



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

**Safe Sleep: Getting Out the Right
Message**

October 4, 2006



WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

- **Definition of neglect: IC 31-34-1-1**
(1) the child's physical or mental condition is seriously impaired or seriously endangered as a result of the inability, refusal, or neglect of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision

- **Deaths from neglect contributed for 31 deaths in SFY 2005**

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WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

- **Definition of abuse: IC 31-34-1-2 (1) the child's physical or mental health is seriously endangered due to injury by the act or omission of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian;**
- **Deaths from abuse accounted for 26 deaths for SFY 2005**

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WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

- Positional asphyxiation was the cause of 9 neglect deaths in 2005, and was the leading cause of neglect deaths
- Increase by 7 from the previous year
- 5 involved the use of alcohol/drug
- 6 of the 9 involved rollover
- Substantiated for unsafe sleeping environment, not necessarily for bed sharing

WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

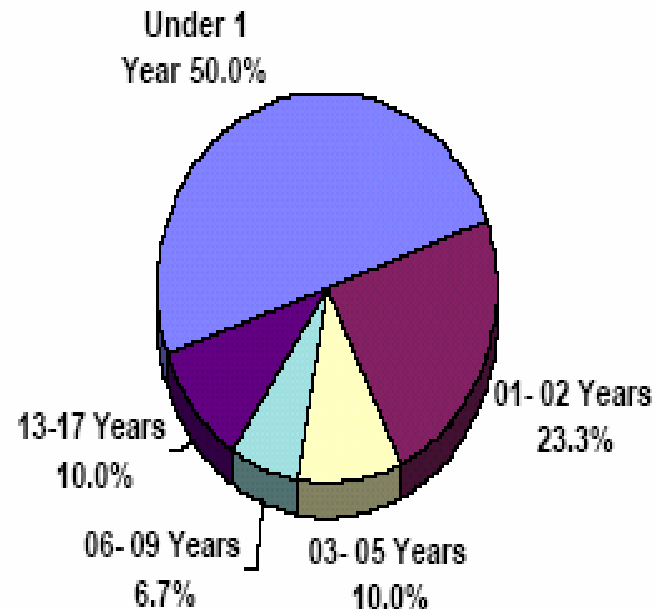
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Age of the Child

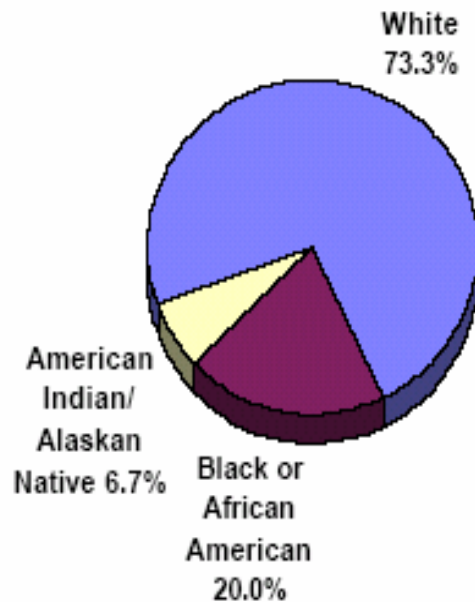
SFY 05		
Under 1	15	50.0%
01	3	10.0%
02	4	13.3%
03	3	10.0%
04	0	0.0%
05	0	0.0%
06	0	0.0%
07	1	3.3%
08	0	0.0%
09	1	3.3%
10-12	0	0.0%
13-17	3	10.0%
Unreported	0	0.0%
Total	30	

Percentage Breakdown by Age of the Child



WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

Percentage Breakdown by Race of the Child



Race of the Child

SFY 05		
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2	6.7%
Black or African American	6	20.0%
White	22	73.3%
Total	30	

Sex of the Child

SFY 05		
Female	15	50.0%
Male	15	50.0%
Total	30	

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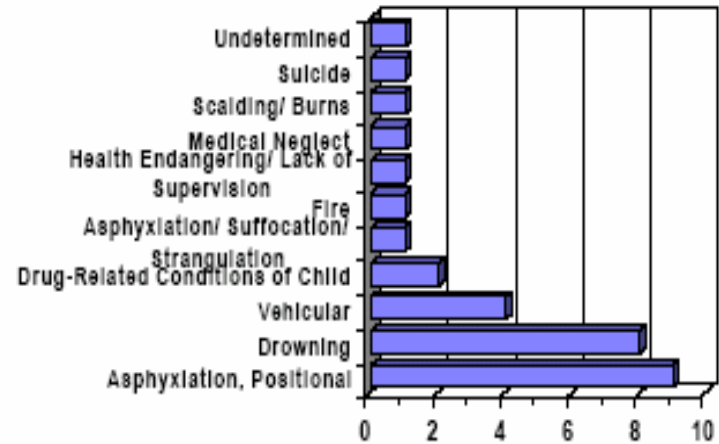
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Breakdown by Primary Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	
SFY 05	
Primary Cause of Death	Count
Asphyxiation, Positional	9
Drowning	8
Vehicular	4
Drug-Related Conditions of Child	2
Undetermined	1
Suicide	1
Scalding/ Burns	1
Medical Neglect	1
Health Endangering/ Lack of Supervision	1
Fire	1
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation/ Strangulation	1
Total	30





WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

Marital Status of Parents
SFY 05

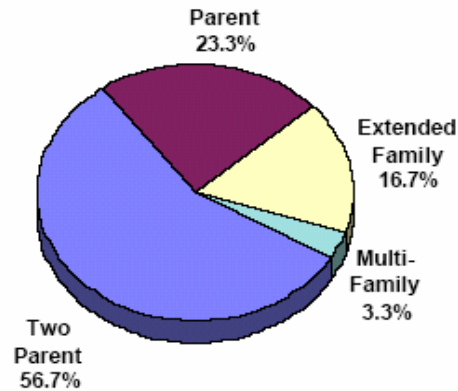
Living Together	10
Married	10
Separated	1
Single	9
Total	30

Other Siblings in the Family
SFY 05

Yes	20
No	10
Total	30

Type of Household Where Incident Occurred
SFY 05

Extended Family	5
Multi-Family	1
Single Parent	7
Two Parent	17
Total	30



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Male Caregiver's Primary Source of Income
SFY 05

Unknown	8
Unemployed	8
Labor/Skilled	1
Labor/ Unskilled	5
Service Work	3
Military	2
Professional/ Technical	1
TANF	1
Other	1
Total	30

Female Caregiver's Primary Source of Income
SFY 05

Unknown	2
Unemployed	7
Labor/Skilled	3
Labor/ Unskilled	5
Service Work	3
Military	2
Professional/ Technical	1
TANF	4
Other Public Assistance	1
Other	2
Total	30

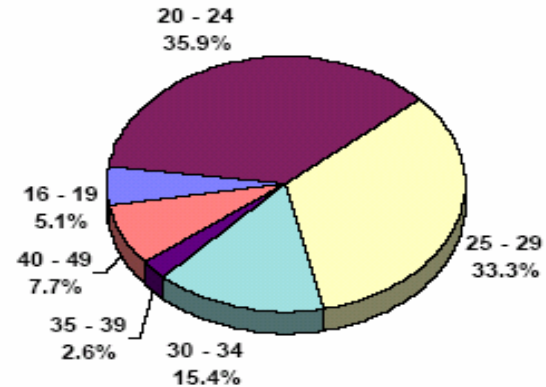
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Age of Perpetrator*

SFY 05	
16 - 19	2
20 - 24	14
25 - 29	13
30 - 34	6
35 - 39	1
40 - 49	3
Total	39

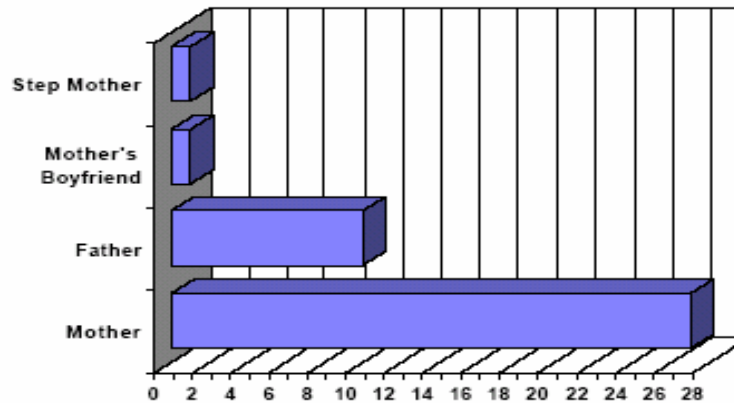
**May list more than one perpetrator for each fatality*

Percentage Breakdown by Age of Perpetrator*



**May list more than one perpetrator for each fatality*

Breakdown by Relationship of Perpetrator*



Relationship of Perpetrator to Child*

SFY 05	
Mother	27
Father	10
Step Mother	1
Mother's Boyfriend	1
Total	39

**May list more than one perpetrator for each fatality*

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WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

DCS Vision

In sum, the data indicates Indiana's most vulnerable citizens have commonalities of risk factors.

- Infants are more vulnerable than older children and natural parents are the most likely perpetrators in child fatalities.
- A significant number of children die as a result of unsafe sleeping environments.
- Less experienced and younger parents are more likely to perpetrate these acts against their children.
- Domestic violence is a stress factor in many abuse fatalities.
- Supervision for children is critical.
- Proper restraints are always needed in automobiles.
- The effects of drug and alcohol abuse on our children is evident, and almost half of child deaths are considered homicide.

The Vision for the Department of Child Services is children thrive in safe, caring, supportive families and communities. As a community and as a state, we must use the data from these tragic circumstances to recognize factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect that ultimately can result in a child's death. Partnerships between the Department of Child Services and community members are imperative to reducing the frequency of these fatalities, and providing proactive support for children and parents in need.

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