male (66%) and 5 of the victims being female (33%).

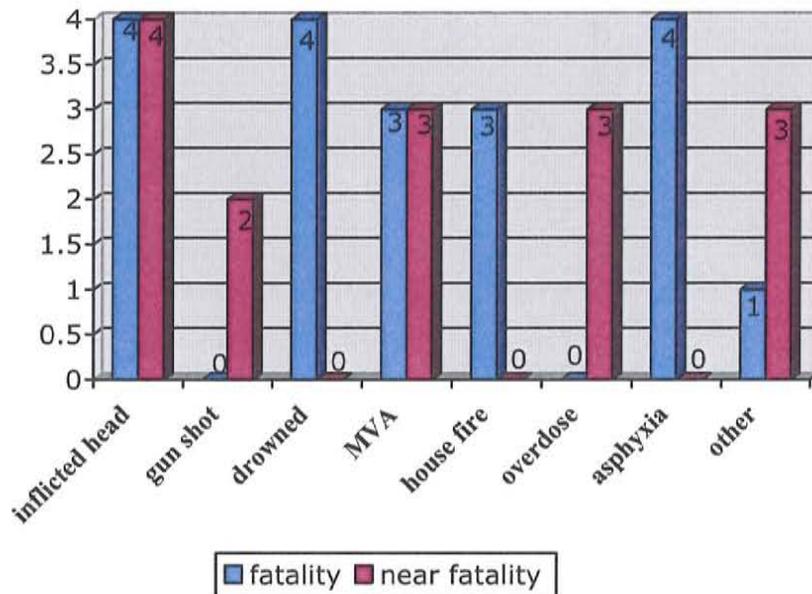
Victim Characteristics- Race, Ethnicity and Disability

During SFY 2006, 30 of the 34 victims were Caucasian (88%), 3 victims were African American (9%) and 1 victim was of Hispanic ethnicity (3%). Of all of the reports received by DPP, approximately 76% are Caucasian. Child disability has not been tracked in previous years but is included for SFY 2006 reporting. Of the 34 victims, 10 had a mental or physical disability (29%). These data will continue to be collected in the attempt to understand any relationship between child disability and the likelihood of fatal or serious injury.

Victim Characteristics- Type of maltreatment

Physical abuse accounted for 5 of the 19 fatalities (26%) and 5 of the near fatalities (33%). As seen in previous years, the cause of death or serious injury was most often inflicted head injury, accounting for 8 of the 10 cases (80%). In the remaining 2 cases, 1 child was shot during a domestic violence incident and one child died of anemia. Neglect accounted for 14 of the 19 fatalities (74%) and 10 of the near fatalities (67%). Motor vehicle accidents involving an impaired driver accounted for 6 of the 24 cases (25%) and 4 children drowned due to lack of adult supervision (17%). Four children also died as a result of positional asphyxia (17%) and 3 overdosed due to lack of supervision (13%).

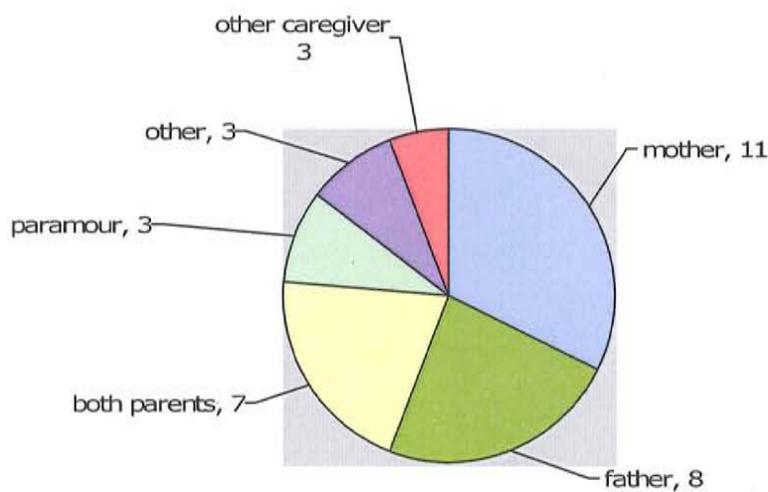
Table 16- Number of child victims by cause of injury (N=34)



Caregiver Information- Relationship to Victim

As previously stated, data indicate that 78.7% of perpetrators of abuse or neglect related child fatalities and near fatalities are one or both biological parents. During the SFY 2006, in the 16 of the 19 fatalities (84%) and 10 of the 15 near fatalities (55%) one or both biological parents were the perpetrator of abuse or neglect that resulted in death or serious injury to the child victim.

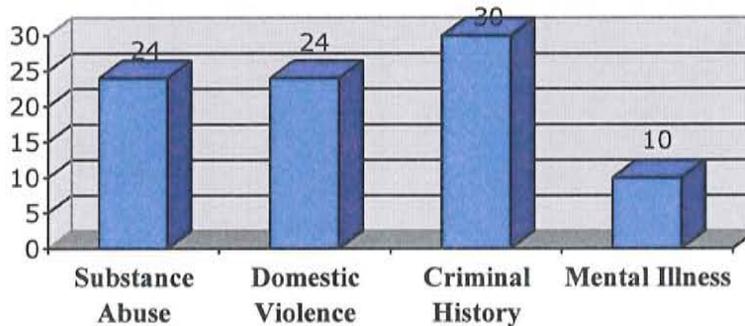
Table 17- Number of Caregiver relationship to victims (N=34)



Caregiver Information- Risk Factors

The most prevalent risk factor in the SFY 2006 fatality and near fatality cases was criminal history which was indicated in 30 of the 34 cases (88%); 17 of the 19 fatality cases and 13 of the 15 near fatality cases. Substance abuse and domestic violence were indicated in 24 cases and mental illness was indicated in 6 of the 19 child fatality cases and 4 of the near fatality cases.

Table 18- Number of risk factors in SFY 06 fatality and near fatality cases (N=34)

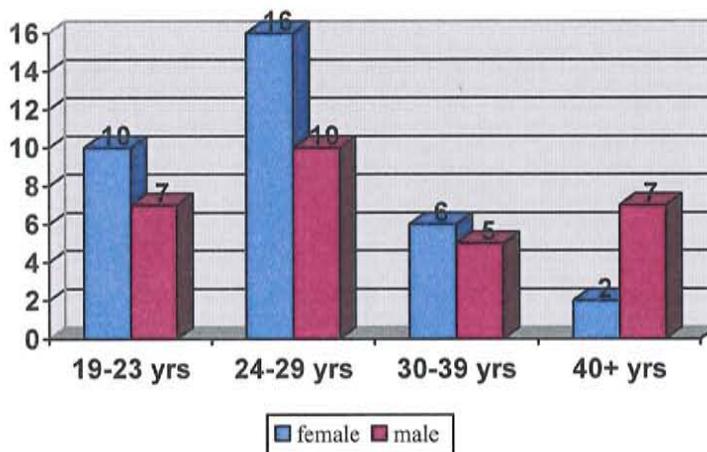


As discussed previously, risk factors often co-occur and during this reporting period domestic violence and criminal history co-occurred in 24 cases (70%), substance abuse and criminal history co-occurred in 23 cases (67%), and all three of the aforementioned risk factors were present in 12 cases (35%).

Family/Household Dynamics- Caretaker Age

The median age for female caregivers during this reporting period was 27 years of age which is higher than both the Kentucky and National averages. The median age for male caregivers was 32 years of age, which mirrors both the Kentucky average and the national average.

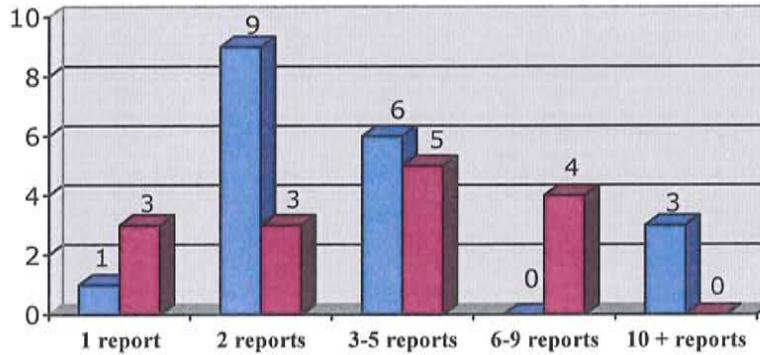
Table 19- Number of caregivers by age group and gender (N=34)



Family/Household Dynamics- Number of previous CPS reports

All cases included in the SFY data have at least one previous child protective services (CPS) report resulting in an assessment of the child or family. The chart below depicts the amount of CPS history associated with child fatality and near fatality cases.

Table 20- Number of cases by number of previous CPS reports (N=34)



Family/Household Dynamics- Number of siblings

The number of siblings in homes where a child fatality or near fatality occurred ranges from no other siblings in 8 cases (24%) to 4 siblings in 3 families (9%). In SFY 2006, 19 families (56%) had either 1 or 2 other children in the home at the time the fatality or serious injury occurred. In the remaining cases, 4 families had 3 other children in the home (11%).

Regional Differences Child fatality and near fatality cases are the worst case scenario of child abuse or neglect. A look into regional differences is instructional. The chart below depicts the number of abuse or neglect reports received in each of the 16 service regions, total number of cases where child abuse or neglect was found and the number of abuse or neglect related child fatality and near fatality cases.

Table 21- **Number** of abuse/neglect fatality and near fatality cases compared to total number of reports for SFY 2006

Service Region	Abuse/neglect reports received ⁸	# reports abuse/neglect was found	# of abuse/neglect fatalities with DPP history	# of abuse/neglect near fatalities with DPP history
Barren River	3376	815	1	3
Big Sandy	3909	727	5	0
Bluegrass Rural	5880	712	0	1
Cumberland Valley	4221	860	0	0
Fayette	3842	786	0	2
FIVCO	2532	376	0	0
Gateway	2198	558	1	0
Green River	4221	1010	1	2
Jefferson	8986	2247	2	1
KY River	2784	607	3	2
Lake Cumberland	2901	514	0	2
Lincoln Trail	5295	747	3	0
Northern KY	4820	925	1	1
Pennyrile	2744	533	2	0
Purchase	3395	433	0	1
KIPDA Salt River	3884	508	0	0
Statewide Totals	64,988	12,358	19	15

⁸ Data Source: TWS- Y084 July 1, 2005- June 30, 2006

Section IV- Action Steps Taken by the Cabinet as a result of Findings

The cabinet has taken numerous actions as a result of the internal reviews completed in the child fatality and near fatality cases. The action steps fall into the following 4 categories: training and pilot projects, resource development, policy and procedure and data and technology.

Training and Pilot Projects

- RCA- Root Cause Analysis is a pilot project focused on analyzing the systemic issues involved in abuse or neglect related child fatality cases and developing action plans to remedy these issues. Front line staff, as well as regional and central office staff, participated in the reviews. Pilot sites included the following service regions: KIPDA-Jefferson, Lincoln Trail, and Purchase. Action steps resulted from each pilot site that included actions taken at both the local and state levels and were developed by participants. The process was adopted by cabinet leadership and will begin being rolled out to the remainder of the state.
- University of Louisville Pilot Study- Dr. Mary Clyde Pierce from the University of Louisville along with Dr. Gina Bertocci is collaborating with DPP to study cases of inflicted head injury, or shaken baby syndrome. The scientific study compares inflicted head injuries to head injuries that were the result of accidental trauma in order to analyze case similarities and differences. Phase one of the pilot has been completed and evaluation of findings is currently being prepared.
- Two day trainings were conducted throughout the state by child abuse experts to help DCBS staff and community partners understand and identify cases of fatality abuse and neglect.
- In partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky initiated project CARE (Child Abuse Recognition Education) to work with physicians and their staff at identifying child abuse and assisting in child abuse investigations.

Resource Development

- Drug Testing- The cabinet has secured a vendor to provide statewide consistent drug testing to the families involved in child protective services cases. In the past, results from drug tests have varied from vendor to vendor as did the cost of the test. With the current vendor, the same set of standards will be applied to every drug test administered and the cost will be the same for each test as well.
- Increase in Medical Support Staff – Through collaboration between the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs and the Department for Community Based Services, funds to hire 9 nurses have been allocated. The nurses

will begin by assisting with the medically fragile foster care program and will eventually be able to provide medical consultations to regional staff on cases of child abuse and neglect.

- Child Fatality Medical Resources- The Child Fatality Nurse Service Administrator has begun developing fact sheets to assist front line staff during child fatality and near fatality investigations. The fact sheets range from what x-rays to obtain during a skeletal survey, to quick facts about drowning, to photo-documentation of injuries. The child fatality nurse is also available to provide medical consultation on every child and near fatality case, including medical record and autopsy reviews.

Policy and Procedure Refinements

- Staff De-Briefing- Research suggests that staff who investigate allegations of fatal and serious child abuse and neglect experience secondary trauma. These experiences have been discussed in both the internal reviews completed by the cabinet, as well as the RCA pilot project. To respond to this issue, staff is offered resources through the crisis response board and the Kentucky Employee Assistance Program (KEAP). Staff report positive personal outcomes after utilizing these services.
- Fatality Investigative Information Form- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently published a new data collection form to be completed as part of the scene investigation for all sudden and unexplained child deaths. The Child Fatality Specialist in collaboration with Community Partners is modifying the form to be utilized during child abuse or neglect related deaths as a tool to assist protection and permanency staff in investigation of these cases.
- Resource Home Safety Checklist- A number of children die in Kentucky as a result of drowning each year. The Division of Protection and Permanency is developing a safety checklist for not only pool safety, but also how to properly secure chemicals, weapons, and all terrain vehicles in homes with children. The checklist will be available to all resource parents as well as parents in local communities.
- Dynamic Family Assessment- The Dynamic Family Assessment (DFA) is an assessment tool being designed and tested for use during a child protective services investigation. The tool continues to be refined as more analysis is completed into the complex issues of child protective services. As a result of findings from internal reviews of child fatality and near fatality cases, specific questions are being added to the DFA to capture additional data elements.

Data and Technology

- **Outcome Based Data Tracking System-** The cabinet has developed a data tracking system to track elements of child welfare outcomes. This system aligns with the data tracked by the Administration for Children and Families and is part of the Child and Family Services Review. Each quarter, data are provided to the service regions that show both the regional performance and statewide averages. The tracking system provides a consistent data profile to staff and assists the regions in understanding the risk factors of the cases in their area and trends in safety, permanency and well-being of the children and families they serve. It is through this understanding that prevention efforts can be focused and allocation of resources better aligned to serve the needs of each family.
- **Mobile Technology Tool Kit-** After an initial pilot phase, the cabinet announced in July the intention to roll out the mobile technology toolkit statewide. The toolkit includes a laptop computer, digital camera, photo printer and cell phone. The tool kit will provide the worker with state-of-the-art mobile technology that will enhance their ability to perform their work and better ensure their safety while on the job.
- **Child Fatality Database-** The cabinet has developed a database to track and trend cases of child fatality and near fatality. While these cases all exist in the TWIST system, it is difficult to extract them for analysis purposes. The database was largely responsible for the historical analysis provided in this report.
- **Child Fatality Research-** Understanding the difference between child abuse and neglect cases that result in child fatalities or near fatalities and those that do not was the center of a research project done by Dr. Ruth Huebner, child welfare researcher, and Tina Webb, child fatality specialist. The study was designed to look at lethality and chronicity as predictors of child safety issues, specifically child fatalities and near fatalities. This study was presented at the 9th Annual National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology Conference. Collaborative research on these issues will continue to be a primary focus of the child fatality program in the Division of Protection and Permanency.

Annotated Bibliography

Banks, V. (2003). Comparison of fatality and non-fatality victims in the NCANDS 2000 case level data. *The NDACAN Update*, 14, 1,3,6.

The Family Life Development Center, College of Human Ecology, Cornell University completed this analysis comparing 433 child abuse and neglect related fatalities to the just over 277,000 child abuse and neglect cases. These data were taken from data National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) submitted from 21 states in 2000. The study compared age and gender of child victims, type of maltreatment and prior victimization of child fatality victims to other child abuse and neglect victims. A logistic regression model was used in the analysis and found: pre-school children were 66% less likely than infants to suffer fatal child maltreatment, prior physical abuse of a victim increased the likelihood of fatal child maltreatment by 300% and males and females were equally likely to be the victim of fatal child maltreatment.

Figley, C. (2003). The Trauma of Working with Traumatized Children, *Treating Compassion Fatigue* 2, 39-55.

This study was conducted to assess the prevalence of secondary traumatic stress symptoms in child protective service (CPS) professionals and to identify factors that were associated with secondary traumatic stress (STS). The study found that when CPS workers have worked longer in the field they experience more severe STS symptoms. The CPS workers employed for 5 or more years reported experiencing more obsessive-compulsive symptoms, more anxious symptoms including nervous tension and feelings of terror. The findings did not support a relationship between average caseload size and symptoms, which may indicate that the actual number of cases is not as important in determining the symptom severity as the actual time spent on working the case.

Huebner, R., Webb, T., Cox, G. (2006). *Building and Using Models of Lethality: Research, Data, and Practice*.

This study was presented at the 9th Annual Child Welfare and Data Technology Conference and included a logistic regression analysis of child protective service cases most likely to experience a child fatality or near fatality. The study found that fatality and near fatality cases were more likely than other child protective service cases to have serial relationships in the home, a caregiver with mental health issues, and more adults in the home and previous physical abuse of the child victim.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, *Child Maltreatment 2004*.

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families compiles national and state statistics about child maltreatment that are derived from the data collected by child protective services agencies through the NCANDS. The data are analyzed, disseminated, and published in an annual report. Variables included in the report are: age and gender of fatality victims, race and ethnicity of fatality victims, perpetrator relationships to fatality victims, maltreatment types in fatality cases and prior CPS contact with fatality victims.

Appendix A

Appendix B

Tables

Age of child N=169

Age	Number of children	Percentage of children
Under 1 yr	65	38%
1 year	20	12%
2 years	29	17%
3 years	15	9%
4-6 years	5+3+4=12	7.5%
7-12 years	5+1+3+1+3+3=16	9%
13-17 years	3+3+2+3+1=12	7.5%
Total	169	100%

Gender of Children N=169

Gender	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Male	98	58%
Female	71	42%
Total	169	100%

Type of Maltreatment N=169

Type of maltx	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Physical abuse	70	41%
Neglect	99	59%
Total	169	100%

Type of Maltx- Physical abuse N=70

Nature of Injury	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Inflicted head and abdomen	46	66%
Suffocation (manually)	10	14%
Gun shot	4	6%
House fire (set deliberately)	4	6%
Overdose (administered)	4	6%
Other	2	2%

Total	70	100%
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Type of Maltx- Neglect N=99

Nature of Injury	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
MVA with impaired driver	22	22%
Drowning	17	17%
Overdose	15	15%
Asphyxia (positional)	13	13%
House Fire	9	9%
No Med tx	8	8%
Drug Exposed	7	7%
Other	8	8%
Totals	99	99%

Caregiver relationship to Victim N=169

Relationship	Number of children	Percentage of Children
Mother	67	41%
Father	31	18%
Both Parents	26	15%
Parent and Other	9	5%
Parent Paramour	13	8%
Other Caregiver	14	8%
Unknown	9	5%
Totals	169	100%

Caregiver Risk Factors

Risk	Number of Cases	Percentage of Cases
Substance Abuse	120	71%
Domestic Violence	86	51%
Mental Health Issues	46	27%
Criminal History	94	56%

Prior P&P History N=169

Amount of Hx	Number of Cases	Percentage of Cases
1 prior report	68	40%
2 prior reports	39	23%
3-5 prior reports	17+9+11=37	22%
6-9 prior reports	2+7+7= 16	9%

10,11,12,13 and 15 prior reports	3+2+1+1+2=9	5%
Totals	169	99%