



Prevalence of Child Abuse

It is difficult to determine exactly how many children are abused and neglected each year. Several state and national studies have been conducted, but because of the way the data was collected the results can be misleading and may not present an entirely accurate picture. For instance, we know that most research is based on cases of child abuse and neglect that have been substantiated by child protective services agencies, agencies which, due to their limited resources, are usually only able to intervene in cases deemed to be of serious concern. We also know that many cases of abuse and neglect are never reported. However, the most current data reported that:

- In 2017, over four million reports of child abuse and neglect were made in the U.S.
- Approximately 674,000 children were found to have been victims of neglect.
- About 1,720 children died from abuse or neglect. Eighty percent of fatalities involved at least one parent.

In 2017, in Wisconsin there were:

- 42,582 reports of child abuse involving 35,752 children.
- 806 substantiated cases of physical abuse.
- 1,082 substantiated cases of sexual abuse.
- 24 substantiated cases of emotional abuse.
- 3,706 substantiated cases of child neglect.
- 30 substantiated cases of a child having died because of child abuse or neglect.
- Fifty-eight percent were under 1 year of age.

Regardless of what the data says, we believe that one case of child abuse is too many.

For the full Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report, go to
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/reports/pdf/can.pdf>



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