



wisconsin department of  
**children + families**

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

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Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

October 28, 2011

Honorable Pam Galloway  
State Senator  
409 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Honorable Don Pridemore  
State Representative  
318 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Galloway and Representative Pridemore:

Enclosed please find the Department of Children and Families' 2011 third quarter report on alleged sexual abuse of children residing in out-of-home care placement. The attached data report addresses reports of alleged sexual abuse for the period July 1 through September 30, 2011 and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. The following information summarizes some of the findings in the attached report:

*Number of Incidents Reported: 46*

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 46 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 44 children residing in out-of-home care placement during the third quarter of 2011.

*Maltreatment Determinations*

For reported incidents, 28 (61%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse did not occur). Fourteen (31%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigation is not yet completed. Four (8%) of the reported incidents was substantiated, which means this child was sexually abused after he/she was removed from the home and placed into out-of-home care placement. This does not mean that the child was maltreated in the placement or by a member of that household. Please see the following section on maltreater relationship.

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*Nature of Maltreater Relationship:*

For the substantiated incidents during this quarter, four different relationships between the maltreater and child were identified: 1) unknown maltreater, 2) relative/non-care provider, 3) another child in licensed care, and 4) another child in the foster home.

*Dates of the Substantiated Incidents:*

The incidents reported are estimated to have occurred in 2011. Children disclose abuse when they feel ready, so it is common for abuse to be reported months or even years after the incident occurred. In cases of alleged abuse to younger children, dates of the alleged maltreatment may be difficult or impossible to determine due to the child's inability to effectively communicate about the incident(s).

*Counties in which the substantiated incidents occurred: 3*

Brown County substantiated 2 incidents, and Racine and Rock Counties substantiated 1 incident per county of sexual abuse to a child residing in out-of-home care placement.

*Ages or Age Group of children: 10-16 years*

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 2 through 17 years, with sexual abuse being substantiated in 4 cases involving two 10 year olds, one 15 year old, and one 16 year old.

*Types of Placement:*

The incidents of confirmed (substantiated) sexual abuse occurred while the child was placed in four different types of settings, including a shelter, Kinship Care, reception center/shelter and non-relative foster home. As stated earlier, the alleged sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting or by an individual residing in that setting, but rather that is the child's current or most recent type of placement.

If you have any questions about this summarized information or the attached report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eloise Anderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Eloise Anderson  
Secretary

Enclosures  
cc: Cindy Polzin, Governor's Office

