Wisconsin
Child Abuse and Neglect
Report

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2023
to the Governor and Legislature
Wis. Stat. s. 48.47(8)

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Please email the DCF Child Welfare Research and Analytics Section at:
DCFCWRA@wisconsin.gov with any questions regarding this report.

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Letter from the Administrator

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) envisions that all Wisconsin children and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities. We hold ourselves to the highest level of accountability in our standards of practice, and we do so through a variety of efforts related to continuous quality improvement processes. As we engage in these efforts, DCF prioritizes collaboration and partnership with local and tribal child welfare agencies to foster innovation and improvement services and supports to the children, youth and families we serve.

Research and history, along with significant changes in federal policy and funding priorities, support the fact that children belong with their families. And, in living out the DCF vision stated above, we have challenged ourselves and the local agencies and programs we support to reorient the child welfare system to a new purpose: Strengthening all Wisconsin families to raise their children.

We believe in the importance of using data to monitor the performance and assess the outcomes of the child welfare system. These efforts inform policy and program decisions and guide system improvements to support service quality. We also believe in the importance of hearing from children, youth and caregivers impacted by child protective services, as well as child welfare professionals who help them. Their feedback and input are critical in improving the state's child welfare system and strengthen their families. This report contains an array of data that DCF and our stakeholders use to better understand the trends and outcomes of Wisconsin's child welfare system. A few areas to consider while reading the report:

- Screened in referrals have decreased by 20% in the past five years, from 26,284 in 2019 to 20,923 in 2023. This decrease represents a reduction in the number of families brought further into the child welfare system and, as a result, fewer families required the heavier financial costs and corresponding downstream stigma that often accompanies this governmental intervention.

- During 2023, substantiations of neglect have decreased by 17% since 2019. While not as significant for Black children, the decrease in substantiated allegations of neglect is a sign that our prevention and early intervention system may be better supporting children in the community, rather than necessitating poverty-related needs as the responsibility of the CPS system.

- The number of children removed within 60 days of a CPS report dropped by 33% since 2019, from 3,213 children to 2,168 in 2023. This is a significant decrease and means that over 1,000 children were able to remain in their family homes over the course of the time required to complete the Initial Assessment process.

- The number of children served in the Targeted Safety Support Funds (TSSF) increased from 3,900 children in 2022 to 4,076 children in 2023. TSSF provides local child welfare agencies with flexible funding that can be used to allow children to remain in home and enable their parents and caregivers to receive more individualized and immediately accessible supports.

DCF believes that with greater availability of community-based services and more adequate access to resources, it will address basic and concrete needs to support families. We hope that with greater supports in and outside of the child welfare system, children and families are rooted, happy, healthy, and together.

John M Elliott

Division of Safety and Permanence Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Executive Summary

In calendar year 2023, county child protective services (CPS) agencies and the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) received a total of 72,170 referrals from reporters alleging maltreatment of children. Legal/law enforcement, educational personnel, and social service professionals accounted for the largest sources of CPS referrals. CPS agencies screened-in a total of 20,923, or 29 percent, of these referrals. These screened-in referrals could involve multiple children within each referral and together they accounted for 20,198 CPS initial assessments with families. At the child level, there were 33,051 CPS maltreatment referrals involving 28,190 alleged child victims across 17,346 cases and 38,037 allegations of maltreatment. Some children were involved in more than one report and/or were affected by multiple allegations of maltreatment.

Allegations and Findings

Neglect was the most common type of maltreatment allegation during calendar year 2023, followed by physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. Of the 33,051 CPS maltreatment reports, 4,000 were substantiated allegations of maltreatment, representing 12.3 percent of the total. The maltreatment allegation type accounting for the most substantiated findings during calendar year 2023 was neglect.

Child Victims

There were 3,608 unique child victims of maltreatment in 2023. A child is a victim if they had at least one substantiated maltreatment finding at the conclusion of a CPS initial assessment. This represents 2.9 children per 1,000 children in Wisconsin. Females were more likely to be victims than males due to higher rates of sexual abuse. In calendar year 2023, 22 children died from substantiated maltreatment.

Maltreaters

Males accounted for the majority of maltreaters in sexual and physical abuse cases, while females accounted for the majority of maltreaters in neglect cases. Primary caregivers accounted for 85 percent of the substantiated maltreatment.

CPS Services

Of the families involved in CPS initial assessments during calendar year 2023, 12.9 percent of families received services from the CPS agency and 10.7 percent were referred by the CPS agency to a community resource. During 2023, 2,168 children were removed from their family home and placed in an out-of-home placement within 60 days of CPS report in order to ensure child safety.

Data Source

Data for this report are from the Child Welfare Data Warehouse (dWiSACWIS). The data in dWiSACWIS are sourced from the electronic Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS). CPS agencies use eWiSACWIS to manage their cases. The body of the report provides statewide composite data; county-specific detail is in the appendices.

Introduction

Child protective services (CPS) is a key component of the child welfare system. CPS intervention is warranted whenever there is a report that a child may be unsafe, abused or neglected, or at risk of maltreatment. The CPS system identifies and addresses family conditions that make children unsafe or place them at risk for maltreatment. Services provided by CPS agencies include receiving reports of alleged child maltreatment, assessing these reports as needed, implementing plans to keep children safe, and coordinating services for children and families. The Wisconsin Child Welfare Model for Practice, developed by the Department of Children and Families and the county and tribal human services agencies in collaboration with stakeholders, is the compass that directs our work and guides decision-making. As articulated in the Model for Practice, the purpose of Wisconsin's child welfare system is to help children thrive in safe environments and empower families to provide safe, permanent, and nurturing homes for their children. The system aims to meet this purpose by supporting children and youth in their own home, family, tribe, and community, whenever possible.

When it is not possible to keep children safely in their home, the system engages with the courts and others to provide a safe, stable, and temporary home that nurtures and supports the children's development. The system aims to transition children in out-of-home care safely and quickly back to their family, whenever possible, or to another permanent home.

The system strives to engage with children, youth, and families to expand healthy connections in their community and tribes and to bolster resiliency in families to help them thrive. To achieve these objectives, we are committed to key values and principles, including trust, respect, engagement, accountability, trauma-informed practices, culturally responsible practices, workforce support, and family-centered approaches.

This Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report reflects data collected during calendar year 2023 regarding reports of child maltreatment in Wisconsin. The Department of Children and Families compiled this report to assist state policymakers, service providers, and the public in understanding and effectively responding to child maltreatment.

Structure of Child Protective Services in Wisconsin

CPS agencies are responsible for identifying and addressing conditions affecting child safety in the home for families who come to the attention of these agencies. In Wisconsin, our state-supervised, county-administered system, with the exception of Milwaukee County, where the state administers the CPS program, helps meet this critical social responsibility. Alleged child maltreatment is reported to 71 county social or human services departments, the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) in Milwaukee County, or to local law enforcement agencies. Alleged child maltreatment involving tribal children is also reported to county CPS agencies and DMCPS or to local law enforcement; CPS agencies and DMCPS are required to notify the tribe of the referral within 24 hours of its receipt. Please refer to Appendix M for a website link that directs the individual to a complete list of contact information for these county departments.

Child Abuse and Neglect Definitions

State laws define child abuse and neglect. These definitions provide the basis for persons to report suspected child maltreatment and guide county agencies in their response. Throughout this report, the terms 'child maltreatment' and 'child abuse and/or neglect' have the same meaning and can be used interchangeably. Refer to Appendix A for a list of Wisconsin's child maltreatment related statutes. State laws and policies concerning child maltreatment pertain to children 17 years of age and younger, unless otherwise specified. Child maltreatment is generally divided into four basic types: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

Neglect

Neglect is defined in the statutes as "failure, refusal or inability on the part of a caregiver, for reasons other than poverty, to provide necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care or shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health of the child." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(12g)]

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is defined as "physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(1)(a)] "Physical injury includes but is not limited to lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe or frequent bruising or great bodily harm, as defined in s. 939.22(14)." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(14g)]

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is defined by cross-referencing several crimes in the Wisconsin Criminal Code section of the statutes (see Appendix A). In summary, sexual abuse includes but is not limited to the following:

• Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a child 15 years of age or less;
• Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a 16- or 17-year old child without his or her consent;
• Inducement of a child to engage in sexually explicit conduct in order to videotape, photograph, etc.,
   that child or videotaping, photographing, etc., a child for such purposes, or producing, distributing,
   selling or otherwise profiting from such a videotape, photograph, etc.;
• Encouragement by or permission of a person responsible for a child's welfare for a child to engage in
   sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of videotaping, photographing, etc.;
• Causing a child to view or listen to sexual activity;
• Exposing genitals to a child; or
• Trafficking a child for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is defined as "emotional damage for which the child's parent, guardian or legal custodian has neglected, refused or been unable for reasons other than poverty to obtain the necessary treatment or to take steps to ameliorate the symptoms." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(1)(gm)]

The definitions of neglect and emotional abuse involve failure on the part of parents or other persons responsible for a child to provide necessary care for a child. The definitions of physical abuse and sexual abuse include harm to a child by any person. Therefore, physical or sexual abuse of a child can include assaults by a parent, strangers, persons unrelated to a child's family, or peers.

In many of these cases, in addition to the CPS assessment, law enforcement is involved and criminal prosecution of the person who harmed the child may occur. However, in most child abuse and neglect cases, the parties involved are family members and solutions involve CPS interventions with the family. In some of these cases, court intervention is required to assure safety for the child and to provide services for the family.

Unborn child abuse

Unborn child abuse is defined as "serious physical harm inflicted on the unborn child, and the risk of serious physical harm to the child when born, caused by the habitual lack of self-control of the expectant mother of the unborn child in the use of alcohol beverages, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, exhibited to a severe degree." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(1)(am)]

Due to the unique nature of this maltreatment type, unborn child abuse data is excluded from the body of this report and presented separately in Appendix B.

Overview of the Child Protective Services Process

CPS agencies follow numerous state and federal policies, and practice standards as they strive to keep children safe from harm. The CPS process can be divided into three parts: CPS access, CPS initial assessment, and CPS ongoing services. The section of this report titled the 'Child Protective Services Process' provides further detail about CPS access and CPS initial assessment. The section of this report entitled 'Services to Families' addresses CPS ongoing services. Appendix C shows an overview of the CPS process in Wisconsin, with a flowchart illustrating the different paths a child maltreatment report may take.

During CPS access, the agency receives information about suspected child maltreatment from community sources referred to as "reporters". Based on this information, the agency determines if the referral constitutes an allegation of child maltreatment or threatened harm as defined by Wisconsin Statutes. If an allegation rises to this level the referral is screened in for further assessment, and if it does not, the referral is screened out. At this stage, screened-out CPS referrals are no longer part of the CPS process. However, the CPS agency may refer the family to community services or offer to provide voluntary agency services to address family concerns not related to child safety.

All screened-in CPS referrals move on to the next stage of the CPS process, CPS initial assessment. Based on all the information gathered as part of the CPS access process, the CPS agency designates a response time, ranging from a same-day response to within five days, by which an initial face-to-face contact with the child/family must occur.

The primary purpose of the CPS initial assessment is to respond and plan for child safety and determine whether the child and family are in need of services to keep the child safe. The CPS initial assessment generally involves interviews with the child, family, and other individuals closely involved with the family. Based on information gathered through the CPS initial assessment, the agency determines whether one or more types of abuse or neglect have occurred. The CPS agency must make a finding for all allegations unless critical information sources are unavailable for interview.

In addition, the information is used to make decisions about child safety. If a child is unsafe, the CPS agency must work with the family to develop a plan to address child safety. If the family needs support and services in order to keep the child safe, the family may voluntarily participate in CPS services or be court-ordered to participate. If the children present in the home are determined to be safe, the case may be closed. The CPS agency may still offer/ refer the family to other community services or voluntary services within the agency to address other concerns not related to child safety.

Key Terms

This section provides a brief review of key CPS terms. Further contextual understanding of these terms can be gained by reading the narrative in each section of this report.

Abusive Head Trauma: A severe form of brain injury that occurs when an infant or young child is shaken forcibly enough to cause the brain to rebound against his or her skull. (Wis. Stat. s. 253.15(1)(f))

Alleged Maltreater: A person, in a screened-in referral, who is asserted to have committed one or more maltreatment acts against one or more children.

Alleged Victim: A child with one or more maltreatment allegations in a screened-in referral that have not yet been assessed.

Alternative Response: A non-investigatory initial assessment approach for families that meet established criteria, which creates flexibility within the initial assessment process in order to engage families, conduct an assessment and ensure child safety. This approach results in a determination of whether services are needed or not needed, if the child is safe, and if services are needed to ensure child safety.

Child Victimization Rate: The number of unique children who were victims of substantiated maltreatment out of a population of 1,000 children. The child victimization rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unique children who were victims of substantiated maltreatment by Wisconsin's total child population.

CPS Agency: The county social or human service department or the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) responsible for addressing concerns related to child safety in the home for families who come to the attention of these agencies.

CPS Report: Each child identified in a screened-in referral as an alleged victim of maltreatment or threatened maltreatment is considered one CPS report. One CPS report can have multiple allegations involving the same child.

Impacted Baby: An infant or young child who suffers death or great bodily harm as a result of being thrown against a surface, hard or soft. (Wis. Stat. s. 253.15(1)(d))

Impending Danger: A foreseeable state of danger in which family behaviors, attitudes, motives, emotions and/or situations pose a threat which may not be currently active, but can be anticipated to have severe effects on a child at any time in the near future and requires safety intervention.

Initial Assessment: A comprehensive assessment conducted in response to a report of alleged child maltreatment. A CPS initial assessment is completed in order to: assess and analyze threats to child safety; take action, when necessary to control threats to child safety; determine the need for CPS ongoing services (court-ordered or voluntary); determine whether maltreatment occurred; and assist families in identifying useful community resources. The term CPS initial assessment includes the CPS investigation process as defined in section 48.981(3)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Initial Assessment Disposition: The action taken by the CPS agency on the family's case (e.g. case opened for CPS services, case closed, etc.) as a result of a decision regarding child safety and the initial assessment finding.

Initial Assessment Finding: The overall maltreatment finding for the case, upon completion of the CPS initial assessment, of whether abuse was substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unable to locate sources of information and/or subjects of the report - unsubstantiated.

Maltreater: A person, who after the CPS initial assessment of a screened-in referral, has had at least one allegation of child maltreatment found to be substantiated by the CPS agency.

Maltreatment Allegation: An assertion of one type of child abuse or neglect involving one or more alleged maltreater(s) for a single alleged victim. For the purposes of this report, maltreatment allegations are one of four types: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse.

Maltreatment Finding: The CPS agency's determination of whether a maltreatment allegation has occurred or not (substantiated or unsubstantiated). If critical sources are unavailable for interview and it is impossible to make a finding, the maltreatment finding is, "not able to locate sources of information and/or subjects of the report – unsubstantiated."

Reporter: The person who contacts a CPS agency with information regarding alleged maltreatment of a child or children.

Safety Assessment and Analysis: Information gathered by the agency during the CPS initial assessment and throughout the life of the case pertaining to whether the conditions present in the home make the child/children living in the home safe or unsafe. The results of the safety assessment and a safety analysis of the family environment are used to inform the safety decision.

Safety Decision: The CPS agency's determination of whether a child is safe or unsafe based on the safety assessment and analysis. If the home is unsafe, the CPS agency implements a safety plan to assure the child is safe and protected. If the home is safe, the CPS agency may refer the family for voluntary CPS services or other community services, as needed.

Screened-in Referral: One or more allegations of child maltreatment in the referral (which may include one or more children in a family) that have been deemed as rising to the level of maltreatment or threat of maltreatment as defined by Wisconsin statutes and therefore must be assessed.

Screened-out Referral: All allegations in the referral are deemed as not rising to the level of maltreatment or threat of maltreatment as defined by Wisconsin statutes. No further assessment of the allegation is required. The family may be referred for voluntary CPS services or other appropriate community services.

Substantiation: The information gathered during the CPS initial assessment provides a preponderance of evidence (that is, the proof shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not) that the maltreatment allegation made in the CPS report or identified during a CPS initial assessment has occurred. In general, a known maltreater is substantiated for the maltreatment; however, an allegation can also be substantiated when the maltreater is unknown or not identified.

Traditional Response: An initial assessment approach focused on assessment of maltreatment allegations and ensuring child safety. This approach results in a determination of whether child abuse and/or neglect maltreatment is substantiated or unsubstantiated, a determination of who caused the child abuse and/or neglect, if the child is safe, and if services are needed to ensure child safety.

Victim: A child who had at least one of the maltreatment allegations found to be substantiated as a result of a CPS initial assessment.

Child Protective Services Process

This section reviews the process counties undertake when they receive an allegation of child abuse and/or neglect. Please refer to Appendix C for a diagram of this process.

Child Protective Services - Access

As shown in Table 1, during calendar year 2023, CPS agencies received a total of 72,170 referrals; 51,247 of these were screened-out and 20,923 were screened-in. All screened-in referrals were subsequently assessed by the CPS agency, and are the subject of the next section of this report, CPS initial assessment. Appendix E shows a breakdown of referrals and screening decisions by county for calendar year 2023. Appendix E also shows screening decisions made on non-CPS reports (service referrals) by county.

Table 1

Total Wisconsin CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions
2023

Number of Referrals	Screened-out Referrals	Percent Screened-out	Screened-in Referrals	Percent Screened-in
72,170	51,247	71%	20,923	29%

A CPS report is created for each child who is identified in a screened-in referral as an alleged victim of child maltreatment or threatened maltreatment. The number of unique screened-in referrals (20,923) is smaller than the number of CPS maltreatment reports (33,051) because one referral may include information about multiple children and each child in the referral is counted as a unique CPS report. For example, a referral from a community reporter may allege maltreatment against three children in a family. For purposes of this report, the CPS agency received one referral through the reporter's phone contact with the CPS county agency; however, three CPS reports were counted as there were three children who each had one or more maltreatment allegations. Please refer to Figure 2 for further explanation.

Table 2, below, shows the number of CPS maltreatment reports per 1,000 children in Wisconsin during calendar year 2023. Approximately 26.3 out of 1,000 Wisconsin children were involved in a report of alleged maltreatment in 2023. Appendix F lists the total number of CPS reports and CPS reports per 1,000 children by county during 2023.

Table 2

CPS Maltreatment Reports per 1,000 Wisconsin Children * ^
2023

Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Screened-in Referrals	Unique CPS Maltreatment Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Children
1,258,524	20,923	33,051	26.3

* There are 28,190 unique children included in these 33,051 CPS maltreatment reports. The identification of CPS reports by child population is based on the total number of CPS reports.

^ Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile: https://ojjdp.gov/

Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator.

Note: Total referrals include screen out reasons - 'multiple referrals and out of state jurisdiction'.

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Below, Figure 1 displays the total number of CPS maltreatment reports received by CPS agencies from 2014 through 2023. The number of CPS maltreatment reports has fluctuated between 33,051 and 44,700 reports over this time period. Overall, there was a 22.9 percent decline in CPS maltreatment reports over the past ten years.
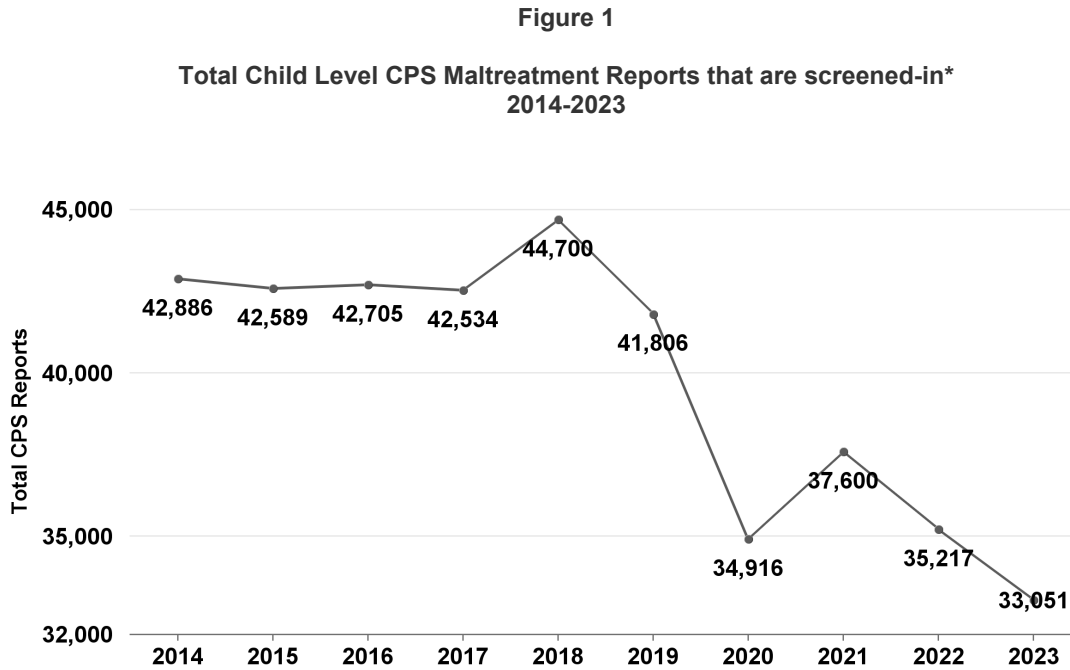
Figure 1

Total Child Level CPS Maltreatment Reports that are screened-in*
2014-2023

* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Child Protective Services - Initial Assessment

The primary purpose of the CPS initial assessment is to respond and plan for child safety and determine whether the child and family are in need of any services to help keep the child safe. The CPS initial assessment process does not result in establishing legal culpability; instead, the case is referred to law enforcement and possibly the courts for that purpose. The CPS initial assessment must be conducted in accordance with the Child Protective Service Access and Initial Assessment Standards and these standards recognize that the CPS role must differ in cases of familial and non-familial maltreatment.

In cases of maltreatment involving primary caretakers, the CPS initial assessment includes an interview with and observation of the child, a visit to the family home, an interview with any siblings, and an interview with the child's caregiver(s). Interviews may also include other persons that have relevant information about the maltreatment or threats to child safety. Decisions that must be made during the CPS initial assessment include: whether the child is safe; whether maltreatment occurred; who the maltreater(s) was (if they can be identified); and whether the family is in need of services to attend to child safety. Many elements enter into the decision-making process including: the child's ability to function and communicate; parent/caregiver protective capacities; physical evidence; overall family functioning; and the absence or presence of stressful family circumstances.

Upon completion of a CPS initial assessment, the agency must determine whether child maltreatment occurred. Initial assessment findings for allegations of maltreatment are either "substantiated" or "unsubstantiated". Additionally, a third finding may be used: "not able to locate sources of information and/or subjects of the report – unsubstantiated". This finding is to be used only when the agency is unable to locate critical persons involved in the report, making it impossible to gather the information needed to make a determination.

Substantiated cases refer only to cases in which CPS professionals determine, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that child maltreatment occurred. A preponderance of evidence is a lower standard of evidence than that needed for proof in juvenile or criminal court procedures. The agency may also determine that maltreatment occurred without identifying a particular person that maltreated a child. Therefore, the agency has the authority to respond to children in need of protection or services even when a specific maltreater cannot be positively identified. A substantiated maltreatment finding is not correlated with the safety finding as that is a separate determination. Further a substantiated maltreatment finding is not necessary for a family to be offered services.

During the CPS initial assessment, the CPS agency must also assess for child safety, whether the child or children in the home are in danger of child maltreatment. If the child or children are unsafe, regardless of whether there is a substantiation decision, the CPS agency must create a safety plan to control identified threats to child safety. The safety decision and services offered to the family as a result of the CPS initial assessment are the focus of the section of this report entitled "Services to Families".

Alternative response assessments do not result in substantiated or unsubstantiated determinations. Rather, these assessments result in findings of either "services needed" or "services not needed", depending on the result of the assessment. No data is presented on alternative response findings below because not all counties participate in these assessments, and there is not enough data to report.

Figure 2, below, provides a flowchart of how CPS access referrals are related to unique CPS maltreatment reports, maltreatment allegations, child victims, and initial assessment allegations.
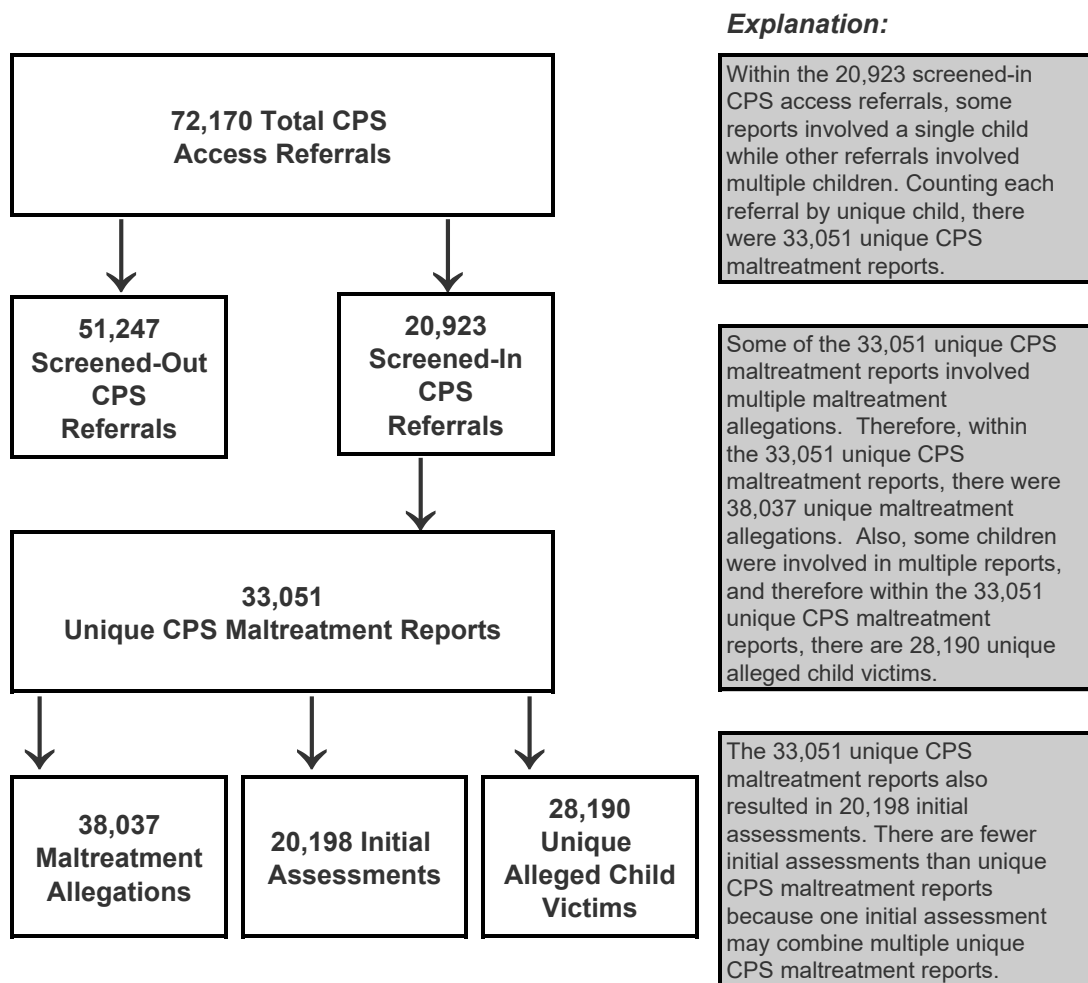
CPS Report:

Each child identified in a screened-in referral as an alleged victim of maltreatment or threatened maltreatment is considered one CPS report. One CPS report can have multiple allegations involving the same child.

Screened-in Referral:

One or more allegations of child maltreatment in the referral (which may include one or more children in a family) that have been deemed as rising to the level of maltreatment or threat of maltreatment as defined by Wisconsin statutes and therefore must be assessed.

Figure 2

Flowchart of how CPS Access Referrals are Related to Initial Assessments
2023

Explanation:

72,170 Total CPS Access Referrals	Within the 20,923 screened-in CPS access referrals, some reports involved a single child while other referrals involved multiple children. Counting each referral by unique child, there were 33,051 unique CPS maltreatment reports.

51,247 Screened-Out CPS Referrals   **20,923 Screened-In CPS Referrals**

33,051 Unique CPS Maltreatment Reports

Some of the 33,051 unique CPS maltreatment reports involved multiple maltreatment allegations. Therefore, within the 33,051 unique CPS maltreatment reports, there were 38,037 unique maltreatment allegations. Also, some children were involved in multiple reports, and therefore within the 33,051 unique CPS maltreatment reports, there are 28,190 unique alleged child victims.

38,037 Maltreatment Allegations   **20,198 Initial Assessments**   **28,190 Unique Alleged Child Victims**

The 33,051 unique CPS maltreatment reports also resulted in 20,198 initial assessments. There are fewer initial assessments than unique CPS maltreatment reports because one initial assessment may combine multiple unique CPS maltreatment reports.

As seen in Figure 2, the number of CPS initial assessments (20,198) is lower than the number of unique CPS maltreatment reports (33,051) because multiple maltreatment reports containing different maltreatment allegations for a child may be assessed during one CPS initial assessment. Also, there are more maltreatment allegations (38,037) than children listed in maltreatment reports (28,190) and CPS initial assessments (20,198) because maltreatment allegations are counted for each instance of maltreatment for an alleged victim. As children may have multiple allegations of maltreatment, and as one initial assessment may assess multiple allegations, these figures will always be lower than the total number of maltreatment allegations.

Table 3, below, shows the statewide maltreatment substantiation rate for calendar year 2023 was 12.3 percent. The maltreatment substantiation rate is the proportion of maltreatment allegations that were found to be substantiated after the conclusion of the CPS initial assessment. The substantiation rate is calculated by dividing all substantiated maltreatment allegations for calendar year 2023 by the total number of traditional response maltreatment allegations. Appendix G shows the substantiation rate by county for 2023.

Table 3

Wisconsin Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
2023

Unique CPS Maltreatment Reports	Number of Maltreatment Allegations *	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
33,051	32,615	4,000	12.3%

* The total number of maltreatment findings presented does not include the 5,416 maltreatment findings of services needed and services not needed associated with alternative response assessments.

Table 4, below, shows the child victimization rate for calendar year 2023. The child victimization rate is the number of unique children who were victims of substantiated maltreatment out of a population of 1,000 children. The child victimization rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unique children who were victims of substantiated maltreatment by Wisconsin's total child population. Please note that of these 3,608 substantiated child victims, 359 children were victims of two or more substantiated instances of maltreatment. Appendix H shows the child victimization rate for calendar year 2023 by county.

Table 4

**Wisconsin Unique Child Victimization of Substantiated Maltreatment Rate ***
2023

Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Unique Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Children
1,258,524	3,608	2.9

* Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile: https://ojjdp.gov

Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator.

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Data Source: dWiSACWIS

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Below, Figure 3 displays the child victimization rate in Wisconsin over a five-year period. As seen in Figure 3, the maltreatment rate has fluctuated during this time span between a low of 2.9 children maltreated per 1,000 children, and a high of 3.5 children maltreated per 1,000 children.
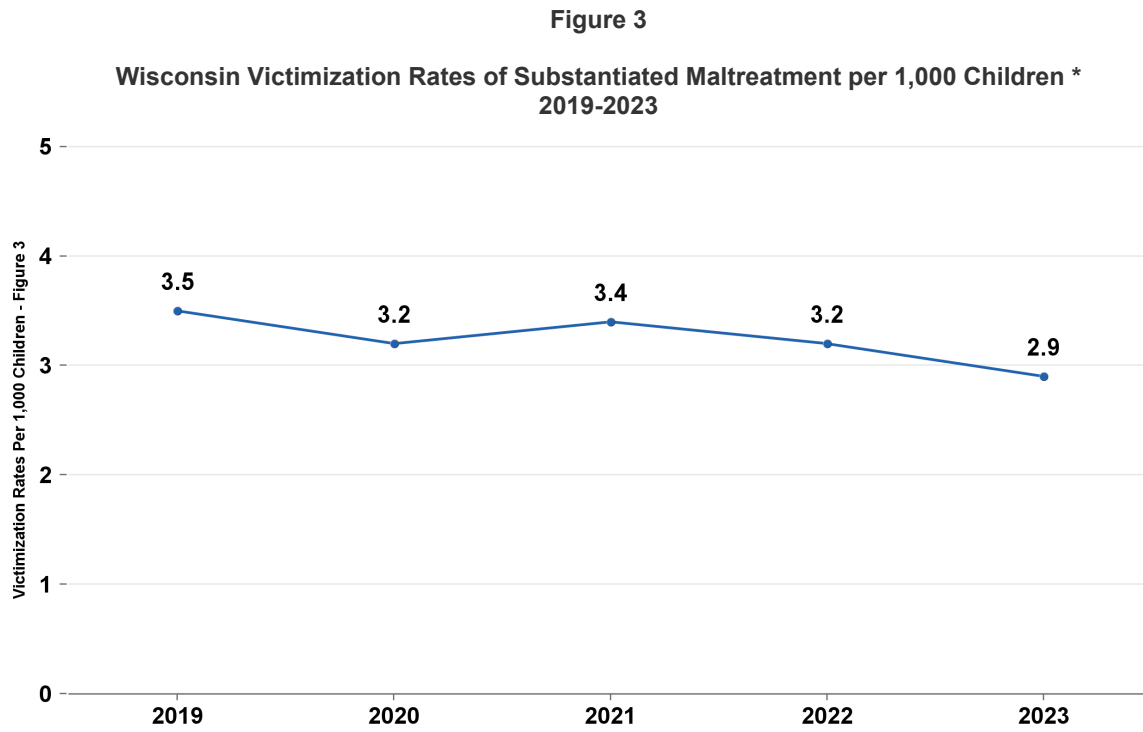
Figure 3

Wisconsin Victimization Rates of Substantiated Maltreatment per 1,000 Children *
2019-2023

* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Figure 4, below, depicts the maltreatment substantiation rates in Wisconsin from 2014 through 2023. The substantiation rate has remained relatively steady over the last ten years. While the substantiation rate for the state has remained relatively steady over the last ten years, please note that county substantiation rates vary from Menominee (0%) to Ashland (37.3%).

Figure 4

**Wisconsin Maltreatment Substantiation Rates
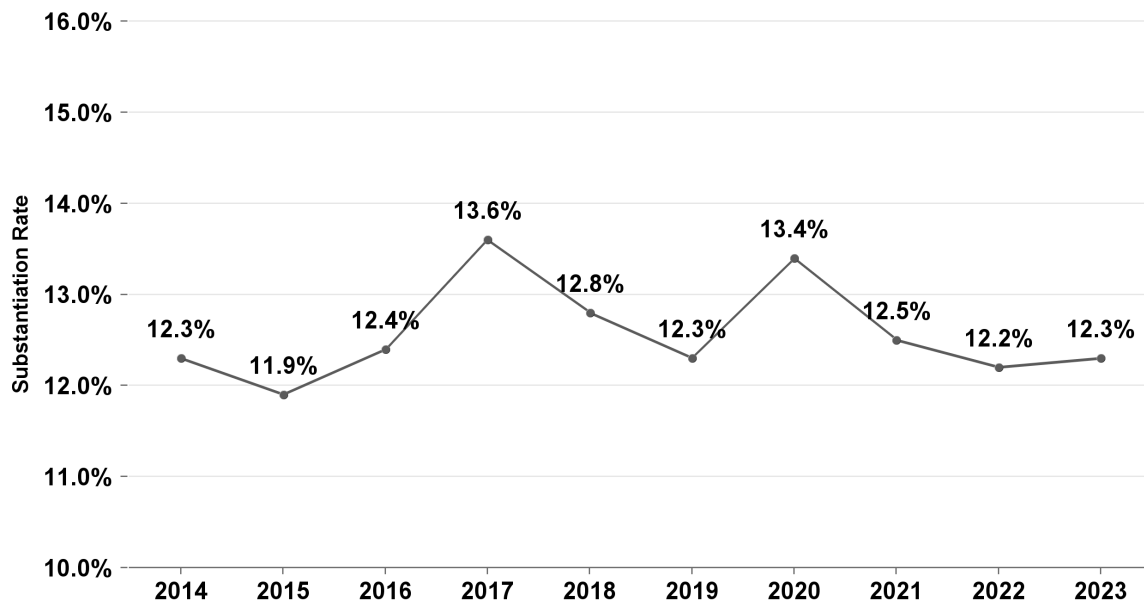2014-2023**

Table 5, below, examines maltreatment allegations by maltreatment type (neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse) and maltreatment finding for 2023. For specific allegations of maltreatment, the maltreatment finding may be substantiated, unsubstantiated, or not able to locate sources of information and/or subjects of the report – unsubstantiated. Appendix I shows a county-by-county breakdown by maltreatment allegation type and finding.

Table 5

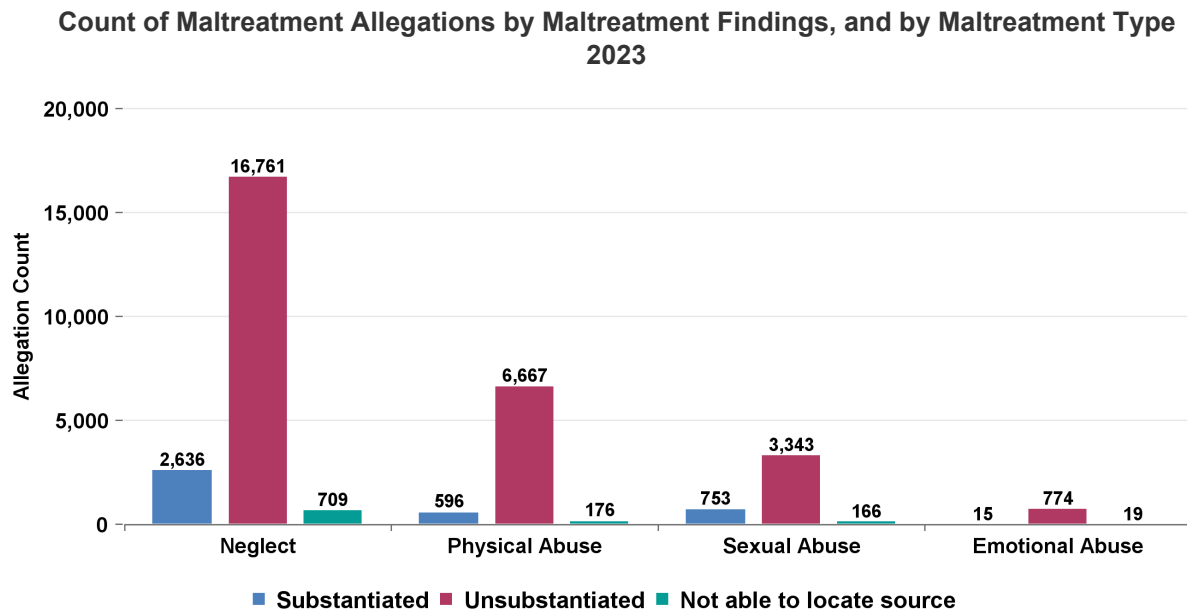**Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Findings and Maltreatment Type *
2023**

Maltreatment Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Not able to locate source	Total
Neglect	2,636	16,761	709	**20,106**
Physical Abuse	596	6,667	176	**7,439**
Sexual Abuse	753	3,343	166	**4,262**
Emotional Damage/Abuse	15	774	19	**808**
Total	**4,000**	**27,545**	**1,070**	**32,615**

* The total number of maltreatment findings presented above does not include the 5,416 maltreatment findings of 'services needed' and 'services not needed' associated with alternative response assessments.

WI Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence
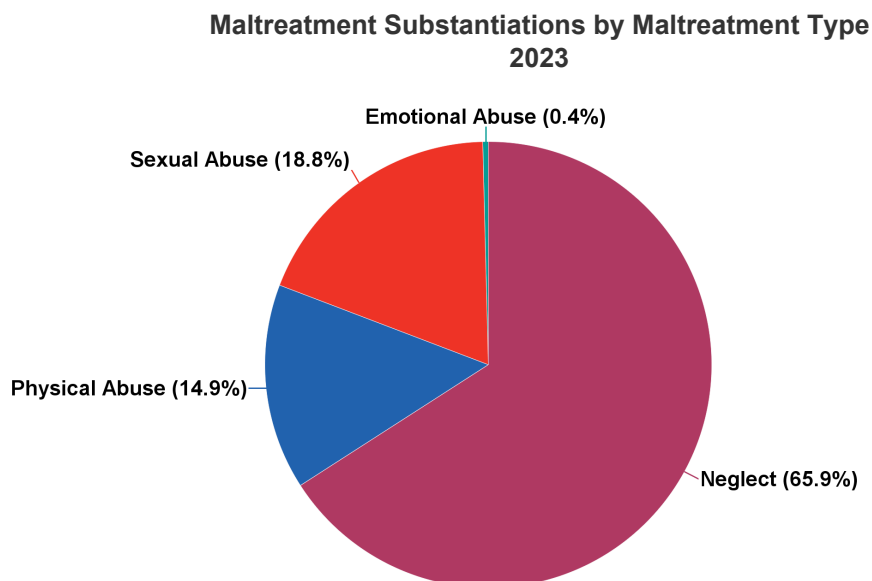Page 2.7
Data Source: dWiSACWIS

Figure 5, below, displays the maltreatment allegation findings from all CPS initial assessments by maltreatment type for calendar year 2023. The figure displays the maltreatment types with the most to least allegations from left to right. Thus, neglect is the most alleged type of maltreatment, followed by physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. The figure also shows that the maltreatment type with the most substantiations is neglect, followed by sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse.

Figure 5

Count of Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Findings, and by Maltreatment Type 2023

Below, Figure 6 shows percentages of substantiated maltreatment findings by type. More than half of substantiated allegations are neglect allegations. Sexual abuse and physical abuse make up 18.8 percent and 14.9 percent of substantiations, respectively. Emotional abuse accounts for less than one percent of all substantiations.

Figure 6

Maltreatment Substantiations by Maltreatment Type 2023

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Page 2.8
Data Source: dWiSACWIS

Table 6, below, displays the percentage of maltreatment allegation substantiations by the type of maltreatment experienced. The figures on which these substantiation rates are based can be found in Table 5, which displays the total allegation and substantiation counts. To determine the substantiation rate by maltreatment type, the substantiation count for that type of maltreatment is divided by the total number of allegations for that maltreatment. For example, the physical abuse maltreatment substantiation percent was calculated by dividing the total number of substantiated physical abuse allegations (596) by the total number of physical abuse allegations (7,439). Appendix J shows the substantiation percent within maltreatment type by county for 2023.

Table 6

Wisconsin Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by Maltreatment Type 2023

Neglect Substantiation Rate	Physical Abuse Substantiation Rate	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Rate	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Rate
13.1%	8.0%	17.7%	1.9%

Figure 7 through Figure 10, below, depict the maltreatment findings for each maltreatment type for 2019 through 2023. Overall, Figure 7 displays that neglect allegations decreased by 20.3 percent across this timespan, while neglect substantiations decreased by 16.3 percent. Please refer to Appendix D for further information regarding data interpretation.

Figure 7

Neglect Allegation Findings *
2019-2023
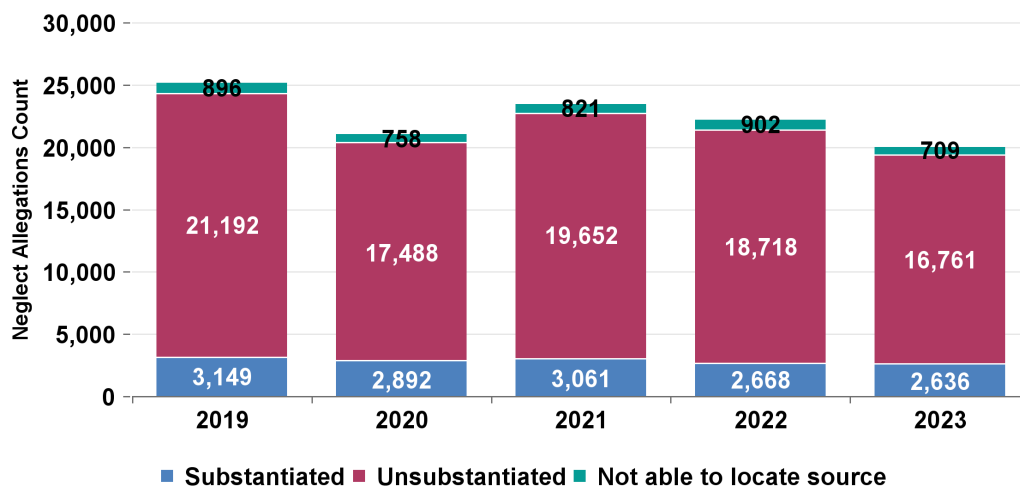
* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

WI Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence
Page 2.9
Data Source: dWiSACWIS

Figure 8 shows the physical abuse allegation findings from 2019 through 2023. The number of physical abuse allegations decreased by 18.2 percent, while over the same time period the physical abuse substantiations have decreased by 24.1 percent.

Figure 8

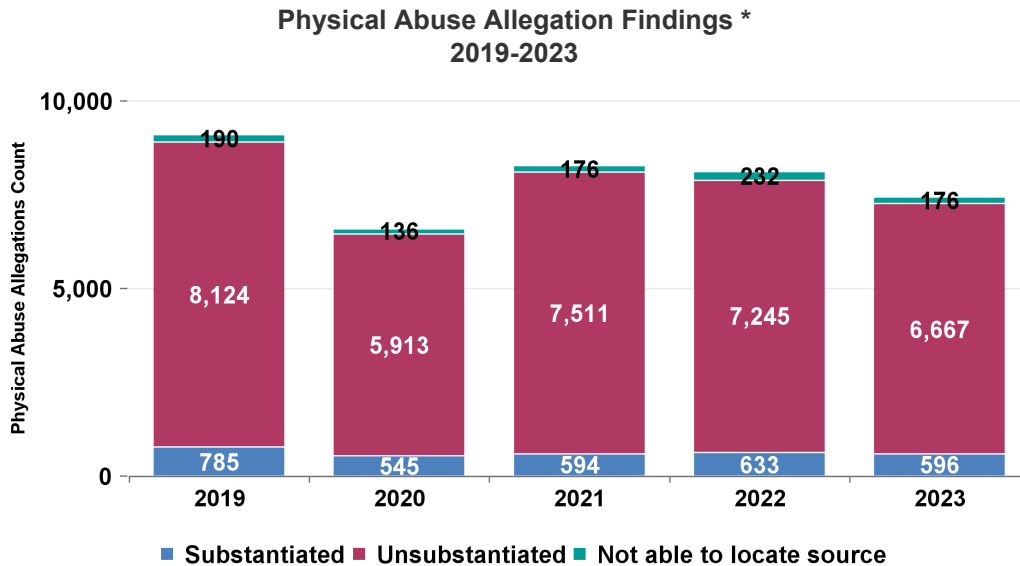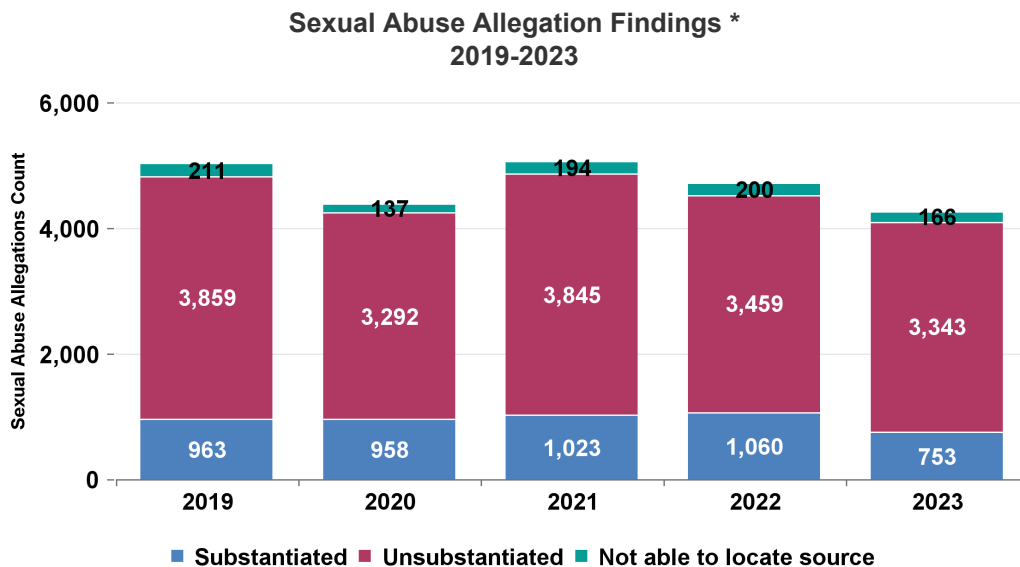**Physical Abuse Allegation Findings ***
2019-2023

* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Figure 9 displays the sexual abuse allegation findings from 2019 through 2023. Over this timespan, sexual abuse allegations have decreased by 15.3 percent while sexual abuse substantiations have decreased by 21.8 percent overall.

Figure 9

Sexual Abuse Allegation Findings *
2019-2023

* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Figure 10 displays the emotional abuse allegation findings from 2019 through 2023.

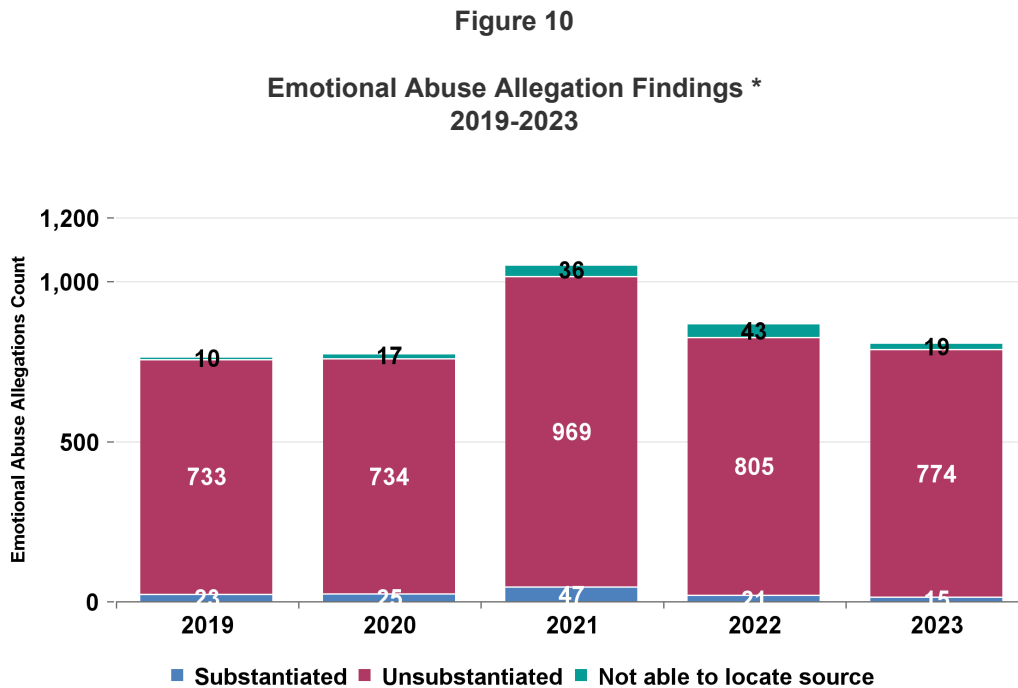**Figure 10**

Emotional Abuse Allegation Findings *
2019-2023

* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Note: Percentage increase figures on small samples can exaggerate the amount of change over time.

Reporters

Reporters are persons who contact CPS agencies with information regarding alleged maltreatment of a child. This section reflects data on the reporters (i.e., sources) who made the reports to CPS agencies and includes both screened-in and screened-out referrals during calendar year 2023.

Reporter's Relationship to Alleged Child Victim

Certain individuals whose employment brings them into contact with children are required by Wis. Stat. s. 48.981(2) to report any suspected child maltreatment seen in the course of their professional duties. These individuals are referred to as mandated reporters. However, anyone who suspects a child is being maltreated may make such a report. Persons making referrals in good faith are immune from criminal or civil liability. Wisconsin's CPS delivery system requires any concerned individual to report suspected child maltreatment directly to the local CPS agency or law enforcement. Any referral of alleged child maltreatment received by law enforcement officials must subsequently be referred to the local CPS agency. More information about reporting suspected child maltreatment is available on the department's website at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cps/reportabuse.

Table 7, below, displays the count of all screened-in and screened-out referrals by the type of reporter during calendar year 2023. The table lists the reporter types in descending order from the most frequent reporters to the least frequent reporters.

Table 7

Referrals by Reporter's Relationship to the Alleged Child Victim
2023

Reporter	Count of Referrals	Percent of Total Referrals
Legal / Law Enforcement	16,788	23.3%
Educational Personnel	15,746	21.8%
Social Service Professional	8,847	12.3%
Mental Health Professional	7,432	10.3%
Parent of Child Victim	5,726	7.9%
Medical Personnel	4,152	5.8%
Other	3,906	5.4%
Relative	3,363	4.7%
Anonymous	2,656	3.7%
Neighbor/Friend	1,863	2.6%
Child Care Provider	760	1.1%
Other Caregiver of Child Victim	551	0.8%
Child Victim	267	0.4%
Staff at Juvenile Corrections Facility	90	0.1%
Maltreater	23	0.0%
TOTAL	**72,170**	**100.00%**

For purposes of this report, reporters have been condensed into categories.

Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2023

Table 8, below, shows the types of maltreatment allegations that were screened in for a CPS initial assessment by reporter type. The number of allegations (38,037) exceeds the total number of screened-in referrals (20,923) because each referral may document more than one allegation of maltreatment per child, and each referral may also document multiple children. The reporters are listed in descending order, from the reporters who made the most maltreatment allegations to those who made the fewest maltreatment allegations.

Table 8

**Total Screened-In Maltreatment Allegations by Reporter's Relationship to the Alleged Child Victim
2023**

Mandated Reporter	Reporter Category	Maltreatment Allegation Type				
		Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	TOTAL
Yes	Legal / Law Enforcement	8,519	1,716	1,114	185	11,534
Yes	Educational Personnel	2,646	2,526	700	185	6,057
Yes	Social Service Professional	2,911	1,129	694	119	4,853
No	Parent of Child Victim	1,466	582	407	84	2,539
Yes	Mental Health Professional	1,092	692	585	123	2,492
No	Relative	1,787	357	161	66	2,371
No	Anonymous	1,587	298	105	44	2,034
No	Other	1,374	343	224	67	2,008
Yes	Medical Personnel	953	544	303	19	1,819
No	Neighbor/Friend	1,115	212	85	27	1,439
No	Other Caregiver of Child Victim	221	66	79	3	369
Yes	Child Care Provider	108	152	27	9	296
No	Child Victim	72	61	28	11	172
Yes	Staff at Juvenile Corrections Facility	8	8	17	0	33
No	Maltreater	12	6	1	2	21
	TOTAL	**23,871**	**8,692**	**4,530**	**944**	**38,037**

For purposes of this report, reporters have been condensed into categories.

Figure 11, below, shows total screened-in maltreatment allegations made by mandated versus non-mandated reporters by the maltreatment type alleged. Mandated reporters include legal/law enforcement personnel, educational personnel, social service professionals, mental health workers, medical personnel, and child care providers. A full list of mandated reporters by professions is available at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cps/mandatedreporter, as well as in Wis. Stat. s. 48.981(2).

Statewide, mandated reporters surpassed non-mandated reporters in the number of maltreatment allegations across each type of maltreatment. Mandated reporters made a total of 27,084 maltreatment allegations in 2023 as compared to the 10,953 maltreatment allegations made by non-mandated reporters.

Figure 11

Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and by Mandated and Non-Mandated Reporters 2023
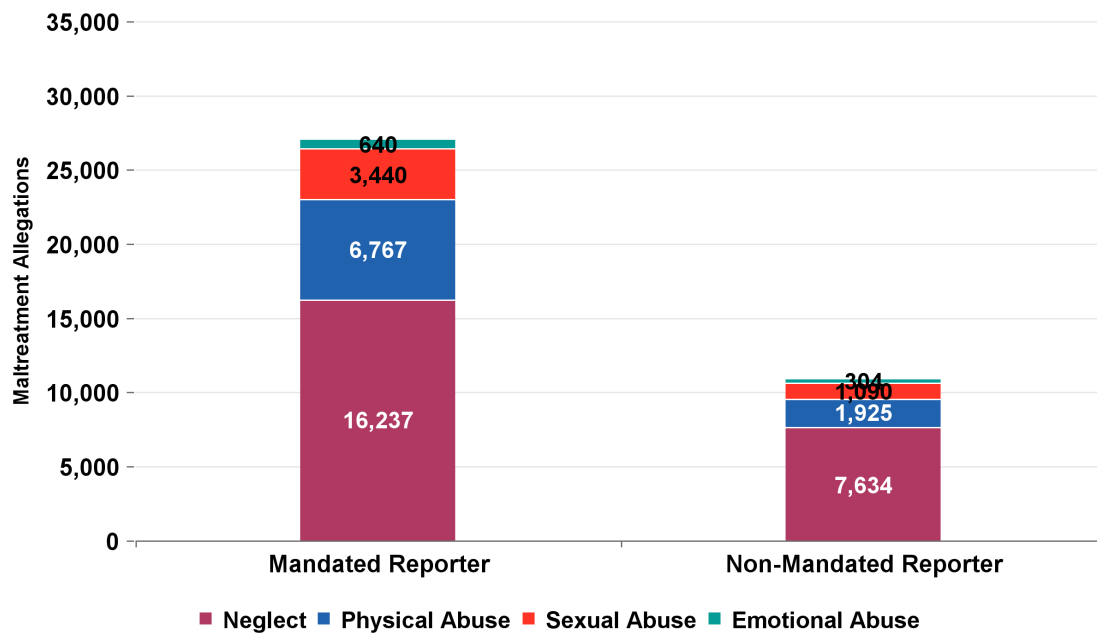
**Reporter's Allegations and Subsequent Findings**

This section examines screened-in and substantiated maltreatment allegations made by reporters during calendar year 2023.

Figure 12, below, compares the percentage of substantiated maltreatment allegations by type, and by whether the referral was made by a mandated or non-mandated reporter. The total number of maltreatment allegations by type can be seen in Table 5.

In Wisconsin, across all categories of maltreatment, allegations received by mandated reporters were found to have a higher percentage of allegation substantiations after the CPS initial assessment than non-mandated reporters. This higher percentage of substantiation is likely because mandated reporters are in general more educated on child maltreatment reporting protocol, and it may be that they are less likely to report situations that do not meet the definition of child maltreatment than non-mandated reporters except for allegation type of emotional damage/abuse.

Figure 12

Percentage of Substantiated Maltreatment Allegations by Type and by Mandated and Non-Mandated Reporters 2023
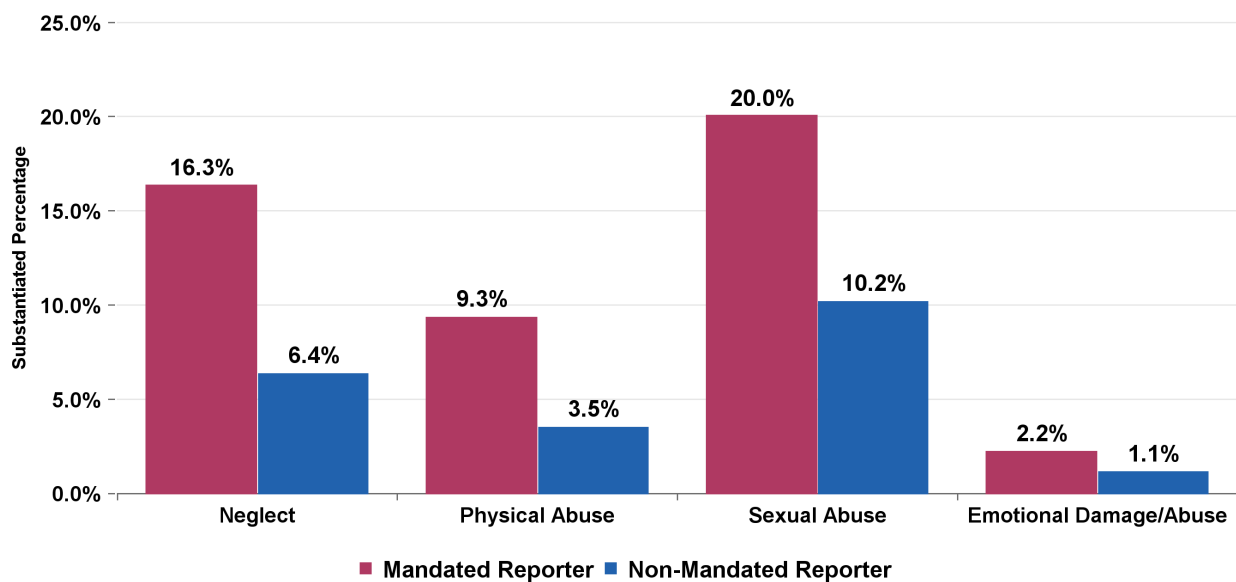
* The total number of maltreatment findings presented above does not include the 5,416 maltreatment findings of 'services needed' and 'services not needed' associated with alternative response assessments.

Victims

A child is considered a maltreatment victim when the CPS agency identifies that at least one maltreatment allegation was substantiated upon completion of the CPS initial assessment. Therefore, if a child is a victim of more than one maltreatment allegation in the same CPS initial assessment, he/she is counted as a victim once. Likewise, if the same child was involved in two or more CPS initial assessments (for example, one in January and one in October), in which he/she had at least one substantiated maltreatment allegation, the child is counted only once for the state rate but may factor into the abuse victimization rates of multiple counties. Based on this method, there were 3,608 victims of substantiated maltreatment in 2023.
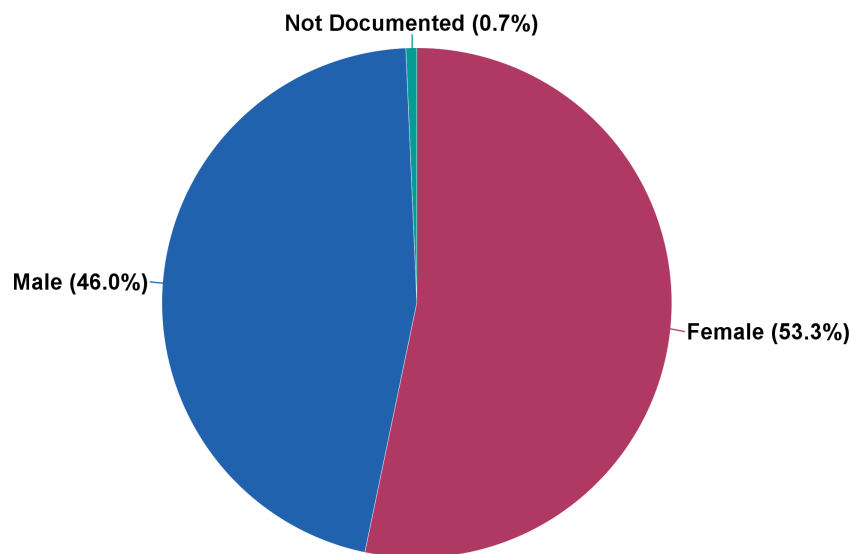
Characteristics of Maltreated Children

Gender

Figure 13, below, displays the calendar year 2023 victims by gender. More females were the victims of child maltreatment than males, likely because they suffer higher rates of sexual abuse than males.

Figure 13

**Gender of Unique Child Maltreatment Victims
2023**

Table 9, below, displays the child victimization rate by gender for calendar year 2023. The victimization rate by gender is calculated by dividing the number of unique female and male victims in 2023 by the respective Wisconsin female and male child population (ages 0-17). In 2023, females comprised a disproportionate share of the victims given their number in the Wisconsin child population.

Table 9

Child Victimization Rate by Gender *
2023

Gender	Child Population (0-17 Years Old)	Count of Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Children
Female	614,649	1,922	3.1
Male	643,875	1,661	2.6
Not Documented	N/A	25	N/A
Total	**1,258,524**	**3,608**	**2.9**

* Population source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile: https://www.ojjdp.gov/

Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator.

Age

Figure 14, below, displays the count of victims by age range for calendar year 2023. In 2023, the 0-3 age group accounted for the largest number of victims and 53.3 percent of victims were under the age of 8. These proportions have been stable over time.

Figure 14

Age Range of Unique Child Maltreatment Victims *
2023
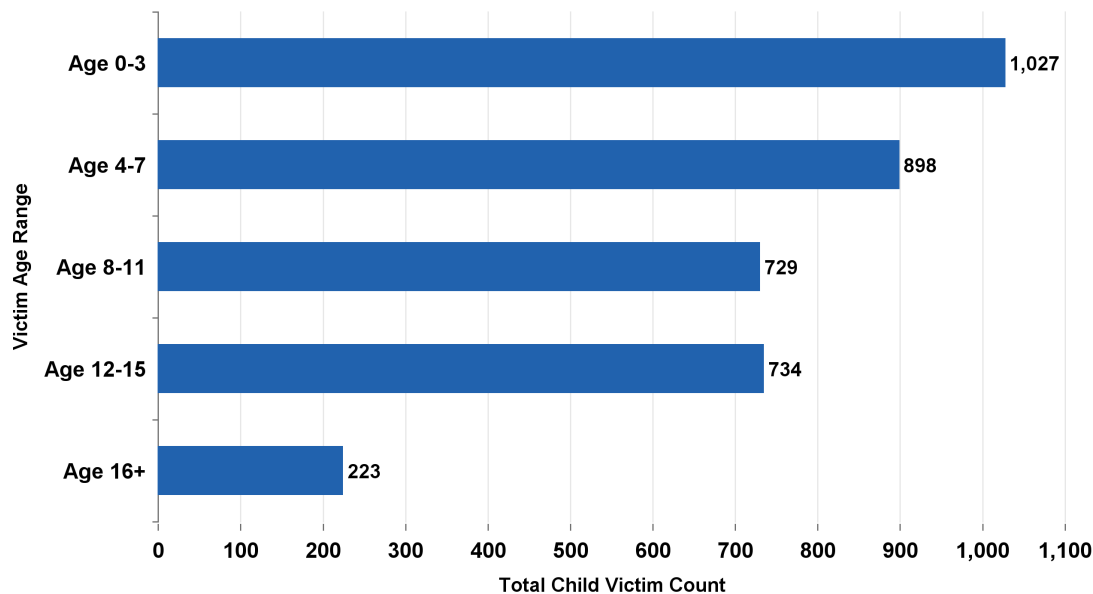
* The total number of children included in this chart is slightly larger than the number of unique victims in Table 9 as some children were maltreated multiple times throughout the year, and belong in two age groups.

Figure 15, below, displays the child maltreatment victimization rate by age and gender for calendar year 2023. This victimization rate is calculated by dividing the number of 2023 unique child victims of each gender and age group by the respective number of children in the state's population of the same gender and age group. In the younger age groups, males and females are victimized at similar rates. As children age, the victimization rate drops for both groups, but the female victimization rate remains higher than the male victimization rate for the older three age groups.

Figure 15

Child Maltreatment Victimization Rate by Age and Gender *
2023

* Population source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile: https://www.ojjdp.gov/

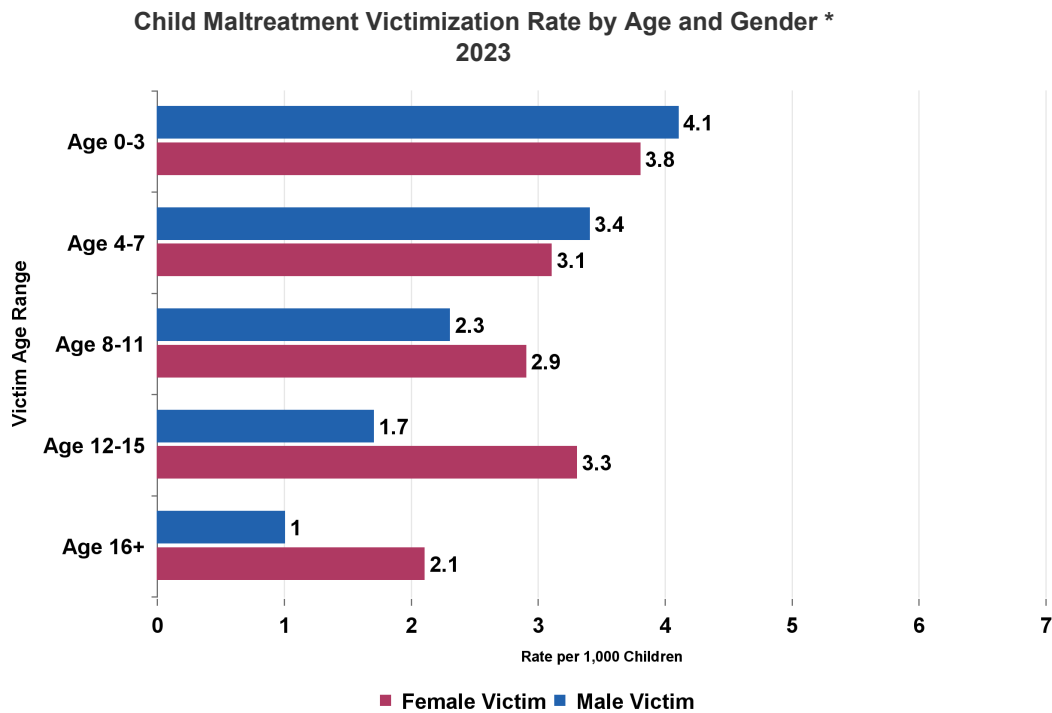Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator.

To understand why there are gender differences in the victimization rates, please refer to Figure 16 and 17, below. Figure 16 displays the number of substantiated maltreatment allegations, by victim age range, for female victims. Figure 17 provides the same information for male victims. The 1,922 female victims with documented ages experienced 2,154 maltreatment substantiations, while the 1,661 male victims with documented ages experienced 1,820 maltreatment substantiations. In comparing figures 16 and 17, females experience greater instances of substantiated sexual abuse compared to their male counterparts. These figures also show that males experience greater instances of substantiated physical abuse compared to their female counterparts. Allegations of neglect declines with age for males and females.

Figure 16

Substantiated Maltreatment Allegations, by Age, for Female Victims * ^
2023
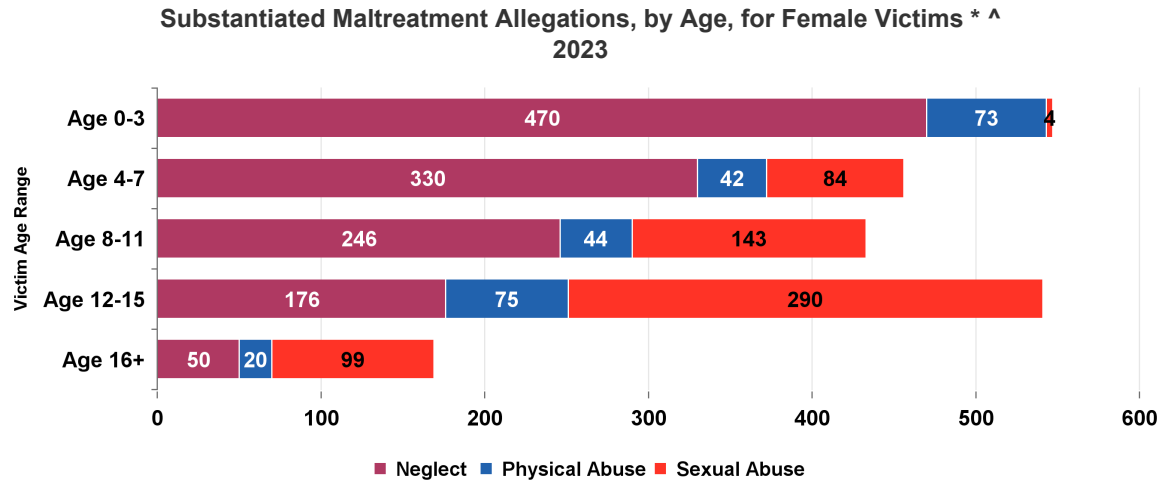
* There were 7 instance(s) of substantiated emotional abuse allegations, made up of 0 instance(s) in <1-3 year olds, 2 instance(s) in 4-7 year olds, 1 instance(s) in 8-11 year olds, 2 instance(s) in 12-15 year olds, and 2 instance(s) in 16+ year olds.

^ Figure 16 does not include the 26 maltreatment substantiations with undocumented gender and/or age values.

Figure 17

Substantiated Maltreatment Allegations, by Age, for Male Victims * ^
2023
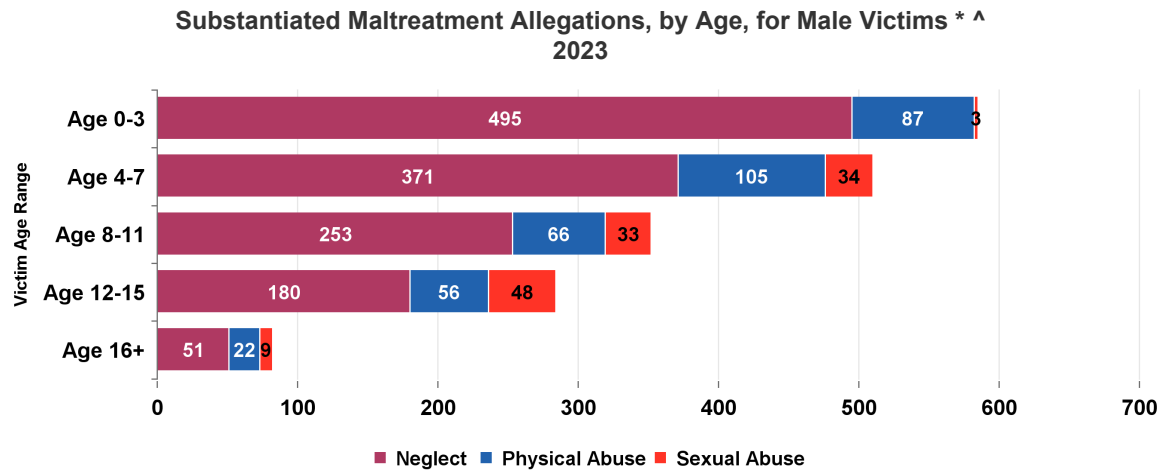

* There were 7 instance(s) of substantiated emotional abuse allegations, made up of 1 instance(s) in <1-3 year olds, 1 instance(s) in 4-7 year olds, 2 instance(s) in 8-11 year olds, 2 instance(s) in 12-15 year olds, and 1 instance(s) in 16+ year olds.

^ Figure 17 does not include the 26 maltreatment substantiations with undocumented gender and/or age values.

Race and Ethnicity

Figure 18, below, displays the percentage of unique victims by race for calendar year 2023, as compared to the race of the total Wisconsin child population. Black/African American children and American Indian/ Alaska Native children are victims of child maltreatment at higher proportions than their comparative share of the general Wisconsin child population.

Figure 18

Victim and Wisconsin Child Population by Race Comparison * ^
2023
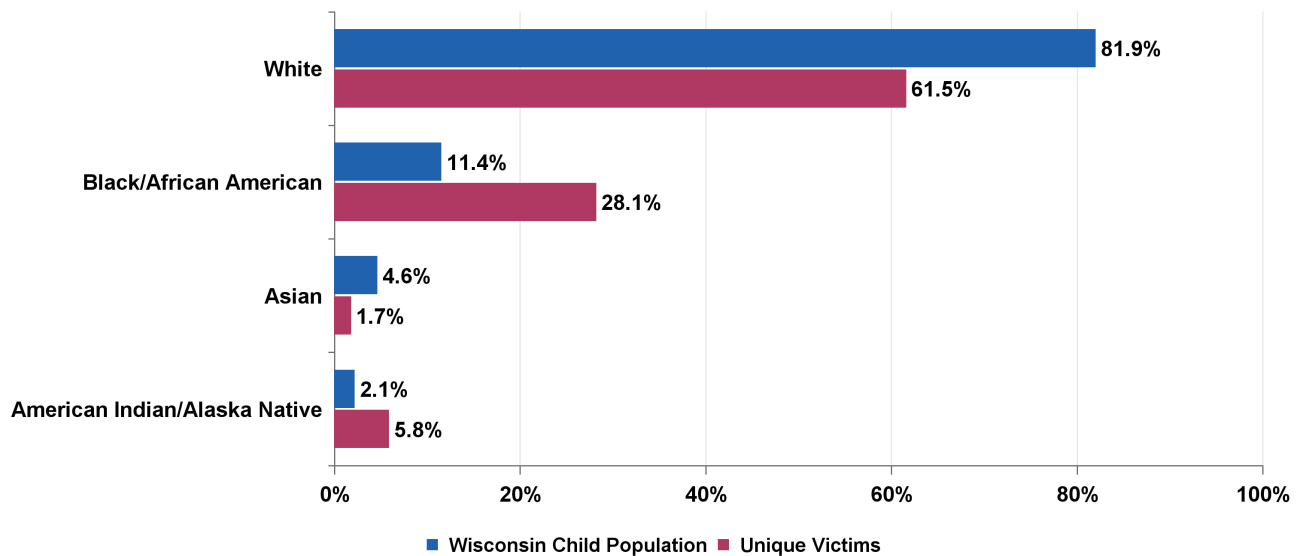
* Population source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile: https://www.ojjdp.gov/

^ The 99 victims (2.7 percent) who are identified as 'unable to determine' or 'not documented' are not included in the chart above. Likewise the 2 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander victims are also not depicted above.

Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator

Of the 3,608 unique child maltreatment victims, 2,830 victims (78.4 percent) were identified as not Hispanic, 498 victims (13.8 percent) were identified as Hispanic, and for 280 victims (7.8 percent) the ethnicity was unknown or not documented. People of Hispanic ethnicity may be of any race.

Abusive Head Trauma and Impacted Babies

2005 Wisconsin Act 165 amended state statutes by creating provisions for the training of individuals who care for or supervise children under age 5 on shaken baby syndrome and impacted babies. Shaken Baby Syndrome is defined as "a severe form of brain injury that occurs when an infant or young child is shaken forcibly enough to cause the brain to rebound against his or her skull." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 253.15(1)(f)] Impacted Baby is defined as, "an infant or young child who suffers death or great bodily harm as a result of being thrown against a surface, hard or soft." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 253.15(1)(d)] The term ''Abusive Head Trauma'' encapsulates all descriptions of shaken baby syndrome, cranial cerebral trauma or injury, subdural hemorrhage/hematoma, retinal hemorrhage, traumatic brain injury, and blunt force head trauma.
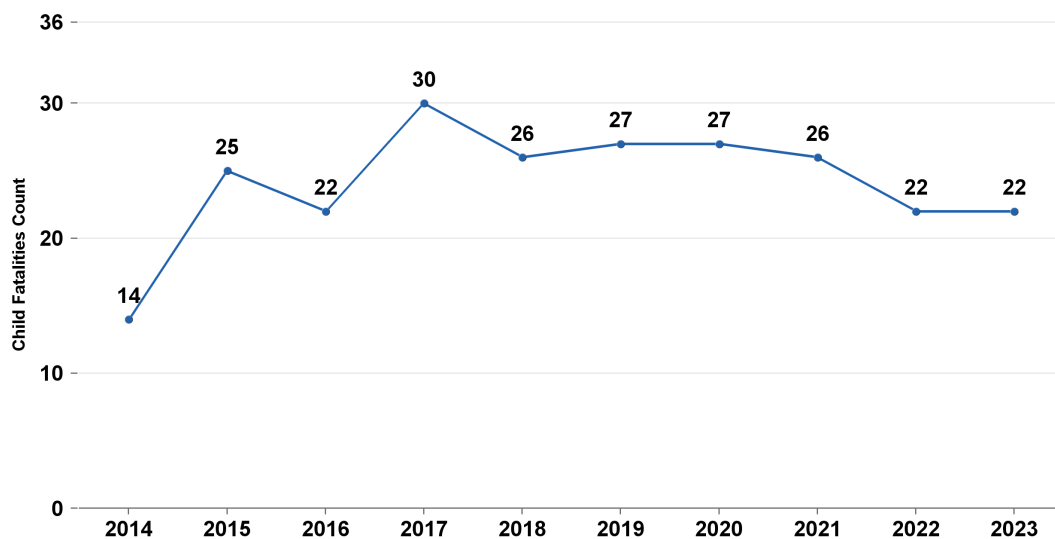
In 2023, there were 86 maltreatment allegations where one of the abusive head trauma and impacted baby related diagnoses was used to describe the maltreatment allegation for children ages 0 through 4 years. Of the 86 allegations made in 2023, 29 (33.7 percent) were found to be substantiated upon completion of the CPS initial assessment, representing 29 child victims. A total of 18 of the 29 substantiated allegations were for children under the age of one. Of all substantiated victims, 19 (65.5 percent) were male and 10 (34.5 percent) were female. The maltreater was the child's biological parent in the majority of the substantiated allegations.

Fatalities

The death of a child is one of the most tragic consequences of child maltreatment. The role of child protective services in the case of a child maltreatment death is to assure the safety of any other children present in the family and to assess the family's need for services. Investigations of child deaths are generally handled by law enforcement agencies. For purposes of this report, the only child fatalities included are child deaths that were associated with a substantiated allegation of maltreatment. In 2023, county CPS agencies and the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services reported 22 substantiated cases of a child having died from maltreatment. Figure 19, below, shows the count of child fatalities substantiated due to maltreatment from 2014-2023.

Figure 19

**Count of Child Fatalities Substantiated as Maltreatment
2014-2023**

Figure 20, below, shows the five-year trend of total child fatalities and compares this number with the number of children who were receiving CPS services at the time of their death. The figure shows that four children were in an open child welfare case at the time of their death.

Figure 20

Child Fatalities Open for Investigation at Time of Fatality and Total Fatality Comparison 2019-2023
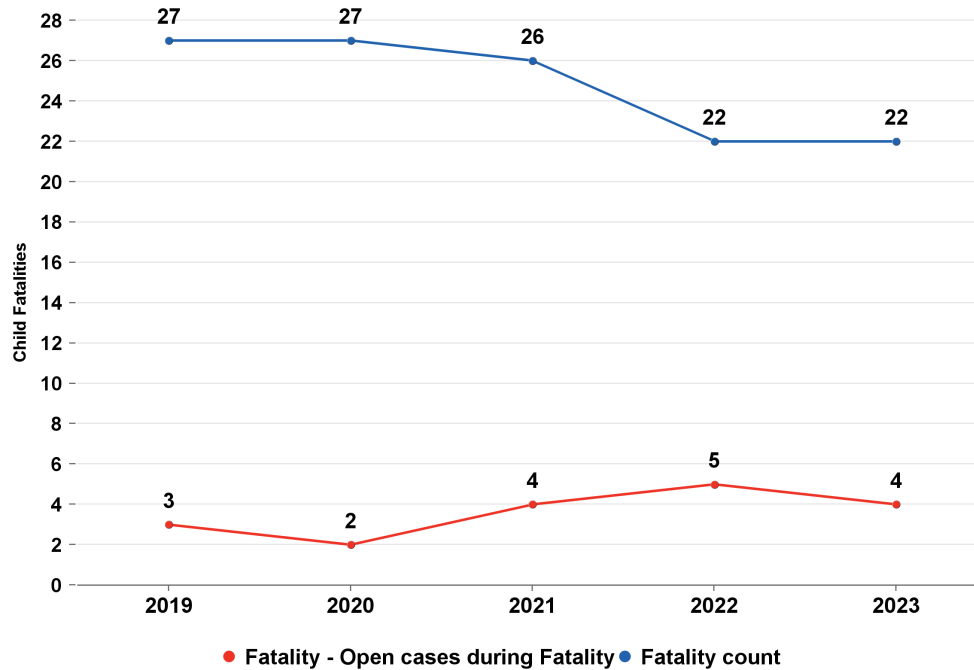
A review of the cases reported by CPS agencies of a child having died from maltreatment during the past five years (2019-2023) highlights trends among child maltreatment fatalities in Wisconsin. First, the majority of children who are victims of maltreatment which result in death are babies or very young children. Of the reported child maltreatment fatalities in 2023, 50 percent of the deaths were children age three or under and 41 percent of the deaths were children age under one.

The majority of maltreaters, where the relationship of the maltreater to the child was able to be determined, substantiated for the child's death in 2023 were the biological parents (65.5 percent). In cases involving the biological parent, the maltreatment type was predominantly neglect of the child. The average age of the known substantiated maltreaters in 2023 was 33 years.

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Table 10, below, provides a summary of the 2023 child maltreatment fatalities, maltreater information, and maltreatment type by county. Of the 22 child maltreatment fatalities in 2023, three were attributable to abusive head trauma or were impacted babies, which are noted in Table 10 and are further described following the table. Four children were in an open child welfare case with a county CPS agency or the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services at the time of the child's death.

Table 10

Profile of Child Fatalities due to Substantiated Maltreatment
2023

County	Maltreatment Type	Child Victim			Maltreater			
		Age at Death	Gender	Race / Ethnicity	Age at Death	Gender	Race/ Ethnicity	Relationship to Child
Dane	Neglect	<1	Female	White	50	Male	White	Biological Parent
					30	Female	White	Biological Parent
Green Lake*	Physical Abuse	<1	Male	White	23	Male	White	Biological Parent
	Neglect				31	Female	White	Biological Parent
Jefferson	Neglect	<1	Male	White/Hispanic	39	Female	White/Hispanic	Biological Parent
La Crosse^~	Neglect	1	Male	Black/African American	32	Female	Black/African American	Biological Parent
					42	Male	Black/African American	Biological Parent
La Crosse~	Physical Abuse	6	Male	White	30	Female	White	Step Parent
La Crosse*	Physical Abuse	4	Female	Black/African American	-	-	-	Unknown
Lafeyette*	Physical Abuse	<1	Male	White/Hispanic	24	Male	White/Hispanic	Biological Parent
					23	Female	White/Hispanic	Biological Parent
Marathon	Neglect	<1	Female	American Indian/Alaska Native	53	Female	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Relative Primary Care Provider
					30	Female	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Biological Parent
Marathon	Neglect	<1	Male	Asian	28	Female	Asian	Biological Parent
Milwaukee~	Physical Abuse	10	Female	Black/African American	-	-	-	Unknown
Milwaukee	Neglect	12	Male	Black/African American	45	Male	Black/African American	Biological Parent
Milwaukee	Neglect	<1	Female	White/Hispanic	23	Female	White/Hispanic	Biological Parent
Milwaukee	Physical Abuse	9	Male	Black/African American/Asian Indian	-	-	-	Unknown
Milwaukee	Physical Abuse	5	Male	Black/African American	27	Male	White	Family Friend
					-	-	-	Unknown
Milwaukee	Neglect	<1	Male	White	32	Female	White	Partner(s)/Friend(s) Sharing Dwelling
Milwaukee^	Neglect	<1	Female	Black/African American	29	Female	Black/African American	Biological Parent
					33	Male	Black/African American	Biological Parent

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Milwaukee	Neglect	10	Male	Black/African American	29	Male	Black/African American	Biological Parent
	Neglect	10	Male	Black/African American				
Rock~	Neglect	5	Female	White	25	Female	White	Biological Parent
Walworth	Neglect	16	Female	White	56	Female	White	Adoptive Parent
					45	Male	White	Adoptive Parent
		13	Male	White/Hispanic	56	Female	White	Adoptive Parent
					45	Male	White	Adoptive Parent
Waupaca	Neglect	2	Female	White	28	Female	White	Biological Parent
					29	Male	White	Biological Parent

* These maltreatment fatalities were the result of the maltreater causing the child to have abusive head trauma or to become an 'impacted baby'.

^ These maltreatment fatalities were the result of the child ingesting or being exposed to a chemical substance.

~These cases were open for child welfare services with the county CPS agency or the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services at the time of the child's death.

Maltreaters

A person is considered a maltreater when the CPS agency, after completing the CPS initial assessment, identifies the person as having committed one or more types of child maltreatment. A person is counted as a maltreater once per CPS initial assessment no matter how many substantiated maltreatment types they have committed. Likewise, a maltreater is counted only once if they are involved in two or more separate CPS initial assessments in which they had at least one substantiated maltreatment finding during the calendar year (for example, one in January and one in October).

Based on this method, in calendar year 2023 there were 2,716 known unique maltreaters of substantiated child maltreatment. There are fewer unique maltreaters than unique victims (3,608) and unique instances of substantiated abuse (4,000) because some maltreaters were found to have maltreated more than one child and/or to have committed multiple instances of abuse or neglect. Note that within the 4,000 unique instances of substantiated abuse, 209 of those instances had an unknown maltreater who is not included within these figures.

With the exception of cases of alleged sex trafficking, CPS agencies do not routinely complete a CPS initial assessment in situations where the alleged maltreater is not a caregiver for the child or children. As these matters are generally referred to law enforcement, the characteristics of non-caregivers who maltreat children who do not have a CPS initial assessment completed are not represented in this report.

Characteristics of Maltreaters

Gender

Figure 21, below, displays the frequency and proportion of substantiated maltreaters by gender.

Figure 21

**Gender of Unique Maltreaters
2023**

Not Documented (4.5%)

Female (44.3%)

Male (51.2%)

Total = 2,716
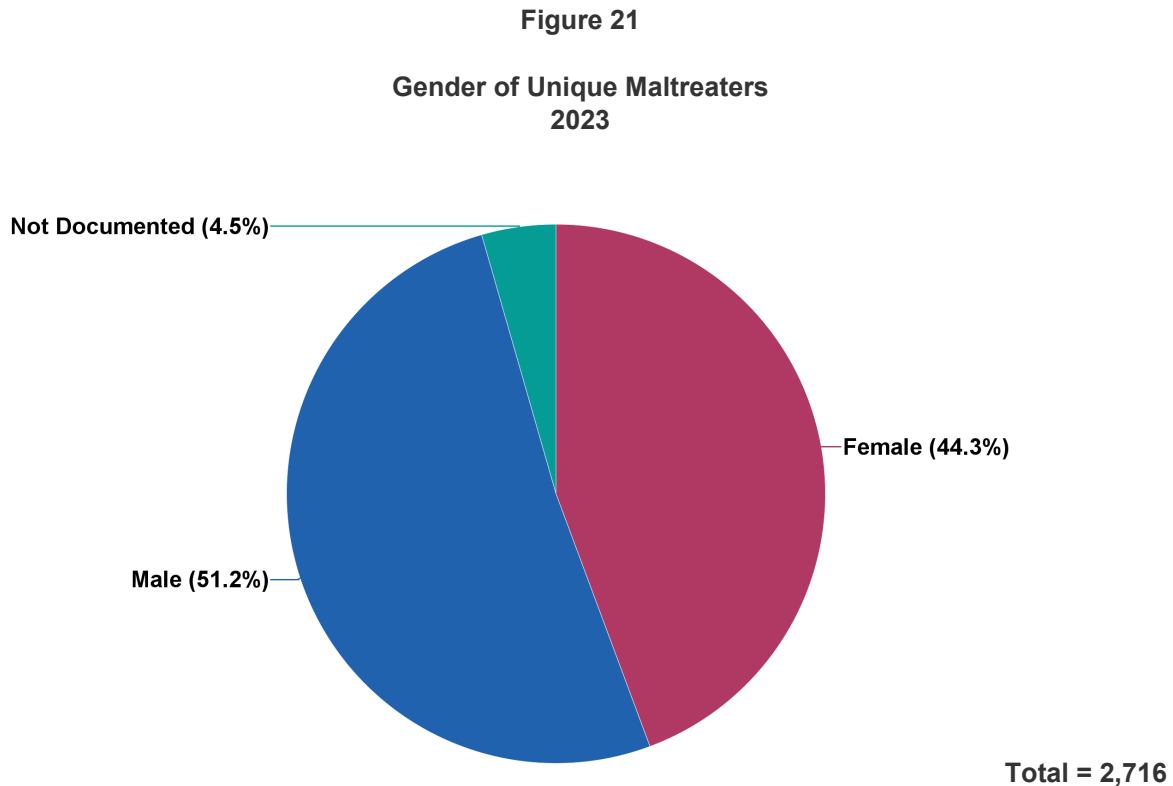
Age

Figure 22, below, shows the count of substantiated maltreaters by their age range for calendar year 2023. As the majority of maltreaters are parents, the most common child-rearing age groups account for the largest number of maltreaters.

Figure 22

Age Range of Unique Maltreaters
2023
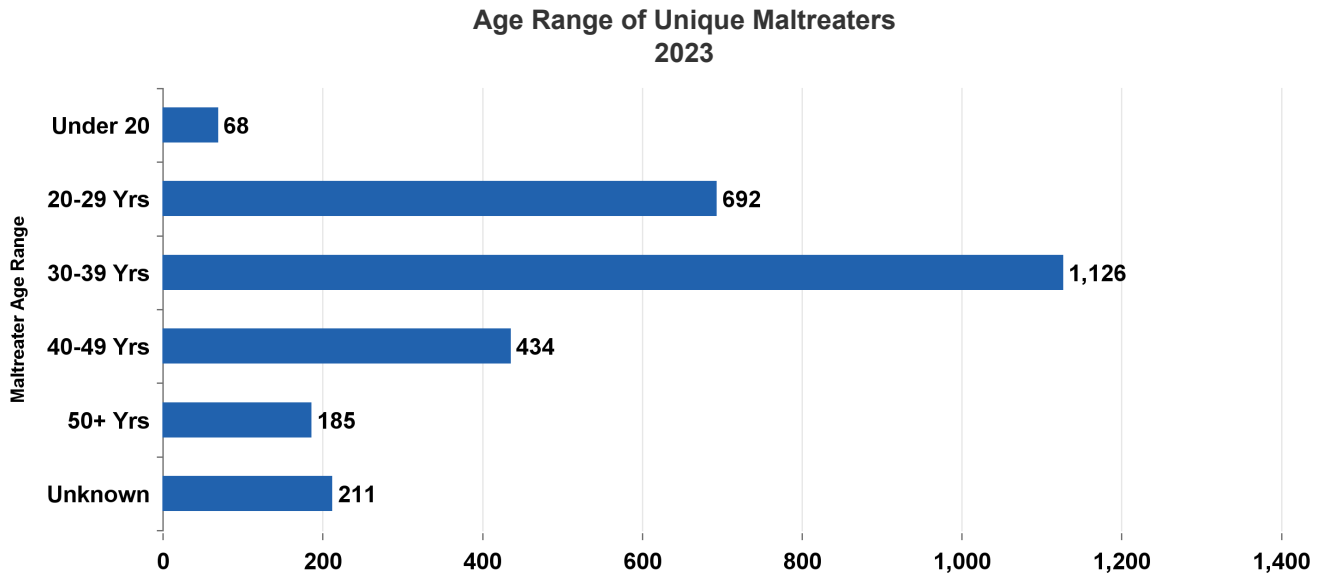
Race and Ethnicity

Figure 23, below, compares the 2023 percentage of substantiated maltreaters by race with the Wisconsin adult population. Persons who identified as Black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native comprise a larger share of identified maltreaters than their proportional share of Wisconsin's general adult population.

Figure 23

Maltreater and Wisconsin Adult Population by Race Comparison * ^
2023
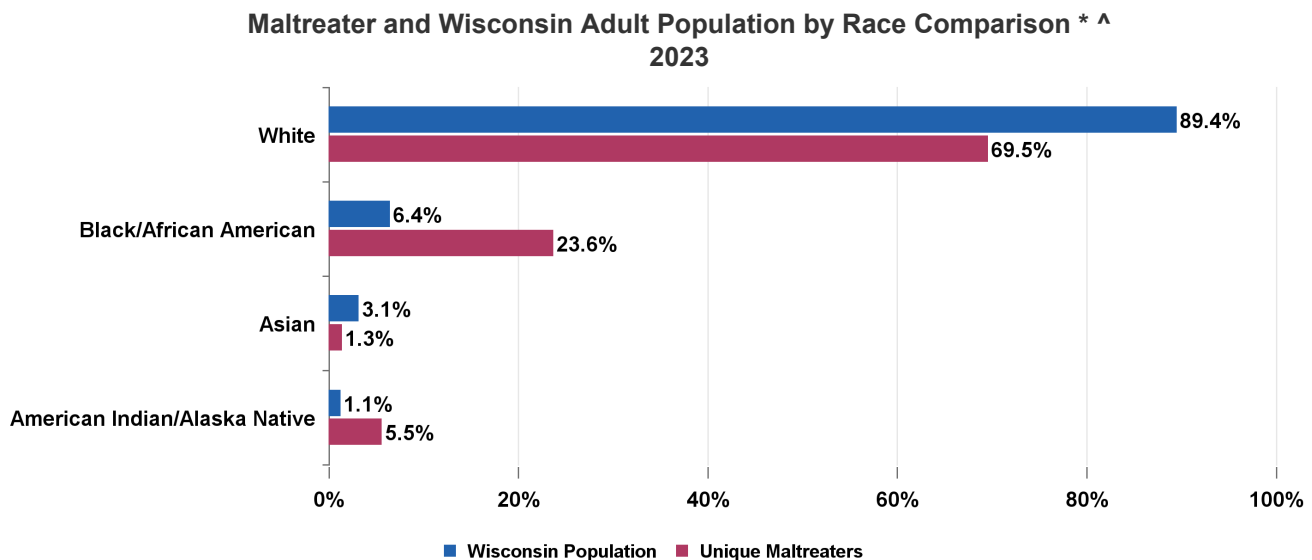
* Population source of WI adult population: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile: https://www.ojjdp.gov/

^ The maltreaters who were identified as 'unable to determine', 'not documented', or 'Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander' are not depicted in the chart.

Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator.

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Data Source: dWiSACWIS

Of the 2,716 unique maltreaters, 1,835 (67.6 percent) were identified as not Hispanic, 277 (10.2 percent) were identified as Hispanic, and 604 (22.2 percent) maltreaters had an unknown or not documented ethnicity. People of Hispanic ethnicity may be of any race.

Substantiated Allegations

The 2,716 unique known maltreaters were involved in 4,468 unique maltreatment allegations. Figure 24, below, depicts the 4,468 maltreatment allegation findings by maltreater gender during calendar year 2023. If a maltreater had more than one substantiated allegation finding during the year he/she will be depicted more than once in this graph. Males are sexual perpetrators at substantially greater rates than females. The majority of female perpetrators' maltreatment was related to neglect.

Figure 24

Substantiated Maltreatment Allegations by Abuse Type and Maltreater Gender *
2023
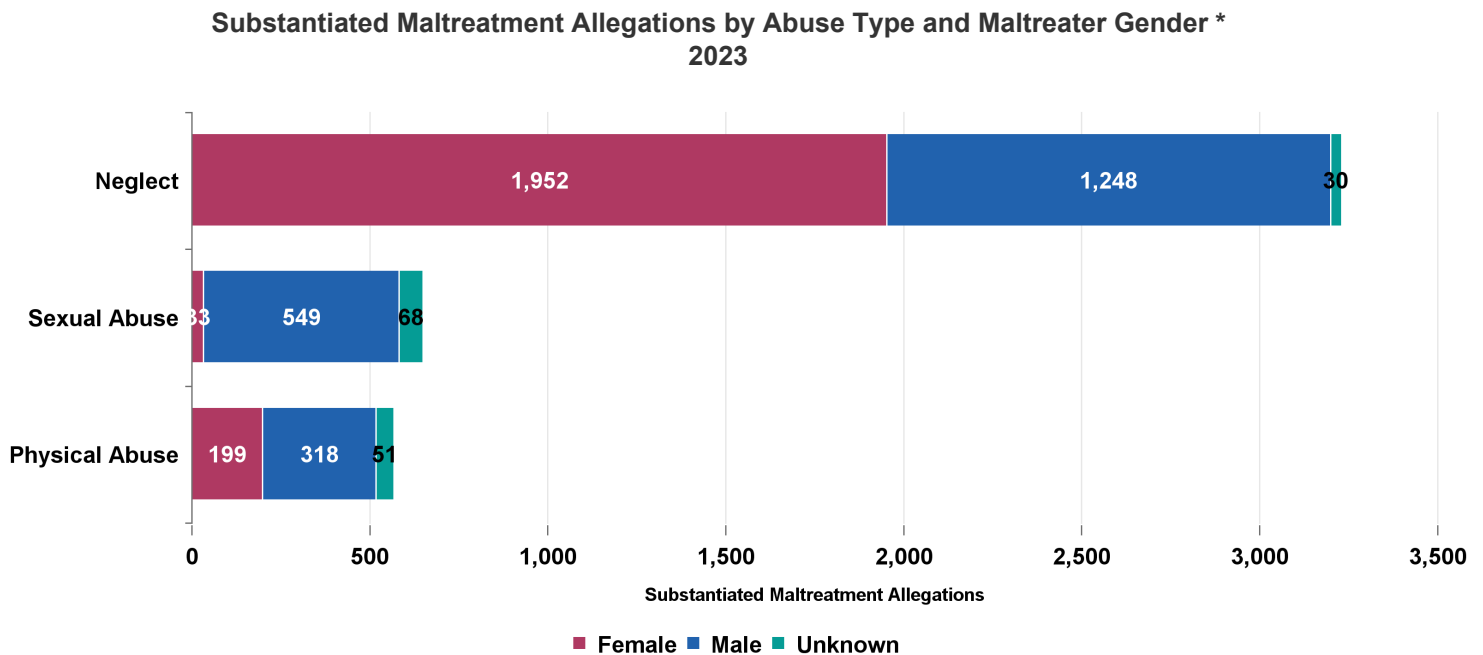
* Of the 20 total substantiated allegations of emotional abuse, males accounted for 9 maltreaters, females accounted for 11 maltreaters, and 0 maltreaters had an undocumented gender.

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Relationship to Victim

This section outlines the relationship of maltreaters to the child victims they were found to have maltreated. Table 11, below, shows all substantiated maltreatment allegations by maltreatment type and the person designated as the maltreater. The first category, primary caregivers, is comprised of maltreaters who live in the home, regularly or intermittently, with the child victim. In 2023, primary adult caregivers in the home (i.e. parents, step-parents, partners of parents, and foster parents) were the maltreaters in 85 percent of the substantiated maltreatment allegations. The second category, secondary caregivers, is comprised of adults who have temporary caregiving responsibility for the child victim but do not live in the child's home. The third category, non-caregivers, are individuals who interact with the child but do not have caregiving responsibility. The last category depicts those allegations where the maltreater is unknown or not verified where, for example, the CPS agency may have a preponderance of evidence that a child was maltreated but not enough information to verify a specific maltreater.

Table 11

Substantiated Allegations by Maltreater Relationship to Child Victim *
2023

Maltreater Relationship	Neglect	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Total	Percentage
Primary Caregivers						
Parent	2,671	326	111	17	3,125	66.7%
Partner/Friend of parent sharing dwelling	265	79	86	1	431	9.2%
Step-Parent(s)	65	42	65	2	174	3.7%
Sibling/Step-sibling	16	9	91	0	116	2.5%
Relative in Home	70	14	24	0	108	2.3%
Non-Relative Guardian(s)	8	4	2	0	14	0.3%
Foster Parent	4	3	2	0	9	0.2%
Others Sharing Foster Home	0	1	6	0	7	0.1%
Primary Caregivers Total:	**3,099**	**478**	**387**	**20**	**3,984**	**85.1%**
Secondary Caregivers						
Relative Care Provider(s)	59	8	32	0	99	2.1%
Relative Not in Home	6	5	78	0	89	1.9%
Other Child Care Provider	18	12	29	0	59	1.3%
Licensed/Certified Child Care Provider	5	10	2	0	17	0.4%
Teacher/Other school employee(s)	0	3	10	0	13	0.3%
Youth Org. Staff or Volunteer Leader(s)	0	1	0	0	1	0%
Residential Facility Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Secondary Caregivers Total:	**88**	**39**	**151**	**0**	**278**	**5.9%**
Non-Caregivers						
Peer Maltreater(s)	1	5	78	0	84	1.8%
Other Non-Caregiver	13	3	65	0	81	1.7%
Family Friend(s)	9	1	12	0	22	0.5%
Stranger(s)	0	0	19	0	19	0.4%
Neighbor(s)	0	0	2	0	2	0%
Non-Caregivers Total:	**23**	**9**	**176**	**0**	**208**	**4.4%**
Unknown						
Unknown	60	97	57	0	214	4.6%
Unknown Total:	**60**	**97**	**57**	**0**	**214**	**4.6%**
State Total	**3,270**	**623**	**771**	**20**	**4,684**	**100.0%**

* The total maltreaters counted by relationship type here are a slightly larger number than unique maltreaters as some maltreaters have multiple relationships to their victim(s). CPS is not required to screen in reports involving non-caregivers. Agencies have discretion in screening and conducting Initial Assessments (IAs) for these cases, meaning that data related to non-caregiver reports may not be as representative as other categories which must be screened in by policy. Peer maltreater includes the category 'Minor(s) Not Named - Primary, Secondary, non-caregiver'.

Figure 25, below, shows the percentage of substantiated maltreatment allegations, by maltreatment type and by the three maltreater categories (primary, secondary, and non-caregiver). For the 3,984 substantiated maltreatment allegations by primary caregivers, the largest share of their total substantiated maltreatment allegations is neglect at 77.8 percent. However, the 278 secondary caregivers and 208 non-caregivers had sexual abuse as the largest share of their total substantiated maltreatment allegations at 54.3 percent and 84.6 percent, respectively. The majority of sexual abuse for non-caregivers is attributed to sex trafficking.

Figure 25

Percentage of Maltreatment Substantiations, by Maltreatment Type, and by Maltreater Category *
2023
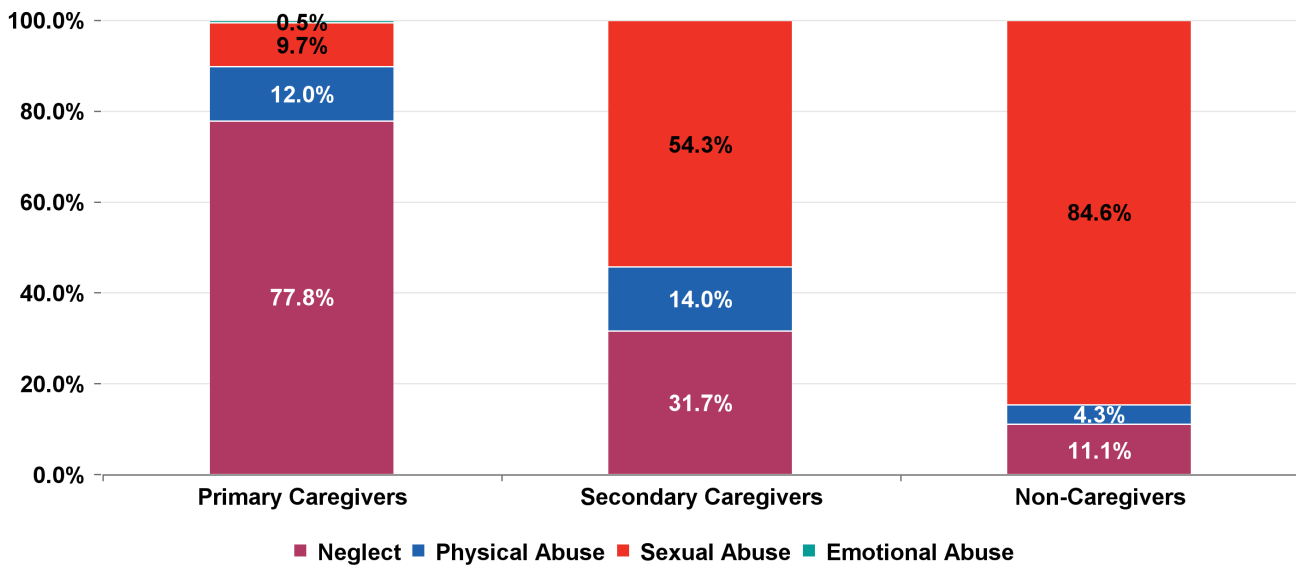
* The 214 instances of maltreatment by an unknown maltreater was not included in these figures.

Services to Families

The role of CPS in cases of maltreatment is to collaborate with and support the family in providing protection and services for the child, when necessary. In all cases, a substantiated maltreatment finding is not required for a family to be offered or receive services. In cases of maltreatment involving primary caregivers, the safety assessment and analysis and resulting safety decision will lead to decisions regarding needed supports and services, including, court related intervention when applicable. In calendar year 2023, primary caregiver CPS initial assessments comprised 88.8 percent of the 20,198 CPS initial assessments completed by agencies that year. The safety decision is the CPS agency's determination, based on the information gathered during the CPS initial assessment, as to whether the conditions present make the child/children unsafe in the family home. A designation of safe or unsafe is required for all children who reside within the household. If at least one child is designated as unsafe, then the initial assessment safety decision finding for the home is unsafe.

CPS also completes initial assessments when the maltreater is not the primary caregiver. CPS agencies completed 1,397 secondary CPS initial assessments and non-caregiver investigations (6.9 percent of all assessments) during calendar year 2023 (see Appendix K).

Safety Decisions and Services

Figure 26 shows the safety decisions for completed safety assessments in primary caregiver CPS initial assessments. In calendar year 2023, the majority (88.9 percent) of primary caregiver CPS initial assessments resulted in a decision that all children in the family were safe. There were 2,032 primary caregiver CPS initial assessments (11.1 percent) which resulted in a decision that children were unsafe. Appendix L shows safety assessment results in primary caregiver CPS initial assessments by county.

If the CPS agency determines a child to be safe, it is not required to offer or refer the family to services. The CPS agency may still inform the family about voluntary services or available community resources to help meet family needs or support family functioning.

If a child is determined to be unsafe, the CPS agency is required to implement a plan that addresses

the child's safety and protection. The CPS Safety Intervention Standards provide CPS professionals with a structured analysis and decision-making framework to assess danger threats that are resulting in the child to be unsafe. The identified danger threats and the analysis of how those threats are presenting in the family form the basis for safety planning. Safety planning identifies the necessary actions required to keep the child safe while the CPS agency works with the family to develop a plan to change the conditions or behaviors negatively affecting child safety. The goal is to eliminate danger threats in the family and/or to enhance the family's protective capacities and/or resources so they are able to control the danger threats on their own.

Figure 26

Safety Assessment Results in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments *
2023
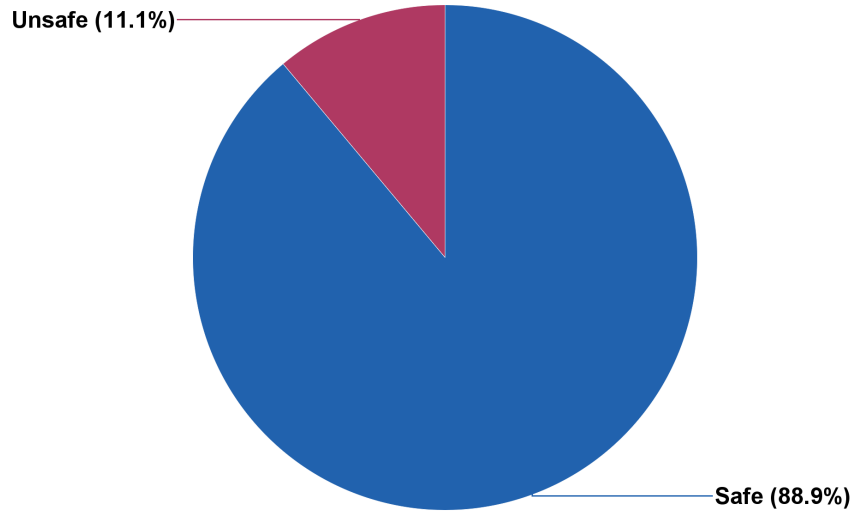
* The figures above reflect the safety findings attached to the initial assessment disposition, whereas previous Child Abuse and Neglect Reports also provided the safety findings attached to the stand alone safety assessment if there was no safety finding on the I.A. These figures are therefore similar but not directly comparable to Child Abuse and Neglect Reports published in 2014 and earlier.

Safety-related services are provided in the family home whenever possible to maintain and support the family staying together. Services provided to ensure child safety are intended to immediately control any conditions or behaviors that place a child in danger. Some of these safety-related services may include parenting assistance, supervision/observation, child care/respite, mental and physical health services, and/or resources to help meet basic needs. In addition to services offered as part of the safety plan, the family may also be offered additional services to meet other family needs and/or support family functioning. The use of in-home safety services for families reduces the need for more intrusive interventions such as removal of the child from the family home and may be used in response to children and families involved in both substantiated and unsubstantiated cases.

CPS Removals of Children to an Out-of-Home Placement

If the conditions in the home pose immediate danger to a child and in-home services are not available at the time, frequency, or level required to assure the safety of the child, the child may be removed from the family home and placed temporarily in out-of-home care. An out-of-home placement may be with a relative, a foster home, group home, shelter, or residential child-caring facility.

During 2023, 2,168 unique children were placed in out-of-home care during the first 60 days after the screened-in CPS referral. This 60-day timeframe is considered as CPS professionals are held to the standard of completing the CPS initial assessment within this timeframe. As some children were placed into out-of-home care multiple times in 2023, there were 2,213 instances of children being removed from their home and placed into out-of-home care during the first 60 days after the screened-in CPS referral. Figure 27, below, shows unique child removals to out-of-home care during the first 60 days over the last 5 years.

Figure 27

Unique children removed to Out-of-Home Care within 60 Days of the CPS referral *
2019 - 2023
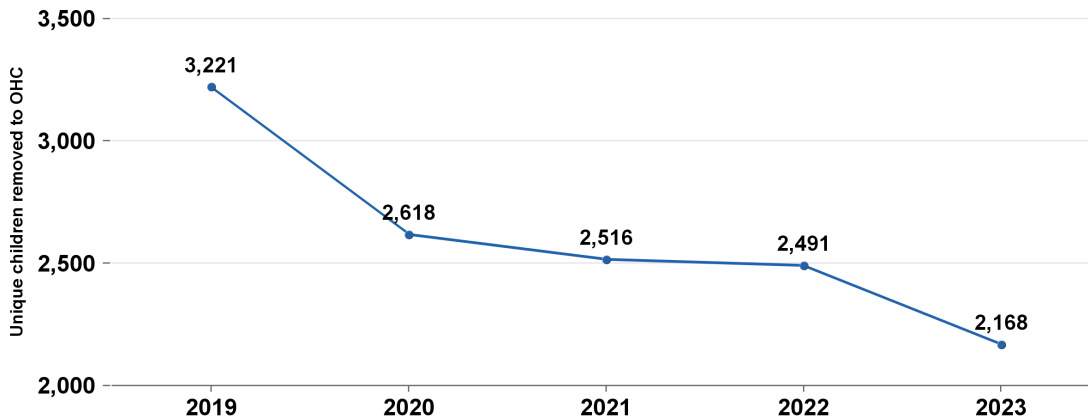
* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Children who were placed in an out-of-home placement as a result of unborn child abuse are not included in the figures above and are presented separately in Appendix B.

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Data Source: dWiSACWIS

Figure 28, below, displays the gender, count, and age of children removed during a CPS initial assessment in 2023. Of the 2,168 children removed from their family home and placed in out-of-home care in order to address danger threats identified during the CPS initial assessment, 50.7 percent were female and 49.3 percent were male.

Figure 28

Age and Gender of Unique Children removed to Out-of-Home Care within 60 Days of the CPS Report 2023
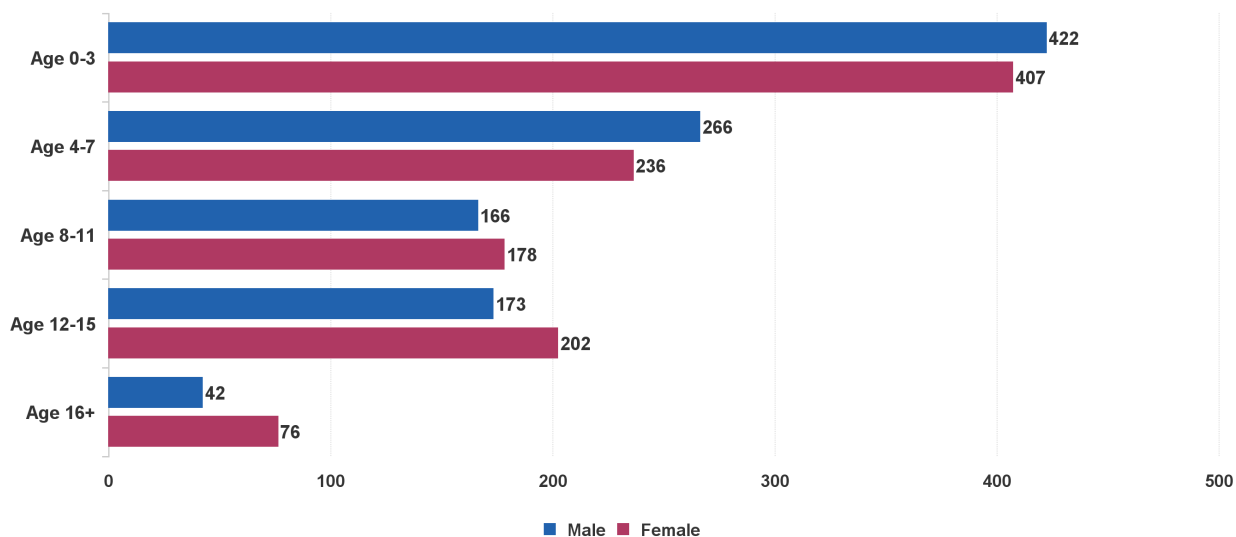
Figure 29 below, displays the primary race of the unique children who were placed in out-of-home care during the first 60 days after the screened-in CPS referral. Of these children removed to out-of-home care, 259, or 11.9 percent, were identified as Hispanic, and 1,780 children, or 82.1 percent, were identified as not Hispanic. A total of 129 of these children, or 5.4 percent, had an undocumented or unknown Hispanic ethnicity.

Figure 29

Race of Unique Children Removed to Out-of-Home Care within 60 Days of the CPS Referral 2023
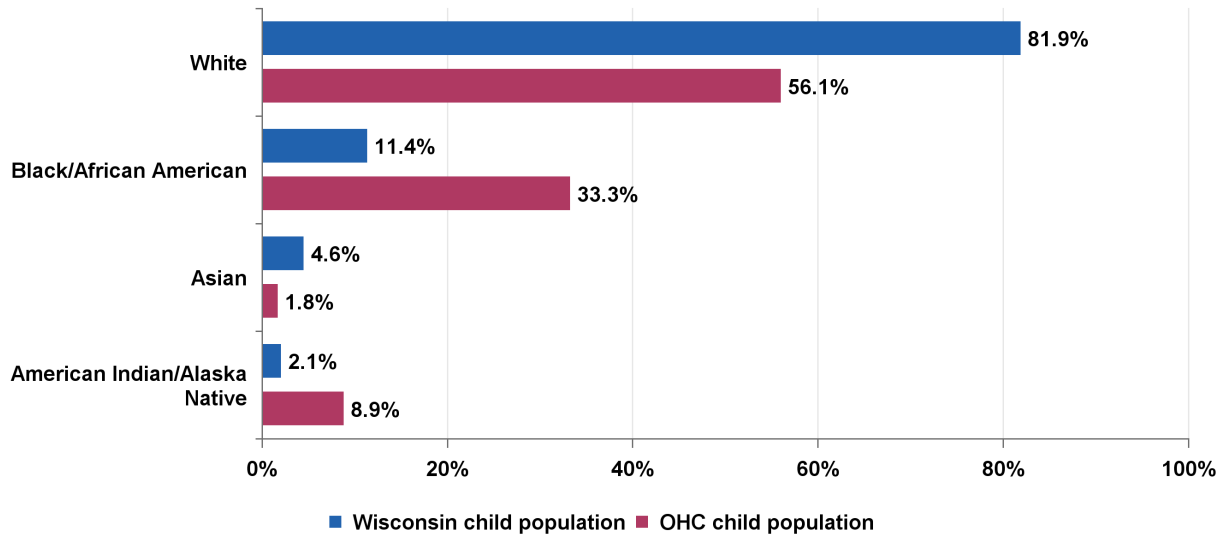
Initial Assessment Disposition

The initial assessment disposition is the action the CPS agency took upon completion of the CPS initial assessment. Figure 30, below, shows the count of initial assessment dispositions in the 18,800 primary caregiver CPS initial assessments for calendar year 2023. In some cases the case is closed as continued CPS intervention is not needed. Other closed cases are referred to appropriate community resources. Cases that are opened may be referred to services that are not under the purview of the CPS agency, as seen in those labeled as Case Opened – Non-CPS Services. In other cases, the case is opened and the family is provided services through the CPS agency as seen in those labeled as Case Opened – Ongoing CPS Services: 'Petition' and 'Voluntary'. Finally, in some cases the family already had a CPS case open and services will continue for this family after this CPS initial assessment as seen in those labeled Case Already Open – ongoing services.

Figure 30

**Initial Assessment Dispositions in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments
2023**
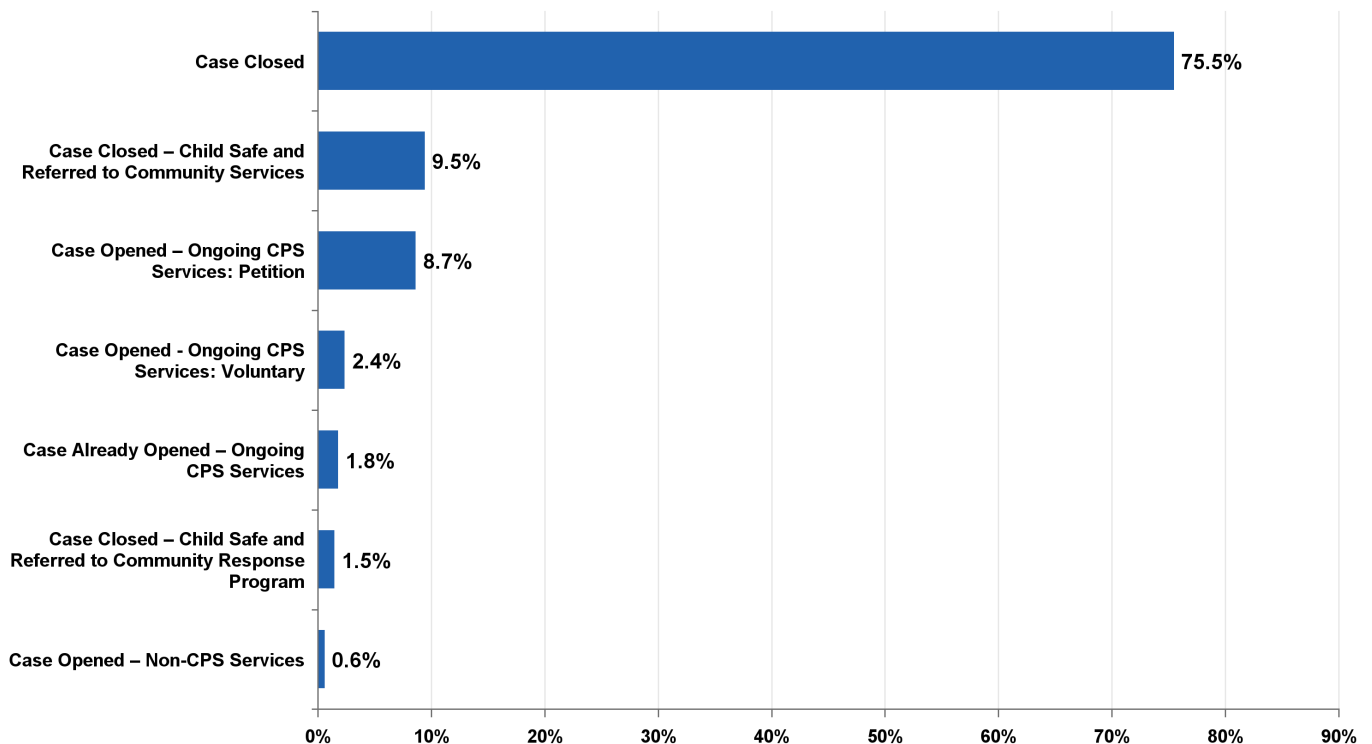
Figure 31, below, shows the 1,397 secondary CPS initial assessments and non-caregiver investigations by initial assessment disposition conducted in 2023.

Figure 31

Initial Assessment Dispositions in Secondary and Non-Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments 2023

Table 12, below, shows the frequency and percentage of initial assessment dispositions according to the safety decision for primary caregiver CPS initial assessments. In the major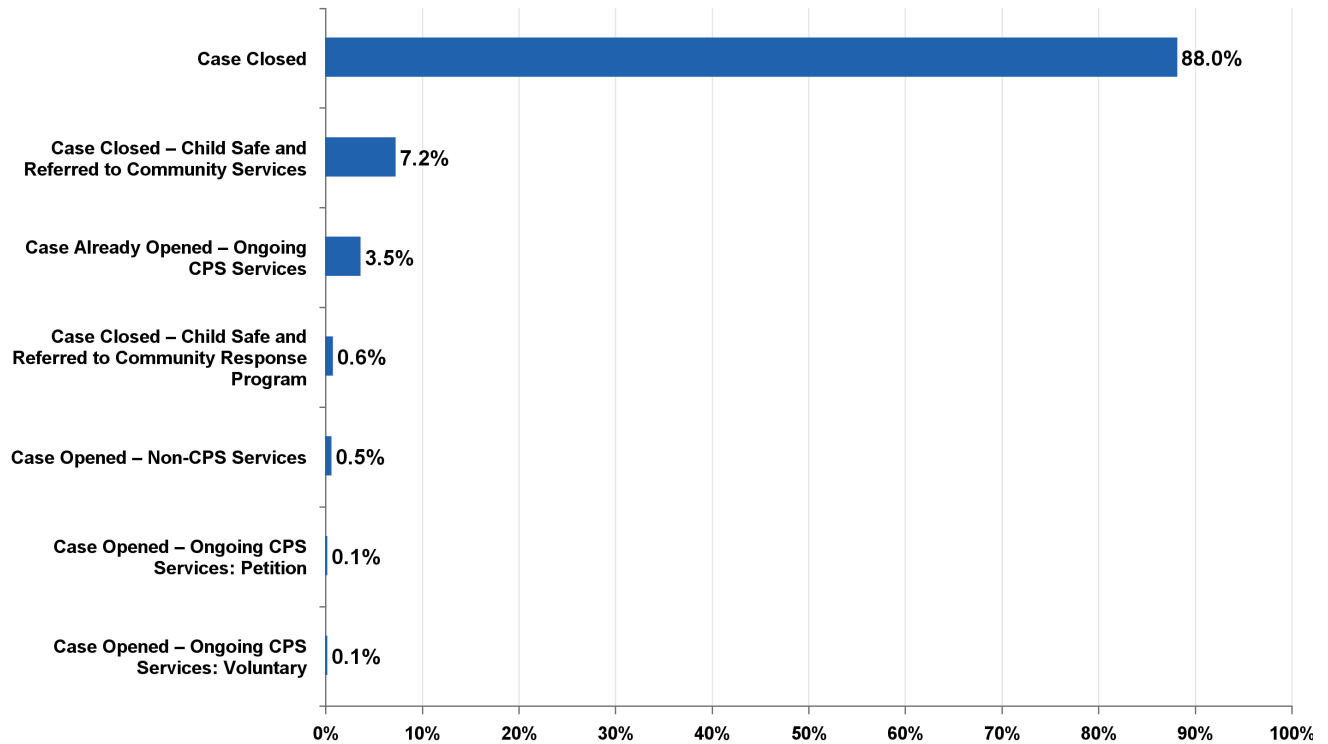ity (96.4 percent) of cases where the safety decision is safe, the case was closed. Conversely, in the majority (92.2 percent) of cases where the safety decision was unsafe, the case was either opened for some type of services or was already opened for ongoing CPS services. A safety assessment and analysis is not required in secondary CPS initial assessments and non-caregiver investigations because the child's safety within the family home is not the focus of the case.

Table 12

Safety Decision by Initial Assessment Disposition for Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments 2023

Initial Assessment Disposition	Safe		Unsafe		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Case Already Opened – Ongoing CPS Services	164	0.9%	169	0.9%	333	1.9%
Case Closed	13,824	75.5%	120	0.7%	13,944	77.5%
Case Closed – Child Safe and Referred to Community Response Program	259	1.4%	2	0.0%	261	1.5%
Case Closed – Child Safe and Referred to Community Services	1,614	8.8%	36	0.2%	1,650	9.7%
Case Opened – Non-CPS Services	101	0.6%	12	0.1%	113	0.6%
Case Opened – Ongoing CPS Services: Petition	159	0.9%	1,399	7.6%	1,558	8.9%
Case Opened - Ongoing CPS Services: Voluntary	156	0.9%	294	1.6%	450	2.5%
Total	**16,277**	**88.9%**	**2,032**	**11.1%**	**18,309**	**100.0%**

The total count includes only the IA's that are documented with a safety decision in eWiSACWIS system.

Federal Performance Standards

As part of the Child and Family Services Review process, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has established casework performance indicators related to child safety and national performance standards. Casework performance indicators are assessed through case reviews and monitored by states as part of their quality improvement efforts. These indicators include timeliness for initiating CPS initial assessments and agency response to identifying, understanding and responding to child danger threats.

For the third round of state reviews, DHHS has modified the national performance standard definitions. The national performance standards measure state performance on the absence of maltreatment of children in out-of-home care (absence of maltreatment in out-of-home care rate) and the absence of incidents of repeat maltreatment (Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence Rate).

The absence of maltreatment in out-of-home care rate is calculated by identifying all children in out-of-home care who experienced a substantiated allegation during a 12-month time period and comparing that number to the number of days these children were in out-of-home care. The rate is derived from this comparison and is multiplied by 100,000 to determine the victimization rate per 100,000 days in care. The federal government's standard is to have less than 8.5 victimizations per 100,000 days in care.

The absence of maltreatment recurrence rate is calculated by identifying all children who were victims of maltreatment in a 12-month time period and looking forward 12-months from each maltreatment instance to determine if these children experienced subsequent substantiated maltreatment. The Federal government's standard is to have less than 9.1 percent of children experience a subsequent substantiation within 12 months.

As can be seen in Table 13 and Table 14, below, Wisconsin has surpassed both standards in the past five-years.

Table 13

Wisconsin's Performance on Federal Standards Third Round:
Absence of Maltreatment in Out-of-Home Care
CY 2019 – CY 2023

Measure	Standard	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Of all children in out-of-home care during a 12-month time period, how many substantiated allegations occurred during this time in care?	Less than 8.5 victimizations per 100,000 days in care.	4.8	3.3	5.1	2.9	3.5

* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Table 14

Wisconsin's Performance on Federal Standards Third Round:
Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence

CY 2019 – CY 2023

Measure	Standard	CY 2018 – CY 2019	CY 2019 – CY 2020	CY 2020 – CY 2021	CY 2021 – CY 2022	CY 2022 – CY 2023
Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report, what percent were victims of another substantiated report within a 12-month period?	Less than 9.1% of children experience a subsequent substantiation within 12 months.	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%	3.5%

Adoptions

The process of adopting a child through the public child welfare system when they are unable to return to their birth family is referred to as public adoption. These children often have special care needs and may qualify for Adoption Assistance.

Within calendar year 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families facilitated the adoption of 674 children from the public child welfare system, of which 670 children qualified for an Adoption Assistance. 597 out of 670 children that qualified for Adoption Assistance received a monthly adoption assistance subsidy totaling about $4,264,940 in calendar year 2023. The total Adoption Assistance payments for all recipients in 2023 was $86,562,460.

'Post-adoption placements' and 'post-guardianship placements' are situations where children who have been adopted or achieved guardianship re-enter out-of-home care (OHC). Within calendar year 2023, a total of 97 children entered out-of-home care under the placement and care responsibility of a county department or the Department of Children and Families under Ch. 48 or Ch. 938 of Wisconsin Statutes, after finalization of an adoption. A total of 59 children have documentation on the length of time between adoption finalization and when they entered out-of-home care. The 59 children re-entered out-of-home care after an average of 91 months following their adoption finalization. The age group of the children at the time of their adoption prior to post-adoption OHC placement is shown in Table 15, below.

Within calendar year 2023, a total of 154 children entered out-of-home care under the placement and care responsibility of a county department or the Department of Children and Families under Ch. 48 or Ch. 938 of Wisconsin Statutes, after the establishment of a guardianship. A total of 82 children have documentation on the length of time between guardianship finalization and when they entered out-of-home care. The 82 children re-entered out-of-home care after an average of 58 months when their guardianship was established. The age group of the children at the time of their guardianship prior to post-guardianship OHC placement is shown in Table 15, below.

Table 15

**Unique Child Age at the Time of Adoption or Guardianship,
Prior to Post-Adoption or Guardianship Placement**

CY 2023

Age Group	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Adoption	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Guardianship
Less than two years old	12	20
Two to five years old	32	25
Six to twelve years old	24	48
Thirteen years or older	4	25
Unable to determine	25	36
Total	**97**	**154**

The age of children who have experienced placement post-adoption averaged 14 years old at the time they entered out-of-home care. The age of children who have experienced placement post-guardianship averaged 13 years old at the time they entered out-of-home care. Table 16 below displays the children by age group.

Table 16

Unique Child Age at the Time the Child Entered Out-of-Home Care After Adoption or Guardianship Finalization

CY 2023

Age Group	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Adoption	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Guardianship
Age < 1 - 3 years	0	9
Age 4 - 7 years	0	19
Age 8 - 11 years	12	18
Age 12 - 15 years	54	66
Age 16+ years	31	42
Total	**97**	**154**

Table 17 and Table 18 display the type of previous adoption and type of guardianship that occurred for these children prior to their adoption or guardianship finalization. There are various types of adoptions and guardianships in Wisconsin. In order to adopt or assume guardianship in this state, families must meet certain requirements based on the type of adoption or guardianship they are completing.

Table 17

Type of Previous Adoption for Children in Finalized Adoptions

CY 2023

Type of Previous Adoption	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Adoption
Domestic	17
International	8
Public Child Welfare (SNAP)	38
Relative	11
Stepparent	0
Tribal / Customary Adoption	2
Unable to Determine	21
Total:	**97**

Table 18

Type of Previous Guardianship for Children in Finalized Guardianships

CY 2023

Type of Previous Guardianship	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Guardianship
Family Court – Guardianship under s. 48.9795	41
Guardianship under s. 48.977	58
Out of State Guardianship	10
Public Child Welfare – Guardianship under s. 48.9795	9
Unable to Determine	36
Total:	**154**

Recommendations for Additional Legislation and Other Actions

Section 48.47(8)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes directs the department to include in this report recommendations for legislative consideration on issues related to child abuse and neglect. The department recommends legislative consideration of the following, which would fulfill the statutory purpose of this annual report to strengthen outcomes for children and families involved in or at risk of involvement in the child welfare system:

1. Support the recruitment, retention, and well-being of child welfare professionals across the state.

Wisconsin continues to experience challenges in the recruitment and retention of child welfare professionals. The inability to find and maintain consistency in our state's child welfare workforce can have a direct effect on the outcomes experienced by the children and families we serve. Attending to workforce challenges is a priority that has been identified by local child welfare agencies and community stakeholders, like Citizen Review Panels. Potential legislative efforts to increase the availability, quality, and retention of our workforce could include the following:

- Provide state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) that can be used as match for federal Title IV-E funds that can be used to expand internships, stipends, and professional development programs across Wisconsin's public and private colleges and universities;
- Consider ways in which child welfare responsibilities can be supported through improvements to technology to better support, where possible and appropriate, logistical efficiencies. Such investments would allow child welfare professionals to increase their focus in attending to the needs of children and families; and
- Create statutory and other protections for child welfare professionals that acknowledge the impact of secondary trauma and high levels of stress associated with this work.

2. Help meet families' needs for support and to access basic resources outside of the child protection system.

For the vast majority of reports screened in for an initial assessment, the assessment does not result in continued child protective services involvement. Many families have social service needs, but not child protection needs. A number of approaches would increase families access to those social service supports and simultaneously increase families' stability, while reducing child maltreatment:

- Place greater investment in Family Resource Centers that focus on connecting families with acute social service needs (i.e., health and wellness education, employment readiness and opportunities, parenting support, etc.);
- Invest in preventive services that will allow our state to access federal funding for certain service costs, such as trauma-informed mental health services, substance use treatment and in-home parenting skills training, that help families whose children are at risk of being removed from their parents to build safe, loving and supportive homes where their children can grow and thrive;
- Invest in quality and accessibility of substance misuse and mental health treatment programs; and
- Consistent with the one of the key strategies being advanced by the department's Birth to 5 Initiative, increase access to opportunities that enable families to improve their economic mobility. These efforts could include increasing the refundable portion of state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), creating a state-refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC), expanding state Social Security Insurance (SSI), Wisconsin Works (W-2), and unemployment insurance payments.

3. Funding for the creation and expansion of family-centered services.

Keeping children with caregivers whom they love requires our child welfare system to have high-quality services that are available to children in community-based settings. This much needed investment is an especially important for children with high acuity needs who often spend significant time away from their family in restrictive settings like residential care facilities. The accessibility of community-based trauma-informed mental health services, substance use treatment and in-home parenting skills training can prevent children from being removed from their family. Efforts to support high-quality services include:

- Increase GPR funding for innovative and evidenced-based practices and programming to meet the needs of children and their caregivers in their family homes;
- Support the creation and/or expansion of services and facilities that allow parents struggling with substance use to remain with their children during child welfare intervention;

- Increase access to flexible funding sources, similar to Targeted Safety Service Funds (TSSF), towards services and supports to relatives, including kin and like-kin, for those children who are temporarily removed from their family home; and
- Invest in community-based services that focus on timely reunification of children who may need brief care outside of their home.

Appendix A

Child Maltreatment Related Statutes

The following are excerpts from the Wisconsin Statutes that create the basis for persons to report suspected child maltreatment and for child protective services agencies to respond. The excerpts are from the 2015-2016 Wisconsin Statutes. Included in the excerpts are sections from Chapter 48, known as the Children's Code, and sections from criminal statutes that are cross-referenced in the Children's Code.

- Wis. Stat. s. 48.01, Title and legislative purpose

- Wis. Stat. s. 48.02, Definitions. This includes definitions of child maltreatment.

- Wis. Stat. s. 48.13, Jurisdiction over children alleged to be in need of protection or services. This describes the basis on which the local child protective services agencies (county social/human services departments and the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services) may petition the court to intervene with a family.

- Wis. Stat. s. 48.981, Abused or neglected children and abused unborn children. This section describes the reporting requirements of alleged child maltreatment and describes the child protective services agencies' duties and responsibilities.

- Wis. Stat. s. 939.22, Words and phrases defined. This section defines terms that are used in describing certain crimes, pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 48.02, in order to define child maltreatment.

- Wis. Stat. s. 940.225, Sexual assault. This defines the crime of sexual assault pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(1)(b).

- Wis. Stat. s. 944.30, Prostitution. This defines the crime of prostitution pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 48.02 (1)(d).

- Wis. Stat. s. 948.02, Sexual assault of a child. This is the first in a series of crimes from Chapter 948, known as Crimes Against Children, pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(1)(b), in order to define child sexual abuse. The following sections are also cross-referenced under Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(1):

  o Wis. Stat. s. 948.025, Engaging in repeated acts of sexual assault of the same child.
  o Wis. Stat. s. 948.05, Sexual exploitation of a child.
  o Wis. Stat. s. 948.051, Trafficking of a child.
  o Wis. Stat. s. 948.055, Causing a child to view or listen to sexual activity.
  o Wis. Stat. s. 948.085, Sexual assault of a child placed in substitute care.
  o Wis. Stat. s. 948.10, Exposing genitals, pubic area, or intimate parts.

To view Wisconsin Statutes, please visit the Wisconsin State Legislature website at

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/prefaces/toc

Appendix B

Unborn Child Abuse

Unborn child abuse is defined as "serious physical harm inflicted on the unborn child, and the risk of serious physical harm to the child when born, caused by the habitual lack of self-control of the expectant mother of the unborn child in the use of alcohol beverages, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, exhibited to a severe degree." [Ref. Wis. Stat. s. 48.02(1)(am)] The maltreatment allegation of unborn child abuse is excluded from maltreatment allegation counts in the body of this report and presented here separately. Please note that as of November 2015, unborn child abuse only have maltreatment determinations of "services needed", or "services not needed", rather than substantiation determinations.

The maltreatment allegation of unborn child abuse is excluded from maltreatment allegation counts in the body of this report and presented here separately.

• In calendar year 2023, CPS agencies screened-in 252 allegations of unborn child abuse for further assessment.

• The most common reporters of screened-in unborn child abuse allegation were social service professionals (22.7 percent), medical professionals (19.9 percent) and legal/law enforcement professionals (14.3 percent).

• A total of 39 of the 252 screened-in allegations (16 percent) of unborn child abuse had a finding of "Services Needed" at the conclusion of the initial assessment. Additionally, 20 children were placed in out-of-home care within 60 days of an allegation of unborn child abuse.

An Overview of the CPS Process

No two child welfare cases are the same as family dynamics and stressors vary. While the below diagram provides a high-level overview of the CPS process, it is important to note that a child can be removed at any time if deemed unsafe. When a child is safe, a case can be closed at any step of the process.

Report is Made — A concerned citizen or mandated reporter suspects child abuse and/or neglect and contacts county or tribal child protective services agency.

Report is Assessed — Determine if the allegation meets the legal definition of child abuse and/or neglect as defined in Wisconsin's Children Code.

Screened Out

Screened In

Case is Assigned a Priority — This is based on the severity of the possible harm and how immediate the risk is to the child.

Same day response | **24 - 48 hours** | **5 business days**

Case is Assigned to Child Welfare Professional

Child welfare professionals have 60 days to complete an Initial Assessment, which includes interviews with the child and the parent(s), family members, and other adults who are in contact with the child, such as doctors and nurses, and completing a home inspection. There are two decisions that need to be made:

Maltreatment Finding: The determination of whether there is a preponderance of evidence indicating that maltreatment has occurred (substantiated) or not (unsubstantiated). This finding does not determine what if any services will be offered.

Safety Decision: The determination of whether a child is safe or unsafe based on the safety assessment and analysis.

Safety Decision

Maltreatment Finding

Unsubstantiated

Substantiated

Child Can Safely Reside in the Home — The CPS agency may refer the family for voluntary CPS services or other community services, as needed.

Child Cannot Safely Reside in the Home — If the CPS professional determines that a child needs to be placed in OHC to ensure safety, the child is placed into OHC and a CHIPS order may be filed.

Placement with relatives (preferred) | **Placement in a non-relative home** | **Congregate Care**

Whether a child remains in home or not, the child welfare professional is responsible for ensuring the family and child have access to services and supports needed to regain safety and child well-being. In consultation with the parent(s), the professional builds a plan to help monitor progress towards reunification and/or closing of the case.

Timely permanence for each child is achieved by identifying permanency goal(s), including reunification, transfer of guardianship, or TPR and adoption. The court regularly reviews these goals for progress.

For additional information about case flows, please visit:

> Case Flow Chart for Access.

> Case Flow Chart for Initial Assessment.

Appendix D

Data Collection and Interpretation

Data Collection Process

Data for this report is from the Child Welfare Data Warehouse (dWiSACWIS). The data in dWiSACWIS is sourced from the electronic Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS). eWiSACWIS allows CPS professionals, supervisors and administrators to support management and documentation of child welfare practice responsibilities for CPS access, initial assessment, ongoing services case management, court process, out-of-home placements, and more. The quality of the data in this report is dependent upon the accuracy and timeliness of data recorded by the local agencies.

Evolution of data collection

The following provides historical background of how system and/or policy changes affected child welfare data collection over the past several years. CPS agencies began using eWiSACWIS in 2001 and statewide rollout of the system was completed in 2004. As a result, child welfare data collected prior to 2005 includes data from both eWiSACWIS and the CFS-40 forms, which counties completed at the conclusion of CPS initial assessments. Counties manually entered the data into a child maltreatment database.

In 2005 and 2006, the eWiSACWIS system required entry of a new allegation for every maltreater alleged for each child. Therefore, if neglect was alleged for one child by both parents it counted as two neglect allegations. The legacy CFS-40 data system counted allegations once per maltreatment type per child (regardless of the number of maltreaters).

Effective October 1, 2006, 2005 Wisconsin Act 232 eliminated the requirement that CPS agencies complete a CPS initial assessment in situations where the alleged maltreater is not a caregiver for the children. While an initial assessment is no longer required in these situations the instance may still be referred to law enforcement and the family may be offered services. Due to this law change, there was a significant decline in the number of non-caregiver CPS initial assessments completed beginning in 2007. As non-caregivers, such as peers, family friends, or strangers, tend to comprise a significant proportion of sexual abuse cases, the number of sexual abuse substantiations statewide declined after 2006.

Changes in child welfare policy and practice have also impacted the use of the 'abuse likely to occur' finding in calendar year 2007. At the beginning of calendar year 2007, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (renamed the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services in 2015) discontinued use of the 'abuse likely to occur' allegation type. With the release of the new statewide Access and Initial Assessment Standards in September 2007, the 'abuse likely to occur' allegation was removed as a maltreatment type for the entire state. The 'abuse likely to occur' allegation type was discontinued because it lacked a definition that would allow consistent usage and make it clearly distinguishable from the other maltreatment types. It was found that the 'abuse likely to occur' allegation could be more appropriately categorized under one of the other maltreatment types to represent the risk of maltreatment, in most cases neglect. The 2008 data is the first calendar year with no 'abuse likely to occur' data.

In September 2007, the eWiSACWIS system was modified to allow allegations to be counted once per maltreatment type per child while also separately maintaining data on maltreaters. The impact of these data entry practices are most readily seen in the neglect maltreatment type as these situations more often involve maltreatment by multiple individuals.

In November 2015, policy changes revised the maltreatment determination options for unborn child abuse to be 'services needed', or 'services not needed', rather than substantiating or unsubstantiating the allegation.

Appendix D

Data Collection and Interpretation

Data Interpretation

As with previous publications, data for this edition of the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report includes some cases in which the alleged maltreatment occurred in a previous year but was reported and assessed in this year.

Counts of CPS reports, initial assessments, allegations, and other figures are displayed in the appendices, by county. As some reports and initial assessments transfer county ownership, the 2023 Child Abuse and Neglect Report is reporting these figures by the supervisor who approved the CPS report or initial assessment.

In some of the footnotes it is mentioned that the historical data may not match and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Appendix E

Total CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions by County
2023

County	Total CPS Referrals	Screen-out CPS Referrals	Screen-out Percent	Screen-in CPS Referrals	Percent Screened-in	Screen-in Service Referrals	Screen-out Service Referrals
Adams	303	227	74.9%	76	25.1%	24	23
Ashland	265	220	83.0%	45	17.0%	60	83
Barron	599	380	63.4%	219	36.6%	60	147
Bayfield	167	132	79.0%	35	21.0%	20	37
Brown	4,382	3,200	73.0%	1,182	27.0%	313	167
Buffalo	167	130	77.8%	37	22.2%	16	49
Burnett	244	167	68.4%	77	31.6%	35	12
Calumet	443	364	82.2%	79	17.8%	95	15
Chippewa	899	735	81.8%	164	18.2%	44	29
Clark	436	363	83.3%	73	16.7%	40	40
Columbia	642	505	78.7%	137	21.3%	110	76
Crawford	180	110	61.1%	70	38.9%	79	21
Dane	3,496	2,640	75.5%	856	24.5%	239	301
Dodge	926	748	80.8%	178	19.2%	125	14
Door	368	268	72.8%	100	27.2%	34	14
Douglas	807	448	55.5%	359	44.5%	91	134
Dunn	661	539	81.5%	122	18.5%	47	9
Eau Claire	1,592	1,246	78.3%	346	21.7%	122	43
Florence	25	16	64.0%	9	36.0%	2	4
Fond Du Lac	1,677	1,270	75.7%	407	24.3%	138	140
Forest	23	16	69.6%	7	30.4%	30	18
Grant	638	471	73.8%	167	26.2%	186	55
Green	521	365	70.1%	156	29.9%	39	9
Green Lake	227	173	76.2%	54	23.8%	31	25
Iowa	218	162	74.3%	56	25.7%	30	5
Iron	53	33	62.3%	20	37.7%	12	0
Jackson	524	351	67.0%	173	33.0%	32	15
Jefferson	728	532	73.1%	196	26.9%	178	12
Juneau	398	305	76.6%	93	23.4%	33	28
Kenosha	2,757	2,064	74.9%	693	25.1%	130	149
Kewaunee	238	184	77.3%	54	22.7%	22	9
La Crosse	1,086	695	64.0%	391	36.0%	59	446
Lafayette	190	151	79.5%	39	20.5%	40	2

Appendix E

Total CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions by County
2023

County	Total CPS Referrals	Screen-out CPS Referrals	Screen-out Percent	Screen-in CPS Referrals	Percent Screened-in	Screen-in Service Referrals	Screen-out Service Referrals
Langlade	394	263	66.8%	131	33.2%	90	9
Lincoln	346	240	69.4%	106	30.6%	43	9
Manitowoc	1,105	768	69.5%	337	30.5%	111	74
Marathon	1,384	899	65.0%	485	35.0%	159	34
Marinette	612	513	83.8%	99	16.2%	57	211
Marquette	196	159	81.1%	37	18.9%	24	12
Menominee	78	24	30.8%	54	69.2%	14	0
Milwaukee	14,903	8,611	57.8%	6,292	42.2%	1,170	58
Monroe	807	638	79.1%	169	20.9%	35	63
Oconto	749	623	83.2%	126	16.8%	57	40
Oneida	410	267	65.1%	143	34.9%	263	66
Outagamie	3,104	2,331	75.1%	773	24.9%	73	259
Ozaukee	407	282	69.3%	125	30.7%	33	46
Pepin	76	61	80.3%	15	19.7%	9	8
Pierce	500	379	75.8%	121	24.2%	31	80
Polk	735	516	70.2%	219	29.8%	250	59
Portage	766	578	75.5%	188	24.5%	23	16
Price	166	133	80.1%	33	19.9%	30	2
Racine	2,754	1,906	69.2%	848	30.8%	391	73
Richland	271	198	73.1%	73	26.9%	52	27
Rock	2,648	2,147	81.1%	501	18.9%	251	109
Rusk	185	137	74.1%	48	25.9%	63	11
Saint Croix	1,138	823	72.3%	315	27.7%	91	59
Sauk	595	392	65.9%	203	34.1%	93	240
Sawyer	247	175	70.9%	72	29.1%	26	54
Shawano	771	597	77.4%	174	22.6%	69	3
Sheboygan	960	657	68.4%	303	31.6%	136	50
Taylor	221	141	63.8%	80	36.2%	35	4
Trempealeau	471	400	84.9%	71	15.1%	55	49
Vernon	222	126	56.8%	96	43.2%	94	33
Vilas	126	73	57.9%	53	42.1%	48	246
Walworth	624	496	79.5%	128	20.5%	90	15
Washburn	252	177	70.2%	75	29.8%	35	26

Appendix E

Total CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions by County
2023

County	Total CPS Referrals	Screen-out CPS Referrals	Screen-out Percent	Screen-in CPS Referrals	Percent Screened-in	Screen-in Service Referrals	Screen-out Service Referrals
Washington	713	567	79.5%	146	20.5%	41	23
Waukesha	2,049	1,739	84.9%	310	15.1%	198	130
Waupaca	726	474	65.3%	252	34.7%	50	15
Waushara	411	314	76.4%	97	23.6%	44	1
Winnebago	2,992	2,232	74.6%	760	25.4%	361	202
Wood	1,176	981	83.4%	195	16.6%	105	33
State Total	**72,170**	**51,247**	**71.0%**	**20,923**	**29.0%**	**7,316**	**4,580**

Appendix F

CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County *
2023

County	2020 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Total CPS Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Population
Adams	2,832	137	48.4
Ashland	3,345	57	17.0
Barron	9,654	336	34.8
Bayfield	2,630	57	21.7
Brown	61,790	1,951	31.6
Buffalo	2,614	56	21.4
Burnett	2,621	139	53.0
Calumet	11,463	126	11.0
Chippewa	14,021	254	18.1
Clark	10,259	95	9.3
Columbia	12,003	216	18.0
Crawford	3,188	113	35.4
Dane	110,215	1,280	11.6
Dodge	16,898	245	14.5
Door	4,496	157	34.9
Douglas	8,437	522	61.9
Dunn	8,723	211	24.2
Eau Claire	21,076	536	25.4
Florence	613	13	21.2
Fond Du Lac	21,669	668	30.8
Forest	1,718	14	8.1
Grant	10,676	247	23.1
Green	7,930	258	32.5
Green Lake	4,127	72	17.4
Iowa	5,205	70	13.4
Iron	869	30	34.5
Jackson	4,420	286	64.7
Jefferson	17,317	282	16.3
Juneau	5,353	145	27.1
Kenosha	37,450	1,145	30.6
Kewaunee	4,235	65	15.3
La Crosse	23,103	612	26.5
Lafayette	3,993	68	17.0

Appendix F

CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County *
2023

County	2020 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Total CPS Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Population
Langlade	3,709	213	57.4
Lincoln	4,959	173	34.9
Manitowoc	16,015	536	33.5
Marathon	30,696	795	25.9
Marinette	7,613	177	23.2
Marquette	2,961	62	20.9
Menominee	1,511	108	71.5
Milwaukee	224,058	9,923	44.3
Monroe	11,677	237	20.3
Oconto	7,689	228	29.7
Oneida	6,099	237	38.9
Outagamie	43,675	1,271	29.1
Ozaukee	18,941	160	8.4
Pepin	1,571	28	17.8
Pierce	8,682	200	23.0
Polk	8,856	360	40.7
Portage	13,439	311	23.1
Price	2,339	42	18.0
Racine	44,587	1,427	32.0
Richland	3,680	112	30.4
Rock	36,951	861	23.3
Rusk	2,824	92	32.6
Saint Croix	22,212	473	21.3
Sauk	14,555	302	20.7
Sawyer	3,180	114	35.8
Shawano	8,665	240	27.7
Sheboygan	25,049	458	18.3
Taylor	4,646	124	26.7
Trempealeau	7,485	114	15.2
Vernon	7,990	149	18.6
Vilas	3,717	79	21.3
Walworth	20,805	200	9.6
Washburn	2,873	96	33.4
Washington	29,082	223	7.7

Appendix F

CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County *
2023

County	2020 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Total CPS Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Population
Waukesha	85,747	438	5.1
Waupaca	10,278	395	38.4
Waushara	4,322	164	37.9
Winnebago	34,759	1,170	33.7
Wood	15,684	296	18.9
State Total	**1,258,524**	**33,051**	**26.3**

* Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile https://www.ojjdp.gov

Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator.

Appendix G

County Maltreatment Substantiation Rates
2023

County	Number of CPS Initial Assessments	Total CPS Reports	Traditional Response Maltreatment Allegations	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
Adams	76	137	172	15	8.7
Ashland	45	57	67	25	37.3
Barron	215	336	101	16	15.8
Bayfield	35	57	67	9	13.4
Brown	1,151	1,951	947	132	13.9
Buffalo	37	56	62	19	30.6
Burnett	77	139	153	29	19.0
Calumet	78	126	149	23	15.4
Chippewa	161	254	292	45	15.4
Clark	72	95	115	31	27.0
Columbia	131	216	238	16	6.7
Crawford	68	113	135	17	12.6
Dane	833	1,280	1,454	233	16.0
Dodge	177	245	157	30	19.1
Door	92	157	173	17	9.8
Douglas	346	522	554	12	2.2
Dunn	122	211	231	49	21.2
Eau Claire	320	536	478	106	22.2
Florence	9	13	14	0	0.0
Fond Du Lac	391	668	699	118	16.9
Forest	7	14	16	2	12.5
Grant	153	247	287	64	22.3
Green	151	258	299	30	10.0
Green Lake	54	72	80	19	23.8
Iowa	53	70	77	8	10.4
Iron	20	30	30	9	30.0
Jackson	165	286	320	61	19.1
Jefferson	196	282	79	22	27.8
Juneau	92	145	163	46	28.2
Kenosha	664	1,145	1,330	304	22.9
Kewaunee	54	65	65	3	4.6
La Crosse	383	612	272	54	19.9
Lafayette	39	68	81	21	25.9

Appendix G

County Maltreatment Substantiation Rates
2023

County	Number of CPS Initial Assessments	Total CPS Reports	Traditional Response Maltreatment Allegations	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
Langlade	128	213	227	35	15.4
Lincoln	100	173	195	59	30.3
Manitowoc	333	536	343	103	30.0
Marathon	481	795	210	59	28.1
Marinette	99	177	225	34	15.1
Marquette	37	62	68	6	8.8
Menominee	54	108	111	0	0.0
Milwaukee	6,010	9,923	11,627	747	6.4
Monroe	165	237	308	40	13.0
Oconto	120	228	280	34	12.1
Oneida	142	237	266	46	17.3
Outagamie	753	1,271	459	57	12.4
Ozaukee	120	160	188	45	23.9
Pepin	15	28	31	1	3.2
Pierce	121	200	99	15	15.2
Polk	210	360	396	28	7.1
Portage	184	311	359	98	27.3
Price	32	42	51	7	13.7
Racine	807	1,427	1,896	232	12.2
Richland	71	112	124	16	12.9
Rock	488	861	1,011	102	10.1
Rusk	48	92	100	27	27.0
Saint Croix	298	473	524	49	9.4
Sauk	198	302	199	36	18.1
Sawyer	70	114	124	14	11.3
Shawano	170	240	257	20	7.8
Sheboygan	298	458	491	40	8.1
Taylor	77	124	149	34	22.8
Trempealeau	69	114	116	11	9.5
Vernon	94	149	162	13	8.0
Vilas	52	79	89	20	22.5
Walworth	126	200	244	39	16.0
Washburn	72	96	105	31	29.5

Appendix G

County Maltreatment Substantiation Rates
2023

County	Number of CPS Initial Assessments	Total CPS Reports	Traditional Response Maltreatment Allegations	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
Washington	143	223	256	22	8.6
Waukesha	304	438	518	69	13.3
Waupaca	244	395	451	37	8.2
Waushara	97	164	231	48	20.8
Winnebago	717	1,170	431	81	18.8
Wood	192	296	337	60	17.8
State Total	**20,198**	**33,051**	**32,615**	**4,000**	**12.3%**

Appendix H

Child Victimization Rate by County * ^
2023

County	2020 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Population
Adams	2,832	13	4.6
Ashland	3,345	24	7.2
Barron	9,654	16	1.7
Bayfield	2,630	8	3.0
Brown	61,790	118	1.9
Buffalo	2,614	19	7.3
Burnett	2,621	28	10.7
Calumet	11,463	22	1.9
Chippewa	14,021	39	2.8
Clark	10,259	27	2.6
Columbia	12,003	13	1.1
Crawford	3,188	17	5.3
Dane	110,215	204	1.9
Dodge	16,898	27	1.6
Door	4,496	16	3.6
Douglas	8,437	12	1.4
Dunn	8,723	47	5.4
Eau Claire	21,076	91	4.3
Florence	613	0	0.0
Fond Du Lac	21,669	108	5.0
Forest	1,718	1	0.6
Grant	10,676	52	4.9
Green	7,930	28	3.5
Green Lake	4,127	15	3.6
Iowa	5,205	7	1.3
Iron	869	9	10.4
Jackson	4,420	58	13.1
Jefferson	17,317	21	1.2
Juneau	5,353	42	7.8
Kenosha	37,450	275	7.3
Kewaunee	4,235	3	0.7
La Crosse	23,103	47	2.0
Lafayette	3,993	20	5.0

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Data Source: dWiSACWIS

Appendix H

Child Victimization Rate by County * ^
2023

County	2020 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Population
Langlade	3,709	34	9.2
Lincoln	4,959	54	10.9
Manitowoc	16,015	96	6.0
Marathon	30,696	47	1.5
Marinette	7,613	32	4.2
Marquette	2,961	6	2.0
Menominee	1,511	0	0.0
Milwaukee	224,058	683	3.0
Monroe	11,677	34	2.9
Oconto	7,689	33	4.3
Oneida	6,099	42	6.9
Outagamie	43,675	51	1.2
Ozaukee	18,941	42	2.2
Pepin	1,571	1	0.6
Pierce	8,682	14	1.6
Polk	8,856	25	2.8
Portage	13,439	85	6.3
Price	2,339	7	3.0
Racine	44,587	204	4.6
Richland	3,680	14	3.8
Rock	36,951	91	2.5
Rusk	2,824	24	8.5
Saint Croix	22,212	46	2.1
Sauk	14,555	35	2.4
Sawyer	3,180	12	3.8
Shawano	8,665	20	2.3
Sheboygan	25,049	38	1.5
Taylor	4,646	30	6.5
Trempealeau	7,485	9	1.2
Vernon	7,990	13	1.6
Vilas	3,717	18	4.8
Walworth	20,805	35	1.7
Washburn	2,873	28	9.7
Washington	29,082	21	0.7

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Data Source: dWiSACWIS

Appendix H

Child Victimization Rate by County * ^
2023

County	2020 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Population
Waukesha	85,747	65	0.8
Waupaca	10,278	36	3.5
Waushara	4,322	34	7.9
Winnebago	34,759	71	2.0
Wood	15,684	57	3.6
State Total	**1,258,524**	**3,614**	**2.9**

* The 'Number of Child Victims' column represents the counts of children victimized in a specific county. This figure is larger than the 3,608 unique maltreated children listed in the report as children may be victimized in more than one county.

^ Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2020 Easy Access Population Profile: https://ojjdp.gov

 Per capita measures in the 2023 report use data from the 2020 census as the denominator.

Appendix I

**Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and
Maltreatment Finding, by County * ^ ~
2023**

County	Total CPS Reports	Neglect				Physical Abuse				Sexual Abuse				Emotional Abuse			
		Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total
Adams	137	12	94	0	106	0	33	0	33	3	26	0	29	0	4	0	4
Ashland	57	14	11	2	27	8	14	0	22	3	15	0	18	0	0	0	0
Barron	336	11	42	0	53	3	9	0	12	2	33	0	35	0	1	0	1
Bayfield	57	7	32	0	39	2	14	0	16	0	9	0	9	0	3	0	3
Brown	1,951	81	483	11	575	23	145	3	171	28	147	7	182	0	19	0	19
Buffalo	56	11	20	0	31	1	15	0	16	7	7	0	14	0	1	0	1
Burnett	139	24	82	0	106	5	36	0	41	0	4	0	4	0	2	0	2
Calumet	126	19	67	0	86	3	41	0	44	1	17	0	18	0	1	0	1
Chippewa	254	32	160	1	193	6	40	0	46	7	27	0	34	0	19	0	19
Clark	95	16	35	0	51	12	22	0	34	3	23	0	26	0	4	0	4
Columbia	216	14	155	0	169	2	32	0	34	0	29	0	29	0	6	0	6
Crawford	113	13	66	0	79	2	28	0	30	2	22	0	24	0	2	0	2
Dane	1,280	155	676	57	888	17	288	10	315	61	171	9	241	0	10	0	10
Dodge	245	18	58	0	76	8	37	0	45	4	23	1	28	0	8	0	8
Door	157	15	90	0	105	0	37	0	37	1	19	1	21	1	9	0	10
Douglas	522	9	349	15	373	1	110	1	112	2	43	2	47	0	22	0	22
Dunn	211	31	106	0	137	13	37	0	50	5	35	0	40	0	4	0	4
Eau Claire	536	73	188	5	266	6	96	2	104	26	65	1	92	1	15	0	16
Florence	13	0	8	0	8	0	4	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Fond Du Lac	668	76	333	42	451	12	115	6	133	30	64	4	98	0	16	1	17
Forest	14	1	11	0	12	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
Grant	247	47	87	10	144	6	64	3	73	11	45	5	61	0	9	0	9

Appendix I

**Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and
Maltreatment Finding, by County * ^ ~
2023**

County	Total CPS Reports	Neglect				Physical Abuse				Sexual Abuse				Emotional Abuse			
		Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total
Green	258	25	150	6	181	3	73	0	76	2	26	2	30	0	12	0	12
Green Lake	72	15	27	2	44	4	21	1	26	0	6	1	7	0	3	0	3
Iowa	70	2	23	0	25	4	29	0	33	2	12	0	14	0	5	0	5
Iron	30	7	12	0	19	2	7	0	9	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Jackson	286	46	170	1	217	9	54	0	63	6	24	0	30	0	10	0	10
Jefferson	282	12	18	1	31	2	14	0	16	8	14	9	31	0	0	1	1
Juneau	145	37	77	0	114	2	33	0	35	7	3	0	10	0	4	0	4
Kenosha	1,145	242	636	21	899	36	240	1	277	26	106	1	133	0	21	0	21
Kewaunee	65	1	36	0	37	2	19	0	21	0	5	0	5	0	2	0	2
La Crosse	612	27	100	19	146	6	37	2	45	21	53	0	74	0	7	0	7
Lafayette	68	9	28	3	40	5	17	0	22	7	8	0	15	0	4	0	4
Langlade	213	30	143	3	176	2	27	0	29	3	18	0	21	0	1	0	1
Lincoln	173	51	84	0	135	8	26	0	34	0	23	0	23	0	3	0	3
Manitowoc	536	81	138	0	219	9	48	0	57	13	41	0	54	0	13	0	13
Marathon	795	42	50	8	100	4	38	2	44	13	52	1	66	0	0	0	0
Marinette	177	28	111	1	140	2	35	1	38	4	33	0	37	0	10	0	10
Marquette	62	6	35	0	41	0	11	0	11	0	14	0	14	0	2	0	2
Menominee	108	0	83	5	88	0	10	0	10	0	9	0	9	0	4	0	4
Milwaukee	9,923	372	6,978	147	7,497	184	2,627	25	2,836	191	900	18	1,109	0	183	2	185
Monroe	237	25	128	2	155	5	82	0	87	10	48	0	58	0	8	0	8
Oconto	228	25	171	1	197	6	46	0	52	3	18	0	21	0	10	0	10
Oneida	237	41	139	10	190	2	40	6	48	3	20	1	24	0	4	0	4

Appendix I

**Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and
Maltreatment Finding, by County * ^ ~
2023**

County	Total CPS Reports	Neglect				Physical Abuse				Sexual Abuse				Emotional Abuse			
		Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total
Outagamie	1,271	33	119	78	230	6	56	13	75	18	115	11	144	0	8	2	10
Ozaukee	160	35	74	0	109	4	36	0	40	6	21	6	33	0	6	0	6
Pepin	28	0	21	0	21	0	6	0	6	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0
Pierce	200	12	50	0	62	3	23	0	26	0	11	0	11	0	0	0	0
Polk	360	20	218	28	266	7	56	3	66	1	50	2	53	0	11	0	11
Portage	311	75	148	6	229	7	55	0	62	10	25	0	35	6	27	0	33
Price	42	2	18	0	20	1	13	0	14	3	6	0	9	1	7	0	8
Racine	1,427	154	732	165	1,051	41	401	75	517	37	147	59	243	0	75	10	85
Richland	112	10	47	0	57	1	33	0	34	5	27	0	32	0	1	0	1
Rock	861	72	592	4	668	10	217	1	228	17	88	2	107	3	5	0	8
Rusk	92	20	33	0	53	5	17	0	22	1	12	0	13	1	11	0	12
Saint Croix	473	30	352	3	385	4	76	0	80	15	40	2	57	0	2	0	2
Sauk	302	24	55	8	87	3	48	2	53	9	35	2	46	0	13	0	13
Sawyer	114	4	59	8	71	3	21	3	27	7	14	1	22	0	4	0	4
Shawano	240	13	147	1	161	4	64	0	68	3	24	0	27	0	1	0	1
Sheboygan	458	19	255	2	276	9	109	0	118	12	36	1	49	0	48	0	48
Taylor	124	23	60	0	83	4	34	0	38	6	13	0	19	1	8	0	9
Trempealeau	114	7	68	0	75	1	14	0	15	3	12	3	18	0	8	0	8
Vernon	149	4	66	0	70	6	47	0	53	3	14	1	18	0	21	0	21
Vilas	79	18	31	3	52	1	20	0	21	1	11	0	12	0	4	0	4
Walworth	200	28	113	7	148	1	54	3	58	10	20	1	31	0	7	0	7
Washburn	96	22	50	4	76	4	13	0	17	5	6	1	12	0	0	0	0

Appendix I

**Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and
Maltreatment Finding, by County * ^ ~
2023**

County	Total CPS Reports	Neglect				Physical Abuse				Sexual Abuse				Emotional Abuse			
		Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total	Sub.	Unsub.	Not Able to Locate	Total
Washington	223	13	106	0	119	6	84	0	90	3	31	1	35	0	12	0	12
Waukesha	438	41	240	12	293	14	115	7	136	14	60	5	79	0	10	0	10
Waupaca	395	24	231	5	260	1	96	6	103	11	48	3	62	1	22	3	26
Waushara	164	39	112	0	151	4	51	0	55	5	20	0	25	0	0	0	0
Winnebago	1,170	49	127	2	178	13	105	0	118	19	115	0	134	0	1	0	1
Wood	296	42	147	0	189	6	51	0	57	12	76	2	90	0	1	0	1
State Total	**33,051**	**2,636**	**16,761**	**709**	**20,106**	**596**	**6,667**	**176**	**7,439**	**753**	**3,343**	**166**	**4,262**	**15**	**774**	**19**	**808**

* The sum of the totals of each type of allegation may exceed the total number of reports because there may be more than one allegation per report.

^ Alternative response assessment determinations were not included in these counts.

 ~ 'Sub.' represents substantiated maltreatment and 'Unsub.' represents unsubstantiated maltreatment. 'Not able to locate' counts are instances where a determination was incomplete as critical sources were unavailable for interview and it was impossible to make a finding.

Appendix J

County Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by
Maltreatment Type *
2023

County	Neglect Substantiation Percent	Physical Abuse Substantiation Percent	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Percent	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Percent	Total County Substantiation Percent
Adams	11.3%	0.0%	10.3%	0.0%	8.7%
Ashland	51.9%	36.4%	16.7%	0.0%	37.3%
Barron	20.8%	25.0%	5.7%	0.0%	15.8%
Bayfield	17.9%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	13.4%
Brown	14.1%	13.5%	15.4%	0.0%	13.9%
Buffalo	35.5%	6.3%	50.0%	0.0%	30.6%
Burnett	22.6%	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%	19.0%
Calumet	22.1%	6.8%	5.6%	0.0%	15.4%
Chippewa	16.6%	13.0%	20.6%	0.0%	15.4%
Clark	31.4%	35.3%	11.5%	0.0%	27.0%
Columbia	8.3%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%
Crawford	16.5%	6.7%	8.3%	0.0%	12.6%
Dane	17.5%	5.4%	25.3%	0.0%	16.0%
Dodge	23.7%	17.8%	14.3%	0.0%	19.1%
Door	14.3%	0.0%	4.8%	10.0%	9.8%
Douglas	2.4%	0.9%	4.3%	0.0%	2.2%
Dunn	22.6%	26.0%	12.5%	0.0%	21.2%
Eau Claire	27.4%	5.8%	28.3%	6.3%	22.2%
Florence	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fond Du Lac	16.9%	9.0%	30.6%	0.0%	16.9%
Forest	8.3%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	12.5%
Grant	32.6%	8.2%	18.0%	0.0%	22.3%
Green	13.8%	3.9%	6.7%	0.0%	10.0%
Green Lake	34.1%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	23.8%
Iowa	8.0%	12.1%	14.3%	0.0%	10.4%
Iron	36.8%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	30.0%
Jackson	21.2%	14.3%	20.0%	0.0%	19.1%
Jefferson	38.7%	12.5%	25.8%	0.0%	27.8%
Juneau	32.5%	5.7%	70.0%	0.0%	28.2%
Kenosha	26.9%	13.0%	19.5%	0.0%	22.9%
Kewaunee	2.7%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%
La Crosse	18.5%	13.3%	28.4%	0.0%	19.9%

Appendix J

County Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by
Maltreatment Type *
2023

County	Neglect Substantiation Percent	Physical Abuse Substantiation Percent	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Percent	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Percent	Total County Substantiation Percent
Lafayette	22.5%	22.7%	46.7%	0.0%	25.9%
Langlade	17.0%	6.9%	14.3%	0.0%	15.4%
Lincoln	37.8%	23.5%	0.0%	0.0%	30.3%
Manitowoc	37.0%	15.8%	24.1%	0.0%	30.0%
Marathon	42.0%	9.1%	19.7%	0.0%	28.1%
Marinette	20.0%	5.3%	10.8%	0.0%	15.1%
Marquette	14.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%
Menominee	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Milwaukee	5.0%	6.5%	17.2%	0.0%	6.4%
Monroe	16.1%	5.7%	17.2%	0.0%	13.0%
Oconto	12.7%	11.5%	14.3%	0.0%	12.1%
Oneida	21.6%	4.2%	12.5%	0.0%	17.3%
Outagamie	14.3%	8.0%	12.5%	0.0%	12.4%
Ozaukee	32.1%	10.0%	18.2%	0.0%	23.9%
Pepin	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	3.2%
Pierce	19.4%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	15.2%
Polk	7.5%	10.6%	1.9%	0.0%	7.1%
Portage	32.8%	11.3%	28.6%	18.2%	27.3%
Price	10.0%	7.1%	33.3%	12.5%	13.7%
Racine	14.7%	7.9%	15.2%	0.0%	12.2%
Richland	17.5%	2.9%	15.6%	0.0%	12.9%
Rock	10.8%	4.4%	15.9%	37.5%	10.1%
Rusk	37.7%	22.7%	7.7%	8.3%	27.0%
Saint Croix	7.8%	5.0%	26.3%	0.0%	9.4%
Sauk	27.6%	5.7%	19.6%	0.0%	18.1%
Sawyer	5.6%	11.1%	31.8%	0.0%	11.3%
Shawano	8.1%	5.9%	11.1%	0.0%	7.8%
Sheboygan	6.9%	7.6%	24.5%	0.0%	8.1%
Taylor	27.7%	10.5%	31.6%	11.1%	22.8%
Trempealeau	9.3%	6.7%	16.7%	0.0%	9.5%
Vernon	5.7%	11.3%	16.7%	0.0%	8.0%
Vilas	34.6%	4.8%	8.3%	0.0%	22.5%

Appendix J

**County Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by
Maltreatment Type ***
2023

County	Neglect Substantiation Percent	Physical Abuse Substantiation Percent	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Percent	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Percent	Total County Substantiation Percent
Walworth	18.9%	1.7%	32.3%	0.0%	16.0%
Washburn	28.9%	23.5%	41.7%	0.0%	29.5%
Washington	10.9%	6.7%	8.6%	0.0%	8.6%
Waukesha	14.0%	10.3%	17.7%	0.0%	13.3%
Waupaca	9.2%	1.0%	17.7%	3.8%	8.2%
Waushara	25.8%	7.3%	20.0%	0.0%	20.8%
Winnebago	27.5%	11.0%	14.2%	0.0%	18.8%
Wood	22.2%	10.5%	13.3%	0.0%	17.8%
State Total	**13.1%**	**8.0%**	**17.7%**	**1.9%**	**12.3%**

Appendix K

Count and Percentage of CPS Initial Assessments by Maltreater Relationship, by County *
2023

County	Total CPS Initial Assessments	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessment Percent	Secondary and Non-Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Secondary and Non-Caregiver CPS Initial Assessment Percent
Adams	76	74	97.4%	2	2.6%
Ashland	45	35	77.8%	10	22.2%
Barron	215	208	96.7%	7	3.3%
Bayfield	35	34	97.1%	1	2.9%
Brown	1,151	1,053	91.5%	98	8.5%
Buffalo	37	33	89.2%	4	10.8%
Burnett	77	75	97.4%	2	2.6%
Calumet	78	76	97.4%	2	2.6%
Chippewa	161	152	94.4%	9	5.6%
Clark	72	69	95.8%	3	4.2%
Columbia	131	127	96.9%	4	3.1%
Crawford	68	64	94.1%	4	5.9%
Dane	833	758	91.0%	75	9.0%
Dodge	177	170	96.0%	7	4.0%
Door	92	82	89.1%	10	10.9%
Douglas	346	338	97.7%	8	2.3%
Dunn	122	115	94.3%	7	5.7%
Eau Claire	320	300	93.8%	20	6.3%
Florence	9	8	88.9%	1	11.1%
Fond Du Lac	391	368	94.1%	23	5.9%
Forest	7	5	71.4%	2	28.6%
Grant	153	140	91.5%	13	8.5%
Green	151	147	97.4%	4	2.6%
Green Lake	54	53	98.1%	1	1.9%
Iowa	53	49	92.5%	4	7.5%
Iron	20	19	95.0%	1	5.0%
Jackson	165	155	93.9%	10	6.1%
Jefferson	196	186	94.9%	10	5.1%
Juneau	92	89	96.7%	3	3.3%
Kenosha	664	629	94.7%	35	5.3%
Kewaunee	54	54	100.0%	0	0.0%
La Crosse	383	364	95.0%	19	5.0%
Lafayette	39	34	87.2%	5	12.8%
Langlade	128	122	95.3%	6	4.7%

Appendix K

Count and Percentage of CPS Initial Assessments by Maltreater Relationship, by County *
2023

County	Total CPS Initial Assessments	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessment Percent	Secondary and Non-Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Secondary and Non-Caregiver CPS Initial Assessment Percent
Lincoln	100	98	98.0%	2	2.0%
Manitowoc	333	309	92.8%	24	7.2%
Marathon	481	447	92.9%	34	7.1%
Marinette	99	95	96.0%	4	4.0%
Marquette	37	37	100.0%	0	0.0%
Menominee	54	47	87.0%	7	13.0%
Milwaukee	6,010	5,552	92.4%	458	7.6%
Monroe	165	154	93.3%	11	6.7%
Oconto	120	119	99.2%	1	0.8%
Oneida	142	139	97.9%	2	1.4%
Outagamie	753	693	92.0%	60	8.0%
Ozaukee	120	107	89.2%	13	10.8%
Pepin	15	14	93.3%	1	6.7%
Pierce	121	116	95.9%	5	4.1%
Polk	210	198	94.3%	12	5.7%
Portage	184	180	97.8%	4	2.2%
Price	32	29	90.6%	3	9.4%
Racine	807	731	90.6%	76	9.4%
Richland	71	65	91.5%	6	8.5%
Rock	488	460	94.3%	28	5.7%
Rusk	48	46	95.8%	2	4.2%
Saint Croix	298	283	95.0%	15	5.0%
Sauk	198	169	85.4%	29	14.6%
Sawyer	70	67	95.7%	3	4.3%
Shawano	170	169	99.4%	1	0.6%
Sheboygan	298	285	95.6%	13	4.4%
Taylor	77	76	98.7%	1	1.3%
Trempealeau	69	65	94.2%	4	5.8%
Vernon	94	90	95.7%	4	4.3%
Vilas	52	51	98.1%	1	1.9%
Walworth	126	117	92.9%	9	7.1%
Washburn	72	65	90.3%	7	9.7%
Washington	143	136	95.1%	7	4.9%
Waukesha	304	265	87.2%	39	12.8%

Appendix K

Count and Percentage of CPS Initial Assessments by Maltreater Relationship, by County *
2023

County	Total CPS Initial Assessments	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessment Percent	Secondary and Non-Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Secondary and Non-Caregiver CPS Initial Assessment Percent
Waupaca	244	221	90.6%	23	9.4%
Waushara	97	94	96.9%	3	3.1%
Winnebago	717	659	91.9%	58	8.1%
Wood	192	174	90.6%	18	9.4%
State Total	**20,198**	**18,800**	**93.1%**	**1,397**	**6.9%**

* 'Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments (IA)' includes the following types of IAs: IA Primary, IA Narrative and IA Primary – Alternative Response (AR).

Appendix L

Safety Assessment Results in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments, by County *
2023

County	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Number of 'Safe' Safety Decisions	Number of 'Unsafe' Safety Decisions	Percent of Safety Decisions found to be 'Unsafe'
Adams	74	70	4	5.4%
Ashland	35	28	7	20.0%
Barron	208	165	43	20.7%
Bayfield	34	32	2	5.9%
Brown	1,053	969	84	8.0%
Buffalo	33	27	6	18.2%
Burnett	75	66	9	12.0%
Calumet	76	66	10	13.2%
Chippewa	152	127	25	16.4%
Clark	69	51	18	26.1%
Columbia	127	109	18	14.2%
Crawford	64	50	14	21.9%
Dane	758	700	58	7.7%
Dodge	170	144	26	15.3%
Door	82	72	10	12.2%
Douglas	338	308	30	8.9%
Dunn	115	91	24	20.9%
Eau Claire	300	251	49	16.3%
Florence	8	7	1	12.5%
Fond Du Lac	368	317	51	13.9%
Forest	5	5	0	0.0%
Grant	140	122	18	12.9%
Green	147	132	15	10.2%
Green Lake	53	49	4	7.5%
Iowa	49	46	3	6.1%
Iron	19	17	2	10.5%
Jackson	155	128	27	17.4%
Jefferson	186	156	30	16.1%
Juneau	89	65	24	27.0%
Kenosha	189	174	15	7.9%
Kewaunee	54	42	12	22.2%
La Crosse	364	316	48	13.2%
Lafayette	34	30	4	11.8%
Langlade	122	92	30	24.6%

Appendix L

Safety Assessment Results in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments, by County *
2023

County	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Number of 'Safe' Safety Decisions	Number of 'Unsafe' Safety Decisions	Percent of Safety Decisions found to be 'Unsafe'
Lincoln	98	61	37	37.8%
Manitowoc	309	245	64	20.7%
Marathon	447	408	39	8.7%
Marinette	95	81	14	14.7%
Marquette	37	33	4	10.8%
Menominee	47	46	1	2.1%
Milwaukee	5,552	5,135	417	7.5%
Monroe	154	137	17	11.0%
Oconto	119	92	27	22.7%
Oneida	139	102	37	26.6%
Outagamie	693	626	67	9.7%
Ozaukee	107	85	22	20.6%
Pepin	14	14	0	0.0%
Pierce	116	95	21	18.1%
Polk	198	183	15	7.6%
Portage	180	138	42	23.3%
Price	29	23	6	20.7%
Racine	730	671	59	8.1%
Richland	65	60	5	7.7%
Rock	460	420	40	8.7%
Rusk	46	41	5	10.9%
Saint Croix	283	242	41	14.5%
Sauk	169	144	25	14.8%
Sawyer	67	62	5	7.5%
Shawano	169	157	12	7.1%
Sheboygan	285	231	54	18.9%
Taylor	76	57	19	25.0%
Trempealeau	65	53	12	18.5%
Vernon	90	73	17	18.9%
Vilas	51	41	10	19.6%
Walworth	117	93	24	20.5%
Washburn	65	52	13	20.0%
Washington	136	114	22	16.2%
Waukesha	215	194	21	9.8%

Appendix L

Safety Assessment Results in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments, by County *
2023

County	Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments	Number of 'Safe' Safety Decisions	Number of 'Unsafe' Safety Decisions	Percent of Safety Decisions found to be 'Unsafe'
Waupaca	221	206	15	6.8%
Waushara	94	84	10	10.6%
Winnebago	659	618	41	6.2%
Wood	174	141	33	19.0%
State Total	**18,309**	**16,277**	**2,032**	**11.1%**

*Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments (IA) includes the following types: IA Primary, IA Narrative and IA Primary – Alternative Response (AR).

The total count includes only the IA's that are documented with a safety decision in eWiSACWIS system.

Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2023

Appendix M - Where to Report Child Maltreatment

To report a case of child abuse or neglect, please contact the county or tribe where the child or child's family lives. If the agency is not known, contact the closest county. The following website lists the county departments of health and human services or social services that receive and assess child maltreatment reports. Such reports may also be made to law enforcement agencies.

Please also refer to https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/reportabuse