



## **Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report**

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2024  
to the Governor and Legislature  
Wis. Stat. s. 48.47(8)

Annual reports can be found at  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/reports>

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

# Table of Contents

## Letter from the Administrator

<b>Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Structure of Child Protective Services in Wisconsin .....	1.2
Child Abuse and Neglect Definitions .....	1.2
Overview of the Child Protective Services Process .....	1.4
Key Terms.....	1.5
<b>Child Protective Services Process.....</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Child Protective Services - Access.....	2.1
Child Protective Services - Initial Assessment.....	2.3
<b>Reporters.....</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Reporter's Relationship to Alleged Child Victim .....	3.1
Reporter's Allegations and Subsequent Findings .....	3.4
<b>Victims.....</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Characteristics of Maltreated Children.....	4.1
Gender .....	4.1
Age .....	4.2
Race and Ethnicity .....	4.5
Abusive Head Trauma and Impacted Babies .....	4.6
Fatalities .....	4.6
Profile of Child Fatalities due to Substantiated Maltreatment .....	4.8
<b>Maltreaters.....</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Characteristics of Maltreaters.....	5.1
Gender.....	5.1
Age.....	5.2
Race and Ethnicity .....	5.2
Substantiated Allegations .....	5.3
Relationship to Victim.....	5.4
<b>Services to Families.....</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Safety Decisions and Services.....	6.1
CPS Removals of Children to an Out-of-Home Placement .....	6.3
Initial Assessment Disposition.....	6.6
<b>Federal Performance Standards.....</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Adoptions.....</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Recommendations for Additional Legislation and Other Actions.....</b>	<b>9.1</b>

# Table of Contents

## Appendix A

Child Maltreatment Related Statutes .....	10.1
---	------

## Appendix B

Unborn Child Abuse .....	11.1
--------------------------	------

## Appendix C

An Overview of the CPS Process .....	12.1
--------------------------------------	------

## Appendix D

Data Collection and Interpretation .....	13.1
--	------

## Appendix E

Total CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions by County .....	14.1
---	------

## Appendix F

CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County .....	15.1
--	------

## Appendix G

County Maltreatment Substantiation Rates .....	16.1
--	------

## Appendix H

Child Victimization Rate by County .....	17.1
--	------

## Appendix I

Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and Maltreatment Finding by County .....	18.1
--	------

## Appendix J

County Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by Maltreatment Type .....	19.1
---	------

## Appendix K

Count and Percentage of CPS Initial Assessments by Maltreater Relationship by County .....	20.1
--	------

## Appendix L

Safety Assessment Results in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments by County .....	21.1
--	------

## Appendix M

Where to Report Child Maltreatment .....	22.1
--	------

## 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 partners 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 6.2 percent from 20,923 in 2023 to 19,621 in 2024. 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 2024, substantiations of neglect have decreased by 6.2 percent since last year. While this decrease was 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 0.6 percent since 2023, from 2,184 children to 2,170 in 2024.
- In 2024, 3,733 children were served by Targeted Safety Support Funds (TSSF). 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 2024, county child protective services (CPS) agencies and the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) received a total of 70,797 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 19,621, or 27.7 percent, of these referrals. These screened-in referrals could involve multiple children within each referral and together they accounted for 19,005 CPS initial assessments with families. At the child level, there were 31,157 CPS maltreatment referrals involving 26,951 alleged child victims across 16,537 cases and 35,854 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 2024, followed by physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. Of the 30,411 CPS traditional maltreatment allegations, 3,820 were substantiated allegations of maltreatment, representing 12.6 percent of the total. The maltreatment allegation type accounting for the most substantiated findings during calendar year 2024 was neglect.

### Child Victims

There were 3,429 unique child victims of maltreatment in 2024. A child is a victim if they had at least one substantiated maltreatment finding at the conclusion of a CPS initial assessment. This represents 2.7 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 2024, 19 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 85.2 percent of the substantiated maltreatment.

### CPS Services

Of the families involved in CPS initial assessments during calendar year 2024, 13.7 percent of families received services from the CPS agency and 9.5 percent were referred by the CPS agency to a community resource. During 2024, 2,170 children were removed from their family home and placed in an out-of-home placement within 60 days of a 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 partners, 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 2024 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.

**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."

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

**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 2024, CPS agencies received a total of 70,797 referrals; 51,176 of these were screened-out and 19,621 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 2024. Appendix E also shows screening decisions made on non-CPS reports (service referrals) by county.

**Table 1**

**Total Wisconsin CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions  
2024**

Number of Referrals	Screened-out Referrals	Percent Screened-out	Screened-in Referrals	Percent Screened-in
70,797	51,176	72.3%	19,621	27.7%

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 (19,621) is smaller than the number of CPS maltreatment reports (31,157) 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 2024. Approximately 24.9 out of 1,000 Wisconsin children were involved in a report of alleged maltreatment in 2024. Appendix F lists the total number of CPS reports and CPS reports per 1,000 children by county during 2024.

**Table 2**

**CPS Maltreatment Reports per 1,000 Wisconsin Children \* ^  
2024**

Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Screened-in Referrals	Unique CPS Maltreatment Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Children
1,249,129	19,621	31,157	24.9

\* There are 26,951 unique children included in these 31,157 CPS maltreatment reports. The identification of CPS reports by child population is based on the total number of CPS reports.

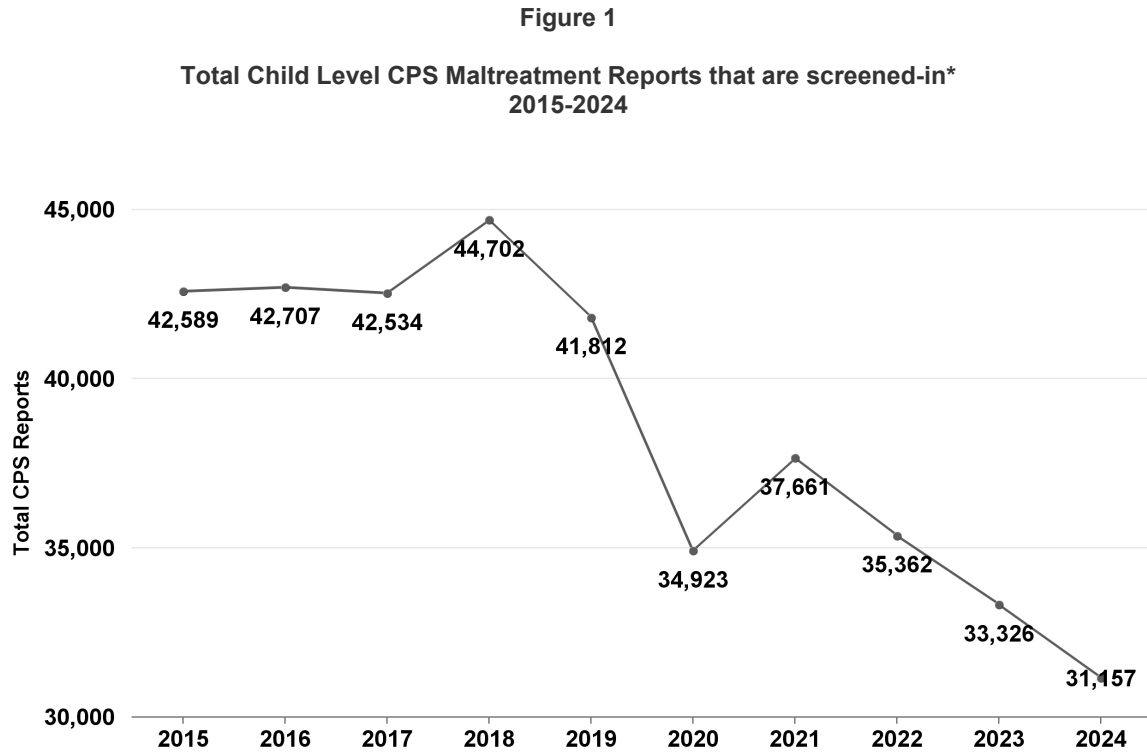
^ Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 Easy Access Population Profile: <https://ojjdp.gov/>

Per capita measures in the 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator.

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

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Below, Figure 1 displays the total number of CPS maltreatment reports received by CPS agencies from 2015 through 2024. The number of CPS maltreatment reports has fluctuated between 31,157 and 44,702 reports over this time period. Overall, there was a 26.8 percent decline in CPS maltreatment reports over the past ten years.



\* 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.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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.

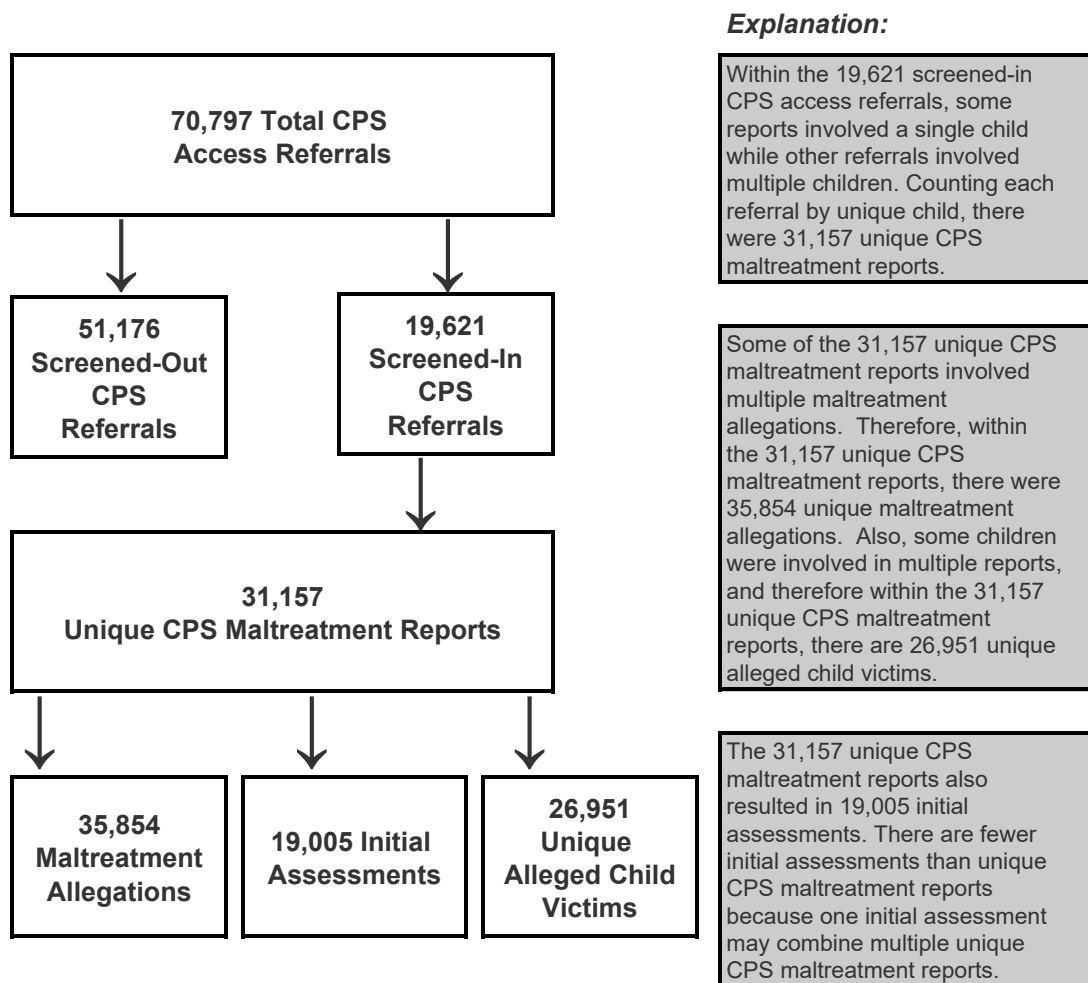
### **CPS Report:**

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**  
**2024**



As seen in Figure 2, the number of CPS initial assessments (19,005) is lower than the number of unique CPS maltreatment reports (31,157) 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 (35,854) than children listed in maltreatment reports (26,951) and CPS initial assessments (19,005) 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.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Table 3, below, shows the statewide maltreatment substantiation rate for calendar year 2024 was 12.6 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 2024 by the total number of traditional response maltreatment allegations. Appendix G shows the substantiation rate by county for 2024.

**Table 3**

### Wisconsin Maltreatment Substantiation Rate 2024

Unique CPS Maltreatment Reports	Number of Maltreatment Allegations *	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
31,157	30,411	3,820	12.6%

\* The total number of maltreatment findings presented does not include the 5,443 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 2024. 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 3,429 substantiated child victims, 347 children were victims of two or more substantiated instances of maltreatment. Appendix H shows the child victimization rate for calendar year 2024 by county.

**Table 4**

### Wisconsin Unique Child Victimization of Substantiated Maltreatment Rate \*

2024

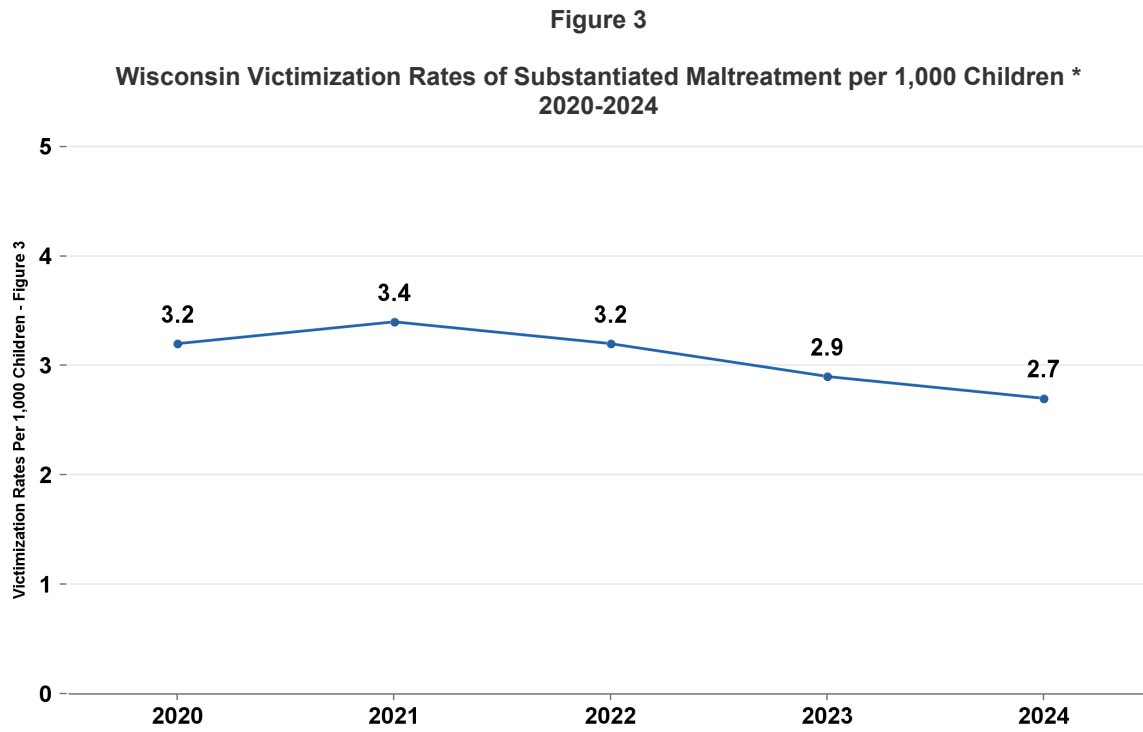
Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Unique Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Children
1,249,129	3,429	2.7

\* Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 Easy Access Population Profile: <https://ojjdp.gov>

Per capita measures in the 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 2.7 children maltreated per 1,000 children, and a high of 3.4 children maltreated per 1,000 children.



\* 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.



## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Figure 4, below, depicts the maltreatment substantiation rates in Wisconsin from 2015 through 2024. 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 Iron (0 percent) to Pierce (43.4 percent).

**Figure 4**

### Wisconsin Maltreatment Substantiation Rates 2015-2024

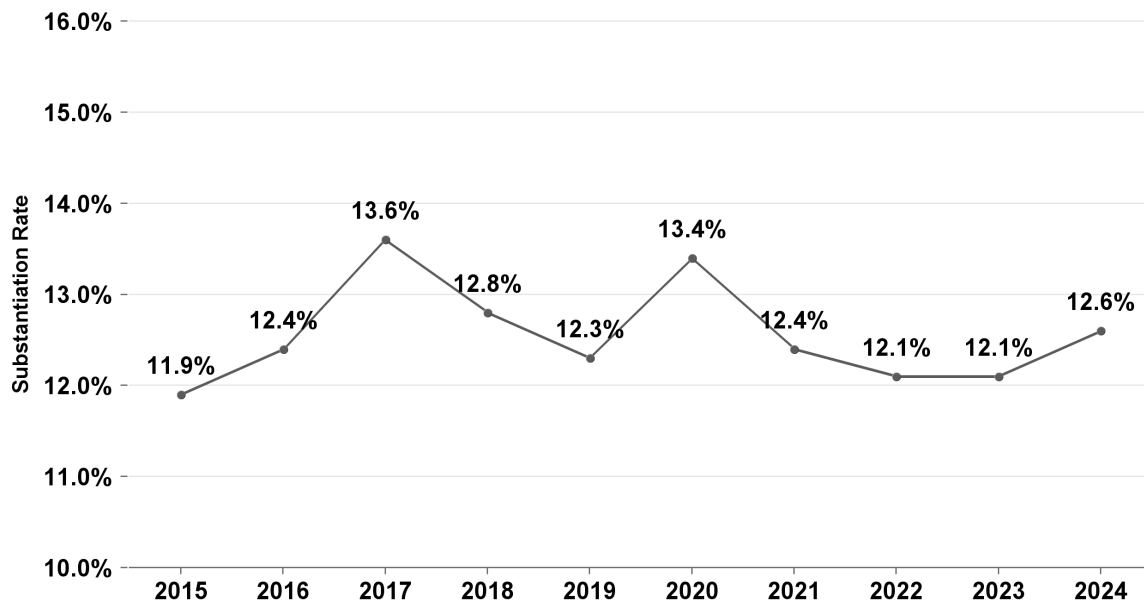


Table 5, below, examines maltreatment allegations by maltreatment type (neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse) and maltreatment finding for 2024. For specific allegations of maltreatment, the maltreatment finding may be substantiated, unsubstantiated, or not able to locate sources 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 \*

2024

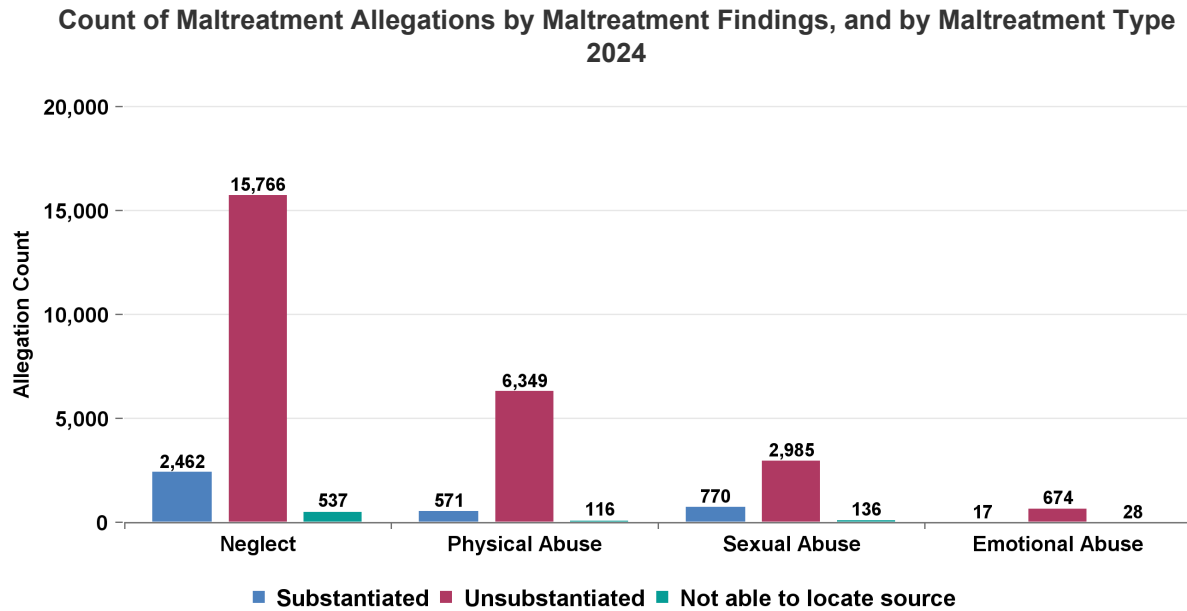
Maltreatment Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Not able to locate source	Total
Neglect	2,462	15,766	537	18,765
Physical Abuse	571	6,349	116	7,036
Sexual Abuse	770	2,985	136	3,891
Emotional Damage/Abuse	17	674	28	719
Total	3,820	25,774	817	30,411

\* The total number of maltreatment findings presented above does not include the 5,443 maltreatment findings of 'services needed' and 'services not needed' associated with alternative response assessments.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

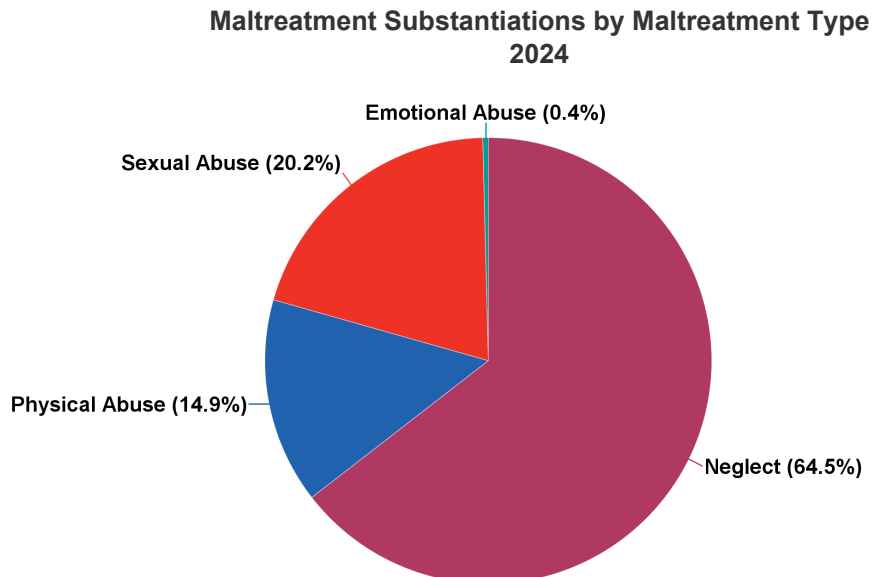
Figure 5, below, displays the maltreatment allegation findings from all CPS initial assessments by maltreatment type for calendar year 2024. The figure displays the maltreatment types with the most to least allegations from left to right. Thus, neglect is the most alleged type of maltreatment, followed 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**



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 20.2 percent and 14.9 percent of substantiations, respectively. Emotional abuse accounts for less than one percent of all substantiations.

**Figure 6**



## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 (571) by the total number of physical abuse allegations (7,036). Appendix J shows the substantiation percent within maltreatment type by county for 2024.

**Table 6**

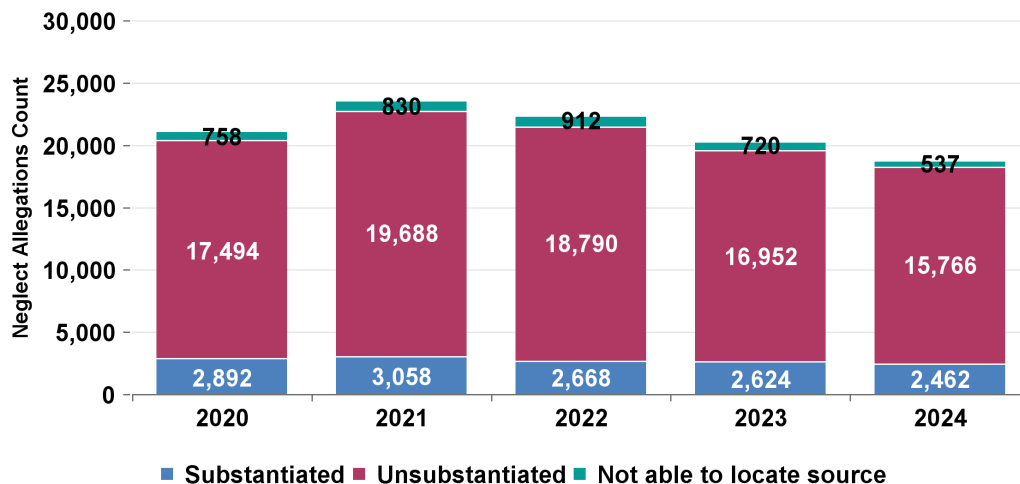
### Wisconsin Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by Maltreatment Type 2024

Neglect Substantiation Rate	Physical Abuse Substantiation Rate	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Rate	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Rate
13.1%	8.1%	19.8%	2.4%

Figure 7 through Figure 10, below, depict the maltreatment findings for each maltreatment type for 2020 through 2024. Overall, Figure 7 displays that neglect allegations decreased by 11.3 percent across this timespan, while neglect substantiations decreased by 14.9 percent. Please refer to Appendix D for further information regarding data interpretation.

**Figure 7**

### Neglect Allegation Findings \* 2020-2024



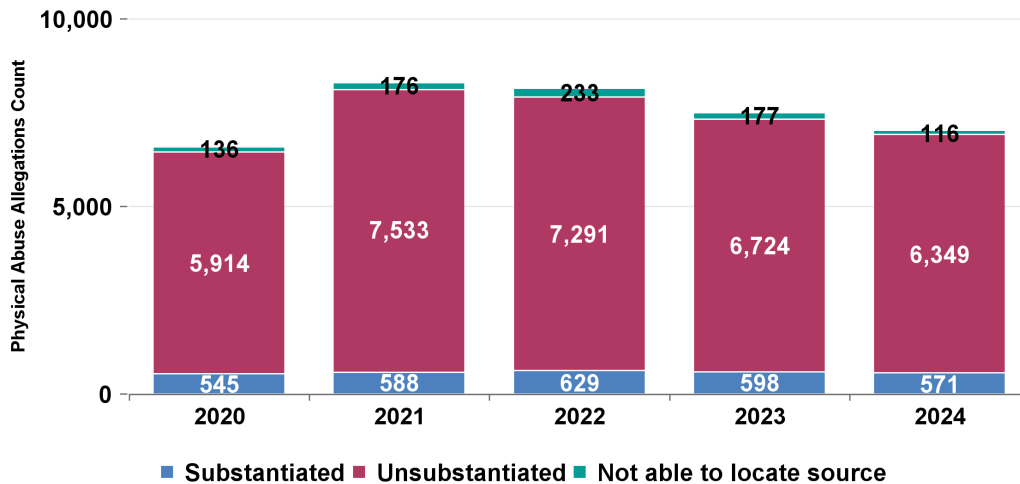
\* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Figure 8 shows the physical abuse allegation findings from 2020 through 2024. The number of physical abuse allegations increased by 6.7 percent, while over the same time period the physical abuse substantiations have increased by 4.8 percent.

Figure 8

### Physical Abuse Allegation Findings \* 2020-2024

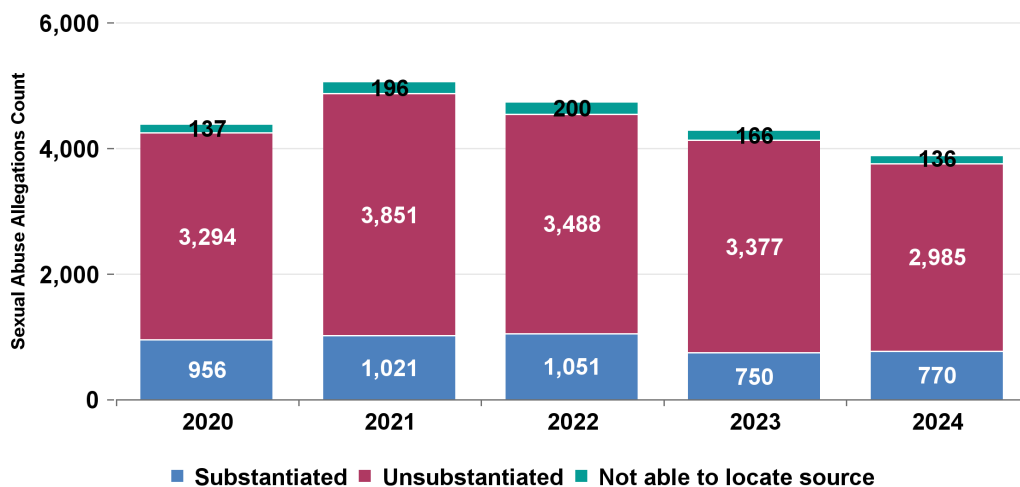


\* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

Figure 9 displays the sexual abuse allegation findings from 2020 through 2024. Over this timespan, sexual abuse allegations have decreased by 11.3 percent while sexual abuse substantiations have decreased by 19.5 percent overall.

Figure 9

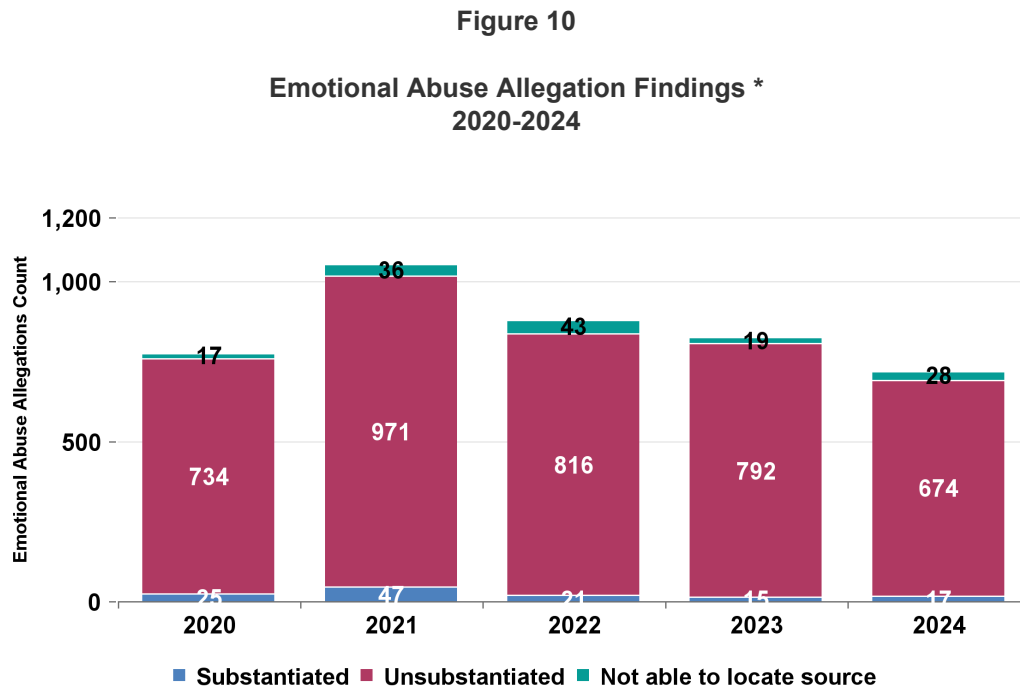
### Sexual Abuse Allegation Findings \* 2020-2024



\* 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.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Figure 10 displays the emotional abuse allegation findings from 2020 through 2024.



\* 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 2024.

### 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 2024. 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 2024

Reporter	Count of Referrals	Percent of Total Referrals
Legal / Law Enforcement	17,079	24.1%
Educational Personnel	14,664	20.7%
Social Service Professional	8,506	12.0%
Mental Health Professional	7,771	11.0%
Parent of Child Victim	5,701	8.1%
Medical Personnel	4,033	5.7%
Other	3,552	5.0%
Relative	3,122	4.4%
Anonymous	2,693	3.8%
Neighbor/Friend	2,007	2.8%
Child Care Provider	839	1.2%
Other Caregiver of Child Victim	486	0.7%
Child Victim	272	0.4%
Staff at Juvenile Corrections Facility	61	0.1%
Maltreater	11	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,797</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 (35,854) exceeds the total number of screened-in referrals (19,621) 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  
2024**

Mandated Reporter	Reporter Category	Maltreatment Allegation Type				
		Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	TOTAL
Yes	Legal / Law Enforcement	8,157	1,625	1,158	146	11,086
Yes	Educational Personnel	2,244	2,304	660	176	5,384
Yes	Social Service Professional	2,973	1,206	620	100	4,899
No	Parent of Child Victim	1,424	502	341	78	2,345
Yes	Mental Health Professional	1,007	614	523	104	2,248
No	Relative	1,669	344	126	63	2,202
No	Anonymous	1,524	284	100	54	1,962
No	Other	1,306	325	193	57	1,881
Yes	Medical Personnel	918	485	238	26	1,667
No	Neighbor/Friend	1,064	213	85	27	1,389
No	Other Caregiver of Child Victim	160	67	55	15	297
Yes	Child Care Provider	99	137	27	2	265
No	Child Victim	102	64	21	23	210
Yes	Staff at Juvenile Corrections Facility	1	5	5	0	11
No	Maltreater	7	1	0	0	8
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,655</b>	<b>8,176</b>	<b>4,152</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>35,854</b>

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

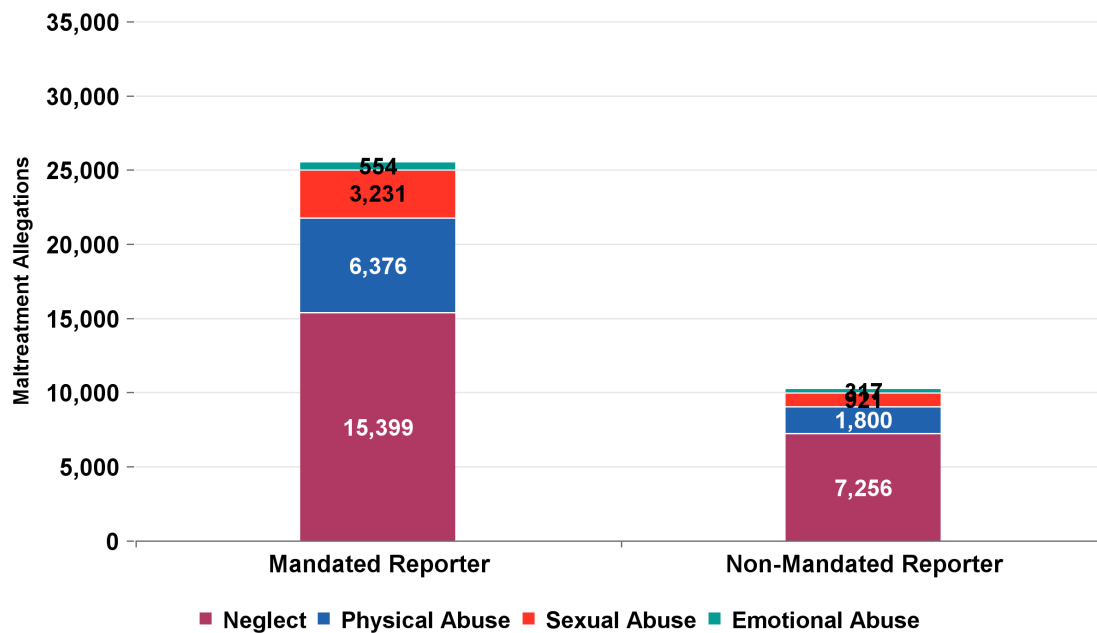
## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 25,560 maltreatment allegations in 2024 as compared to the 10,294 maltreatment allegations made by non-mandated reporters.

Figure 11

### Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and by Mandated and Non-Mandated Reporters 2024





## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

### Reporter's Allegations and Subsequent Findings

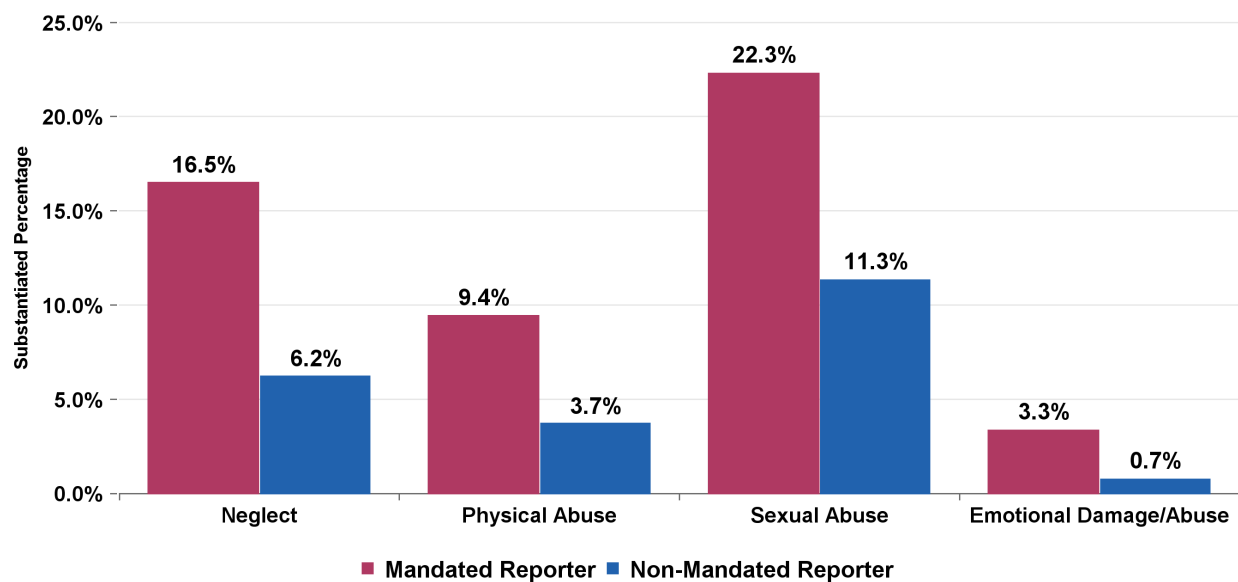
This section examines substantiated maltreatment allegations made by reporters during calendar year 2024.

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 2024



\* The total number of maltreatment findings presented above does not include the 5,443 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 3,429 victims of substantiated maltreatment in 2024.

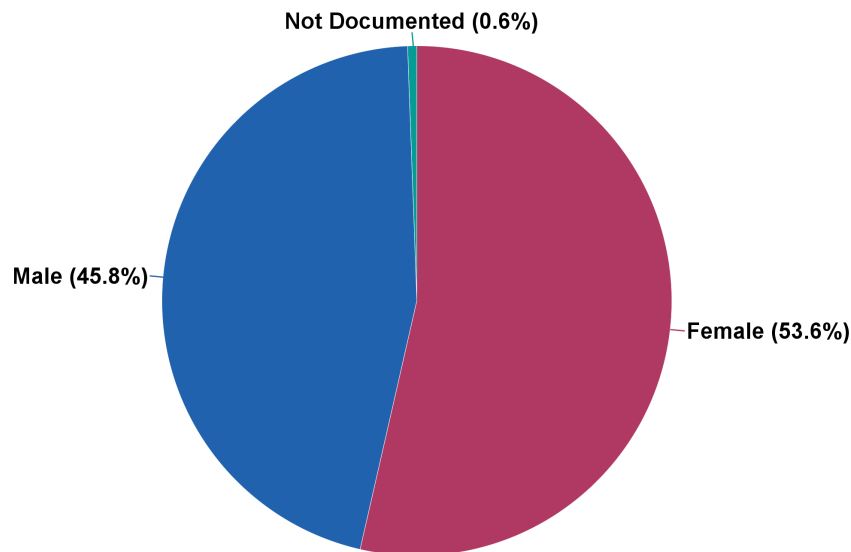
### Characteristics of Maltreated Children

#### Gender

Figure 13, below, displays the calendar year 2024 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 2024



## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Table 9, below, displays the child victimization rate by gender for calendar year 2024. The victimization rate by gender is calculated by dividing the number of unique female and male victims in 2024 by the respective Wisconsin female and male child population (ages 0-17). In 2024, females comprised a disproportionate share of the victims given their number in the Wisconsin child population.

Table 9

### Child Victimization Rate by Gender \*

2024

Gender	Child Population (0-17 Years Old)	Count of Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Children
Female	609,029	1,837	3
Male	640,100	1,572	2.5
Not Documented	N/A	20	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,249,129</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>2.7</b>

\* Population source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 Easy Access Population Profile: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/>

Per capita measures in the 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator.

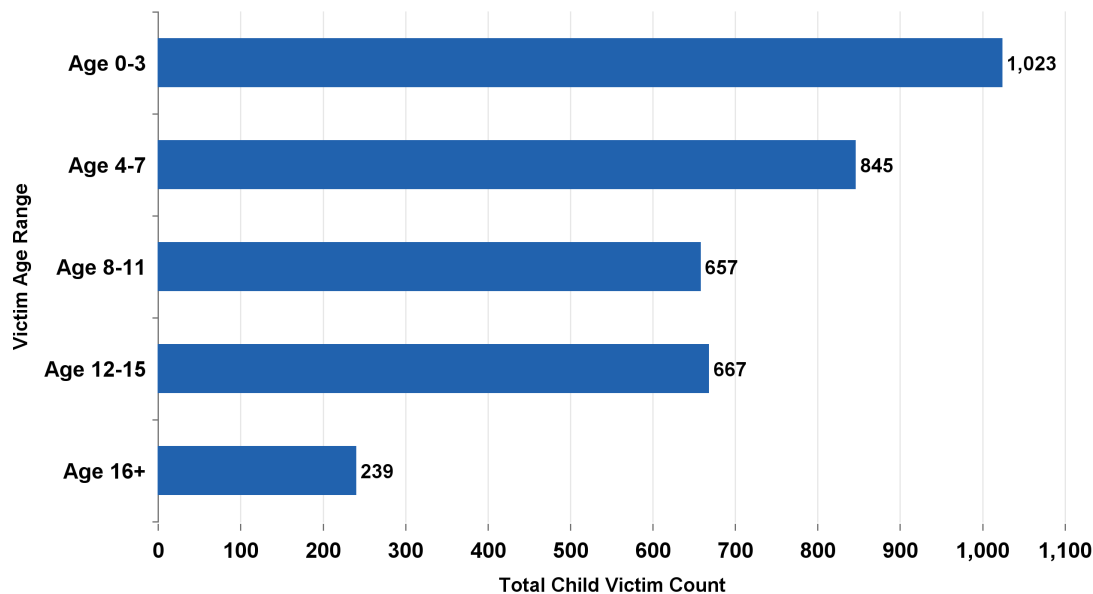
### Age

Figure 14, below, displays the count of victims by age range for calendar year 2024. In 2024, the 0-3 age group accounted for the largest number of victims and 54.5 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 \*

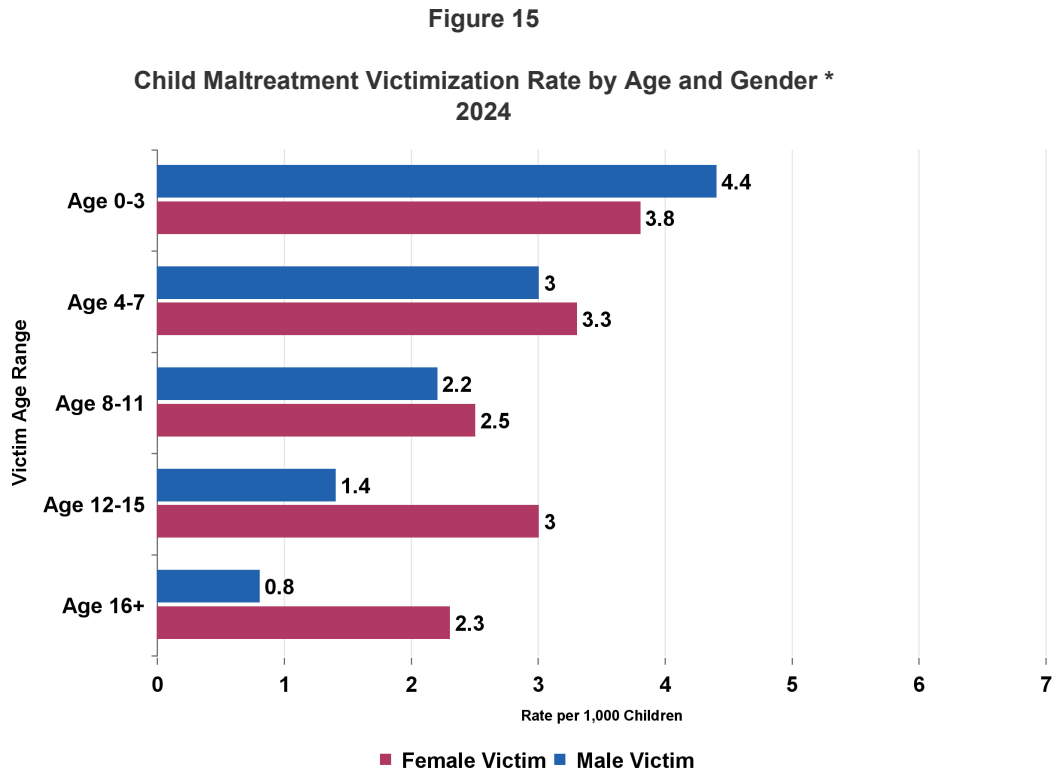
2024



\* 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.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Figure 15, below, displays the child maltreatment victimization rate by age and gender for calendar year 2024. This victimization rate is calculated by dividing the number of 2024 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 two age groups.



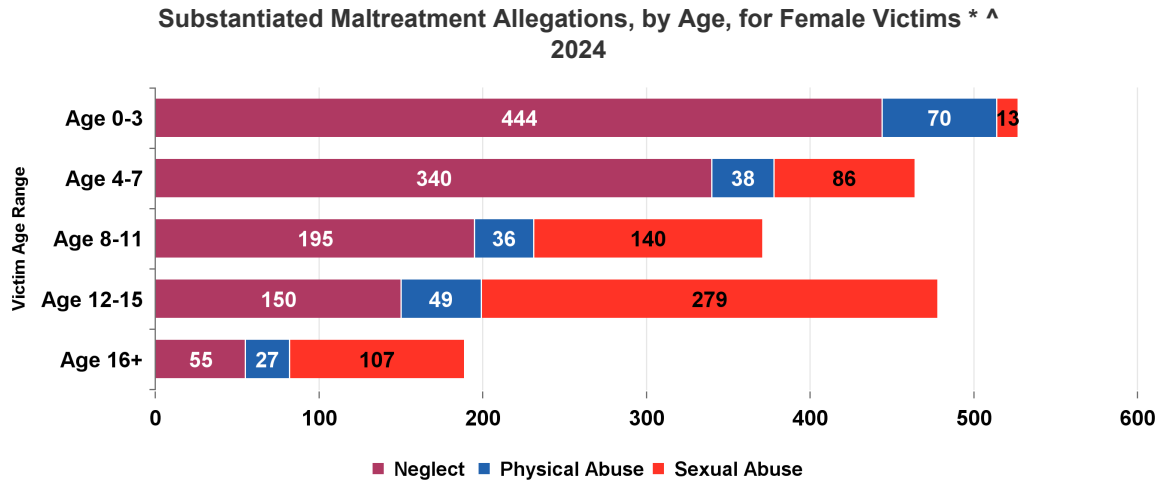
\* Population source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 Easy Access Population Profile: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/>

Per capita measures in the 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 1,837 female victims with documented ages experienced 2,038 maltreatment substantiations, while the 1,572 male victims with documented ages experienced 1,761 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.

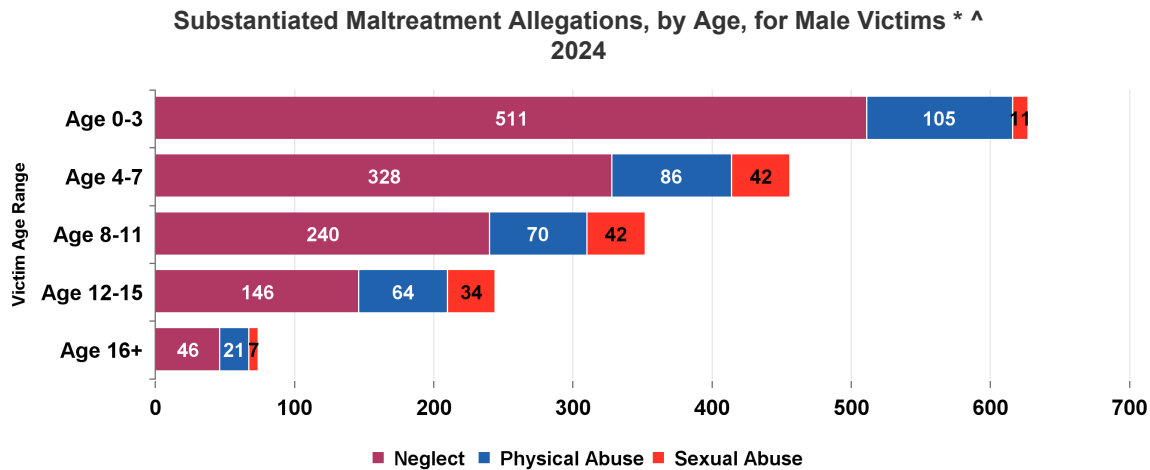
Figure 16



\* There were 9 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, 5 instance(s) in 12-15 year olds, and 0 instance(s) in 16+ year olds.

^ Figure 16 does not include the 21 maltreatment substantiations with undocumented gender and/or age values.

Figure 17



\* There were 8 instance(s) of substantiated emotional abuse allegations, made up of 0 instance(s) in <1-3 year olds, 3 instance(s) in 4-7 year olds, 2 instance(s) in 8-11 year olds, 3 instance(s) in 12-15 year olds, and 0 instance(s) in 16+ year olds.

^ Figure 17 does not include the 21 maltreatment substantiations with undocumented gender and/or age values.

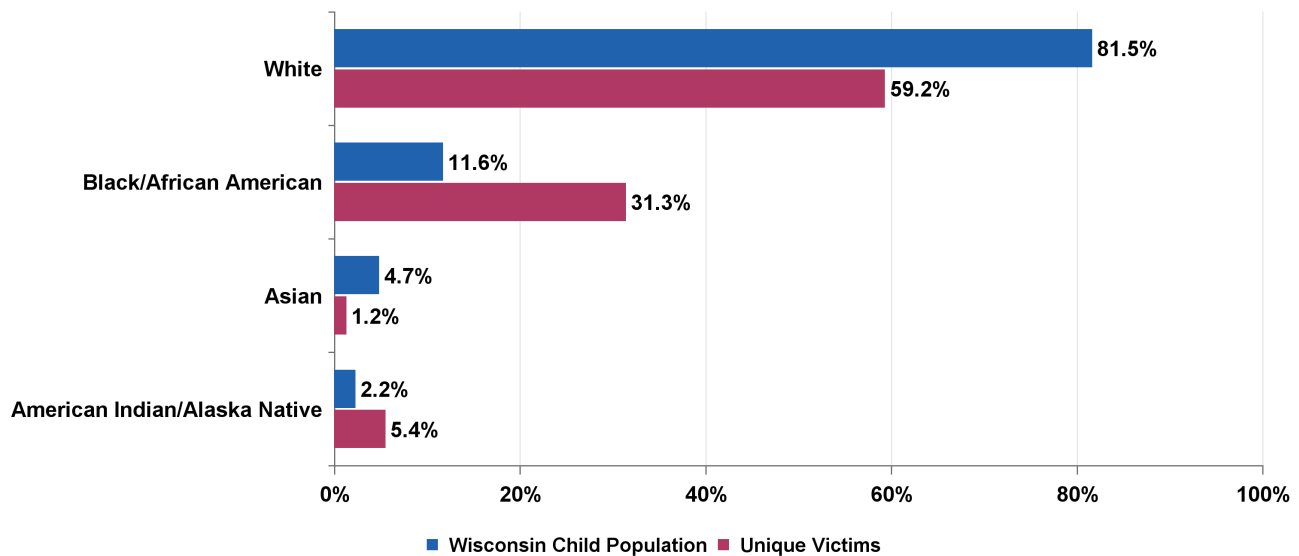
## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

### Race and Ethnicity

Figure 18, below, displays the percentage of unique victims by race for calendar year 2024, 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 \* ^ 2024



\* Population source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 Easy Access Population Profile: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/>

^ The 95 victims (2.8 percent) who are identified as 'unable to determine' or 'not documented' are not included in the chart above. Likewise the 4 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander victims are also not depicted above.

Per capita measures in the 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator

Of the 3,429 unique child maltreatment victims, 2,700 victims (78.7 percent) were identified as not Hispanic, 488 victims (14.2 percent) were identified as Hispanic, and for 241 victims (7 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.

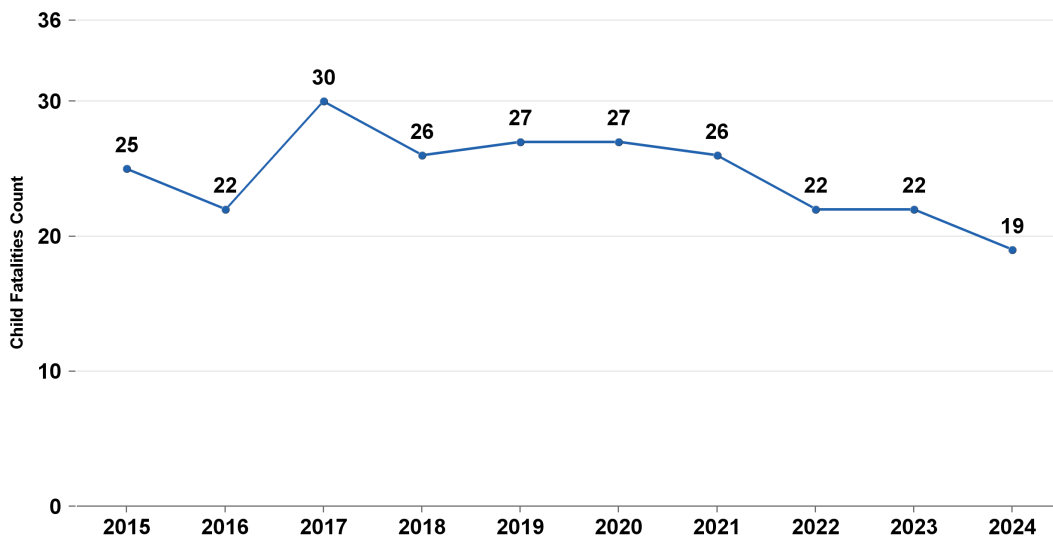
In 2024, there were 71 maltreatment allegations where one of the abusive head trauma and impacted baby related diagnoses was used to describe the maltreatment allegation for children ages 0 through 4 years. Of the 71 allegations made in 2024, 24 (33.8 percent) were found to be substantiated upon completion of the CPS initial assessment, representing 22 child victims. A total of 19 of the 24 substantiated allegations were for children under the age of one. Of all substantiated victims, 12 (54.5 percent) were male and 10 (45.5 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 2024, county CPS agencies and the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services reported 19 substantiated cases of a child having died from maltreatment. Figure 19, below, shows the count of child fatalities substantiated due to maltreatment from 2015 -2024.

Figure 19

Count of Child Fatalities Substantiated as Maltreatment  
2015-2024

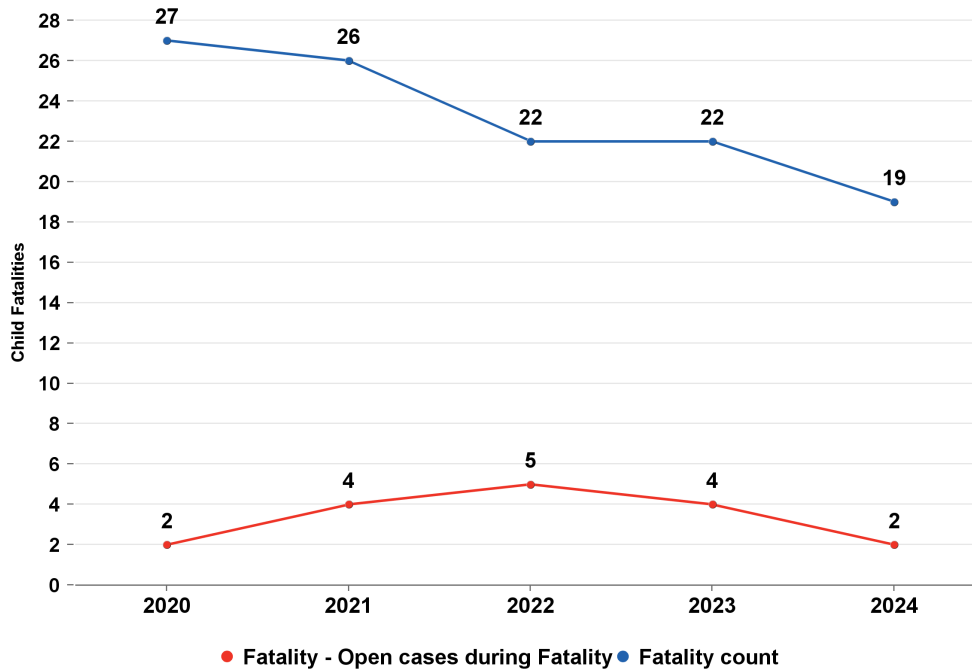


## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 two 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 2020-2024



A review of the cases reported by CPS agencies of a child having died from maltreatment during the past five years (2020-2024) 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 2024, 58 percent of the deaths were children age three or under and 37 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 2024 were the biological parents (50 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 2024 was 30 years.



## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Table 10, below, provides a summary of the 2024 child maltreatment fatalities, maltreater information, and maltreatment type by county. Of the 19 child maltreatment fatalities in 2024, seven were attributable to abusive head trauma or were impacted babies, which are noted in Table 10 and are further described following the table. Two 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 2024

County	Maltreatment Type	Child Victim			Maltreater			
		Age at Death	Gender	Race / Ethnicity	Age at Death	Gender	Race/ Ethnicity	Relationship to Child
Brown	Physical Abuse	1	Male	Unknown/ Hispanic	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dane*	Physical Abuse	5	Male	White/Black/ African American	34	Female	White	Biological Parent(s)
		8	Female	White/Black/ African American				
Dane	Neglect	<1	Male	White/Hispanic	18	Female	White/Hispanic	Partner(s)/Friend(s) sharing dwelling
Dane*	Physical Abuse	<1	Male	White/Black/ African American	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dane	Neglect	13	Female	White	38	Male	White	Partner(s)/Friend(s) sharing dwelling
Dane~^	Neglect	<1	Female	White	35	Male	White	Biological Parent(s)
Dane^	Neglect	4	Male	White	24	Female	White	Partner(s)/Friend(s) sharing dwelling
					27	Male	White	Biological Parent(s)
Manitowoc	Neglect	<1	Male	White/Hispanic	18	Female	White	Biological Parent(s)
Marathon*	Physical Abuse	<1	Male	White	27	Male	White	Biological Parent(s)
					Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Milwaukee*	Physical Abuse	6	Male	Black/African American	33	Female	Black/African American	Partner(s)/Friend(s) sharing dwelling
Milwaukee*	Neglect	4	Male	Black/African American	32	Female	Black/African American	Biological Parents(s)
Milwaukee	Physical Abuse	10	Male	White/Hispanic	18	Male	White/Hispanic	Other non-caregiver(s)
Milwaukee^	Neglect	1	Female	Black/African American	30	Female	Black/African American	Biological Parents(s)
					37	Male	Black/African American	Biological Parents(s)
Milwaukee~	Neglect	<1	Male	White/Hispanic	32	Female	White/Hispanic	Biological Parent(s)
					50	Female	White	Relative Care Provider (s)
Outagamie^	Neglect	2	Female	White/American Indian/Alaska Native/Hispanic	29	Female	White	Biological Parent(s)

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Racine*	Physical Abuse	<1	Male	White	25	Female	White	Partner(s)/Friend(s) sharing dwelling
Rock*	Physical Abuse	8	Female	White/Black/ African American	20	Male	White	Step sibling
Waukesha^	Neglect	1	Female	White/Hispanic	33	Female	White/Hispanic	Biological Parent(s)

\* 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).

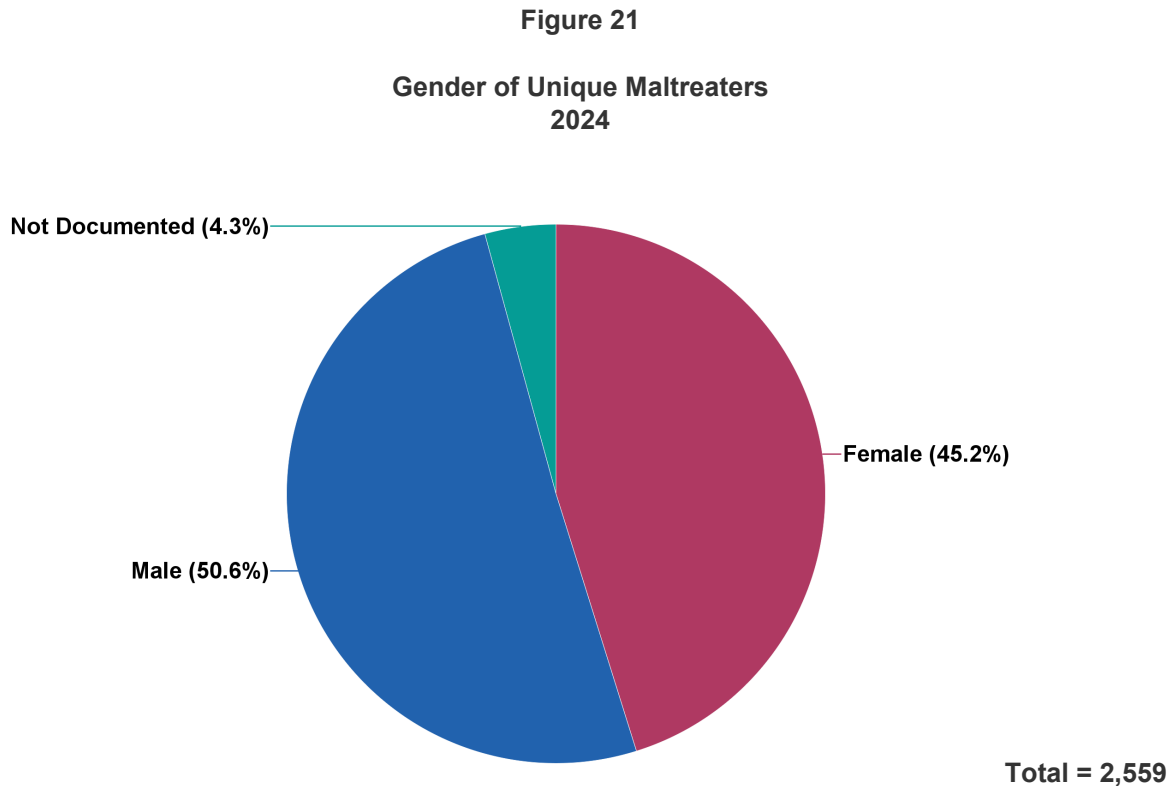
Based on this method, in calendar year 2024 there were 2,559 known unique maltreaters of substantiated child maltreatment. There are fewer unique maltreaters than unique victims (3,429) and unique instances of substantiated abuse (3,820) because some maltreaters were found to have maltreated more than one child and/or to have committed multiple instances of abuse or neglect. Note that within the 3,820 unique instances of substantiated abuse, 256 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.

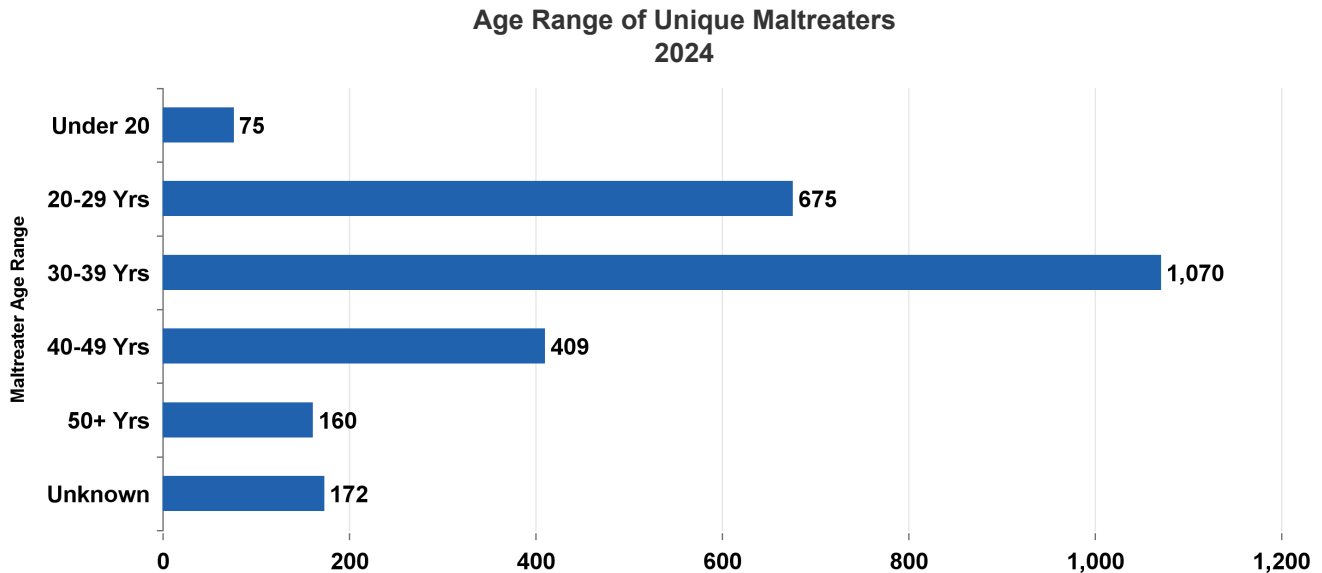


## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

### Age

Figure 22, below, shows the count of substantiated maltreaters by their age range for calendar year 2024. As the majority of maltreaters are parents, the most common child-rearing age groups account for the largest number of maltreaters.

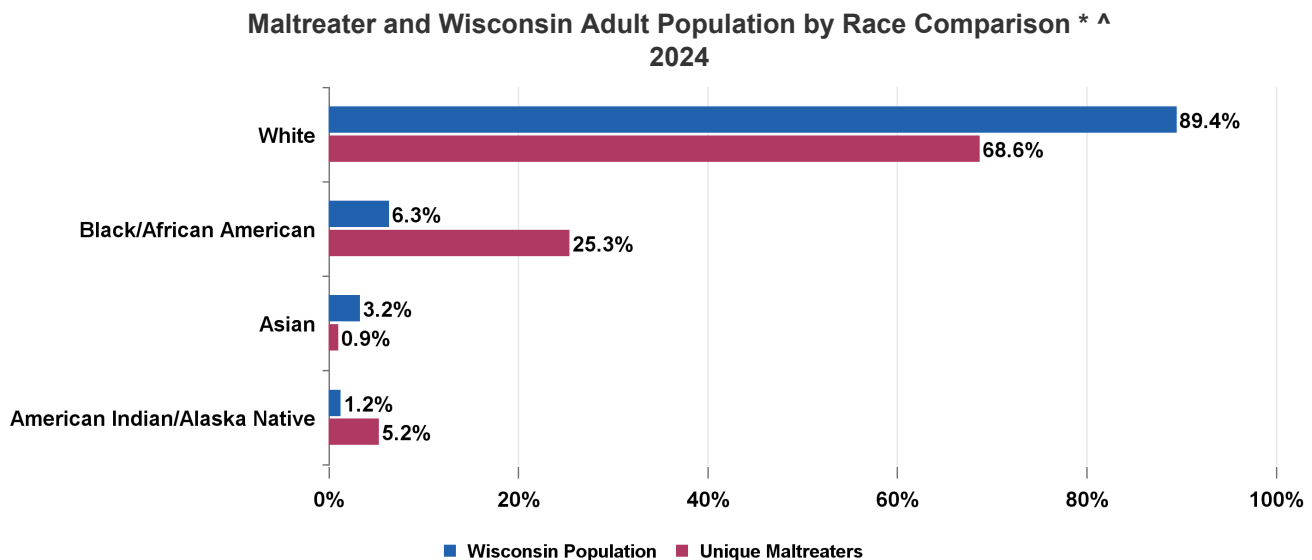
Figure 22



### Race and Ethnicity

Figure 23, below, compares the 2024 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



\* Population source of WI adult population: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 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 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator.

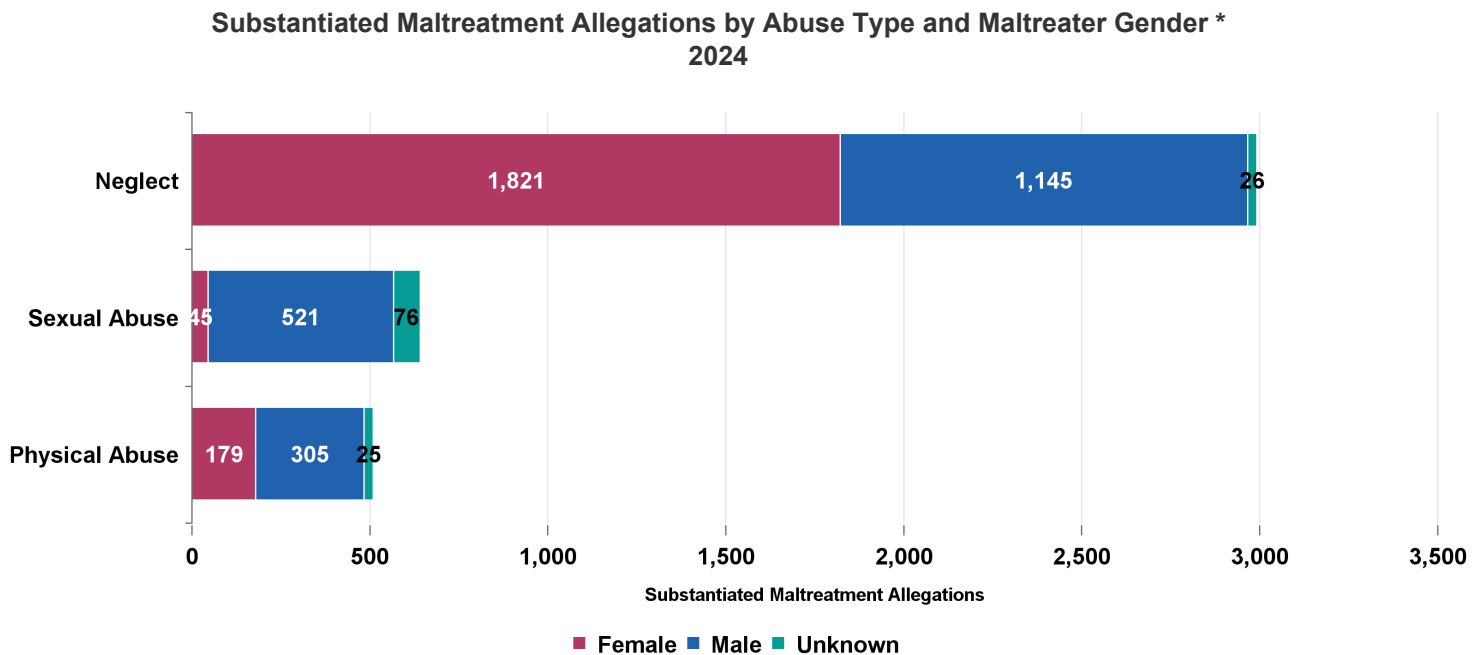
## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Of the 2,559 unique maltreaters, 1,780 (69.6 percent) were identified as not Hispanic, 246 (9.6 percent) were identified as Hispanic, and 533 (20.8 percent) maltreaters had an unknown or not documented ethnicity. People of Hispanic ethnicity may be of any race.

### Substantiated Allegations

The 2,559 unique known maltreaters were involved in 4,167 unique maltreatment allegations. Figure 24, below, depicts the 4,167 maltreatment allegation findings by maltreater gender during calendar year 2024. 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



\* Of the 24 total substantiated allegations of emotional abuse, males accounted for 10 maltreaters, females accounted for 14 maltreaters.

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

### 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 2024, primary adult caregivers in the home (i.e. parents, step-parents, partners of parents, and foster parents) were the maltreaters in 85.2 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 \***  
**2024**

Maltreater Relationship	Neglect	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Total	Percentage
<b>Primary Caregivers</b>						
Parent	2,495	300	113	17	2,925	67.5%
Partner/Friend of parent sharing dwelling	216	64	94	0	374	8.6%
Step-Parent(s)	54	41	69	3	167	3.9%
Sibling/Step-sibling	3	13	98	0	114	2.6%
Relative in Home	56	11	24	0	91	2.1%
Non-Relative Guardian(s)	7	5	4	2	18	0.4%
Foster Parent	1	4	0	0	5	0.1%
Others Sharing Foster Home	1	0	1	0	2	0%
<b>Primary Caregivers Total:</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3,696</b>	<b>85.2%</b>
<b>Secondary Caregivers</b>						
Relative Care Provider(s)	50	1	31	0	82	1.9%
Relative Not in Home	16	5	52	0	73	1.7%
Other Child Care Provider	29	4	26	0	59	1.4%
Licensed/Certified Child Care Provider	7	12	0	1	20	0.5%
Teacher/Other school employee(s)	1	2	12	0	15	0.3%
Residential Facility Staff	7	2	0	0	9	0.2%
Youth Org. Staff or Volunteer Leader(s)	0	0	1	0	1	0%
<b>Secondary Caregivers Total:</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Non-Caregivers</b>						
Peer Maltreater(s)	1	3	83	0	87	2%
Other Non-Caregiver	19	8	56	0	83	1.9%
Family Friend(s)	12	0	12	0	24	0.6%
Stranger(s)	0	0	17	0	17	0.4%
Neighbor(s)	0	0	1	0	1	0%
<b>Non-Caregivers Total:</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>						
Unknown	45	94	31	1	171	3.9%
<b>Unknown Total:</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4,338</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* 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'.

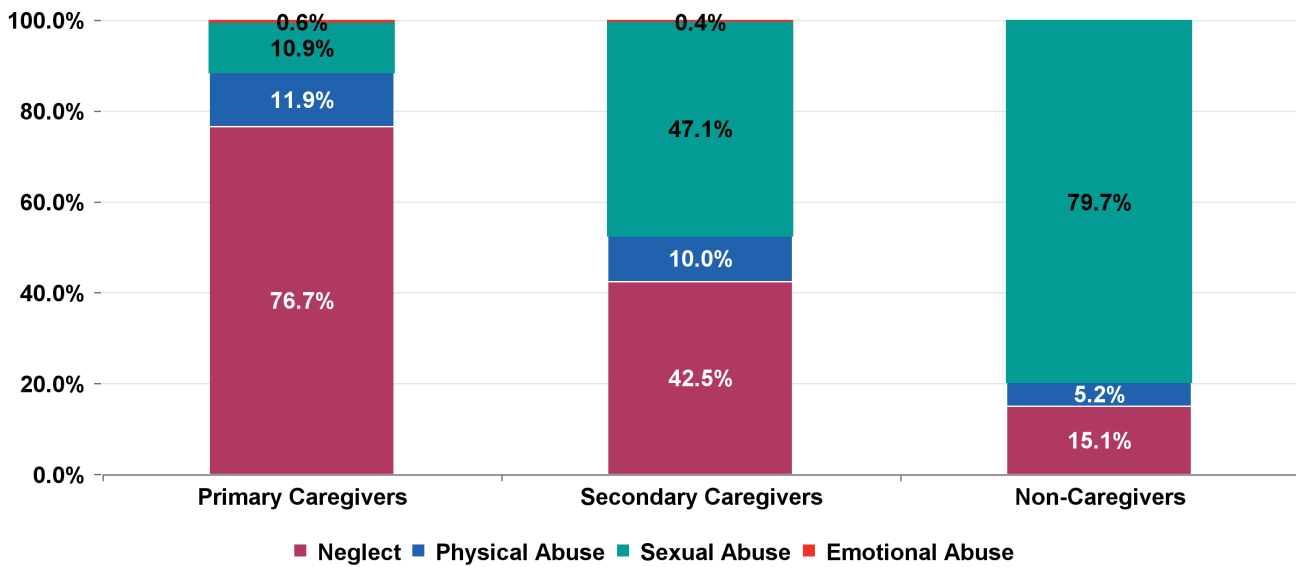
## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 3,696 substantiated maltreatment allegations by primary caregivers, the largest share of their total substantiated maltreatment allegations is neglect at 76.7 percent. However, the 259 secondary caregivers and 212 non-caregivers had sexual abuse as the largest share of their total substantiated maltreatment allegations at 47.1 percent and 79.7 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 \*

2024



\* The 171 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 2024, primary caregiver CPS initial assessments comprised 93.3 percent of the 19,005 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 1,266 secondary CPS initial assessments and non-caregiver investigations (6.7 percent of all assessments) during calendar year 2024 (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 2024, the majority (88.3 percent) of primary caregiver CPS initial assessments resulted in a decision that all children in the family were safe. There were 2,031 primary caregiver CPS initial assessments (11.7 percent) which resulted in a decision that children were unsafe. Appendix L shows safety assessment results in primary caregiver CPS initial assessments by county.

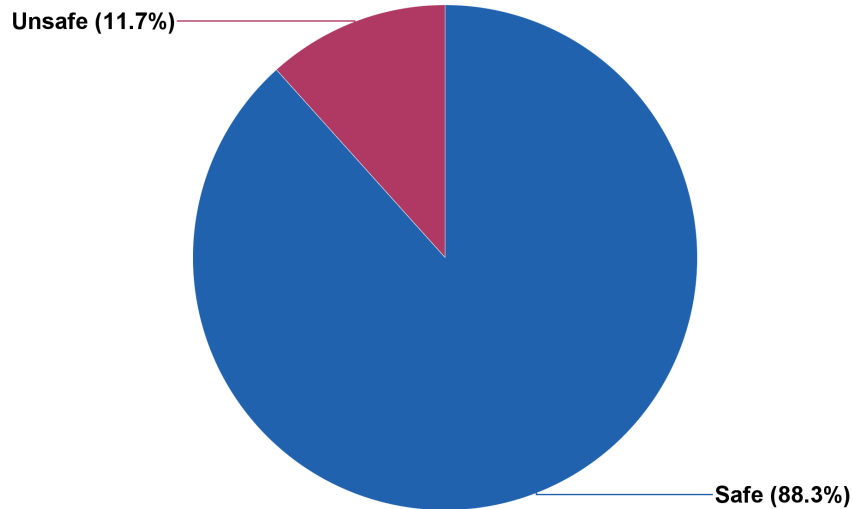
If the CPS agency determines a child to be safe, it is not required to offer or refer the family to services. The CPS agency may still inform the family about voluntary services or available community resources to help meet family needs or support family functioning.

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 \***  
**2024**



\* 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/respice, 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.

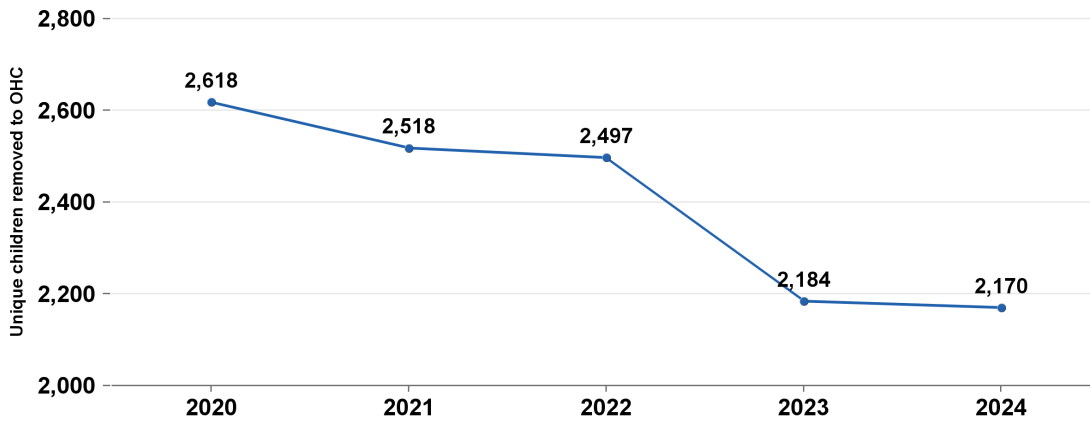
## CPS Removals of Children to an Out-of-Home Placement

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 2024, 2,170 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 2024, there were 2,198 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 \* 2020 - 2024

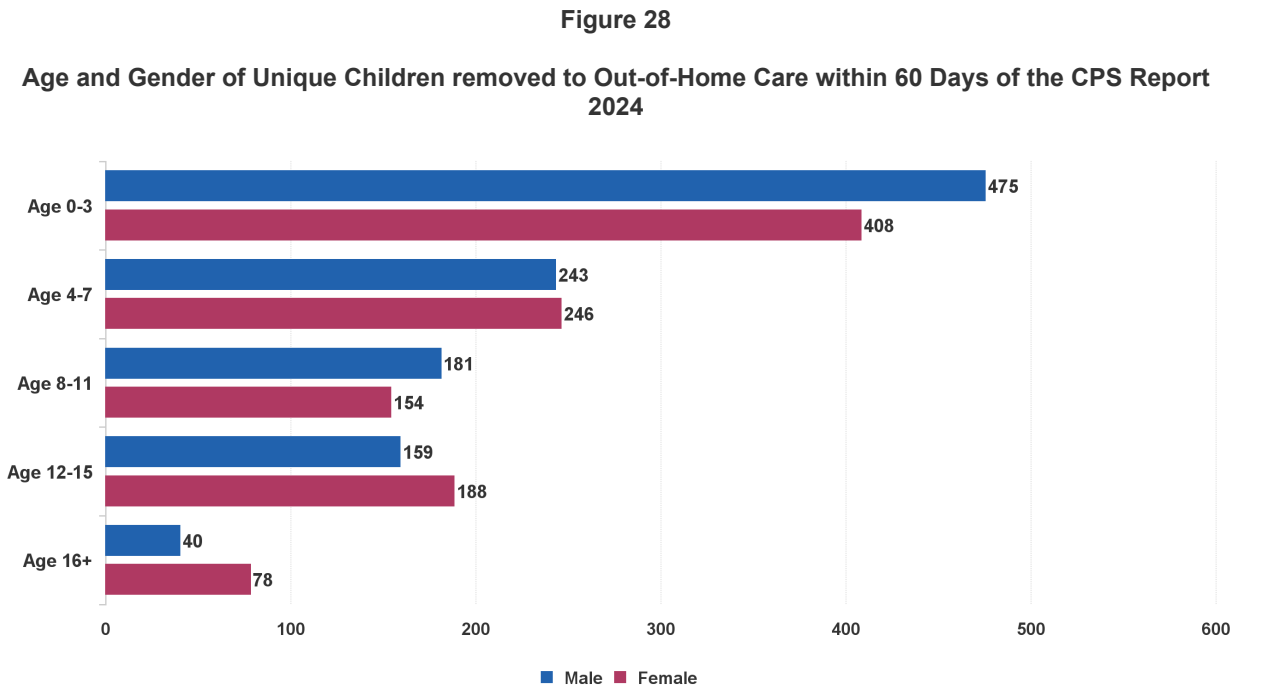


\* Historical data displayed in this chart may be slightly different and generally larger than previously published Child Abuse and Neglect Reports due to data updates. These updates may be due to the appeals process resulting in overturned decisions, or a lag in data entry.

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.

Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

Figure 28, below, displays the gender, count, and age of children removed during a CPS initial assessment in 2024. Of the 2,170 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, 49.4 percent were female and 50.6 percent were male.

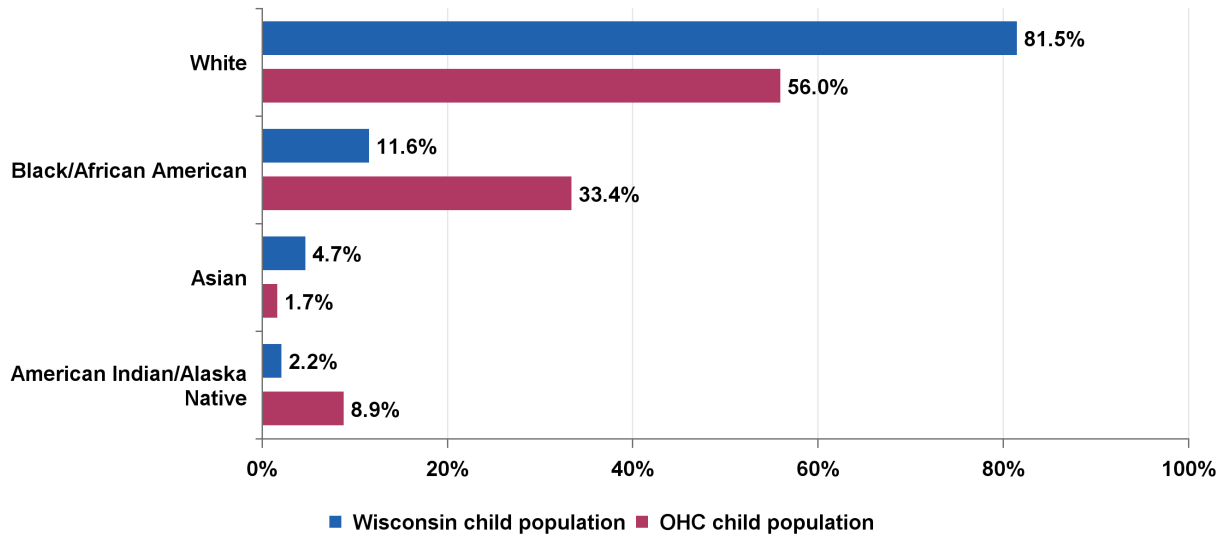


## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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, 237, or 10.9 percent, were identified as Hispanic, and 1,793 children, or 82.6 percent, were identified as not Hispanic. A total of 140 of these children, or 5.8 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 2024**



## 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 17,739 primary caregiver CPS initial assessments for calendar year 2024. 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 2024

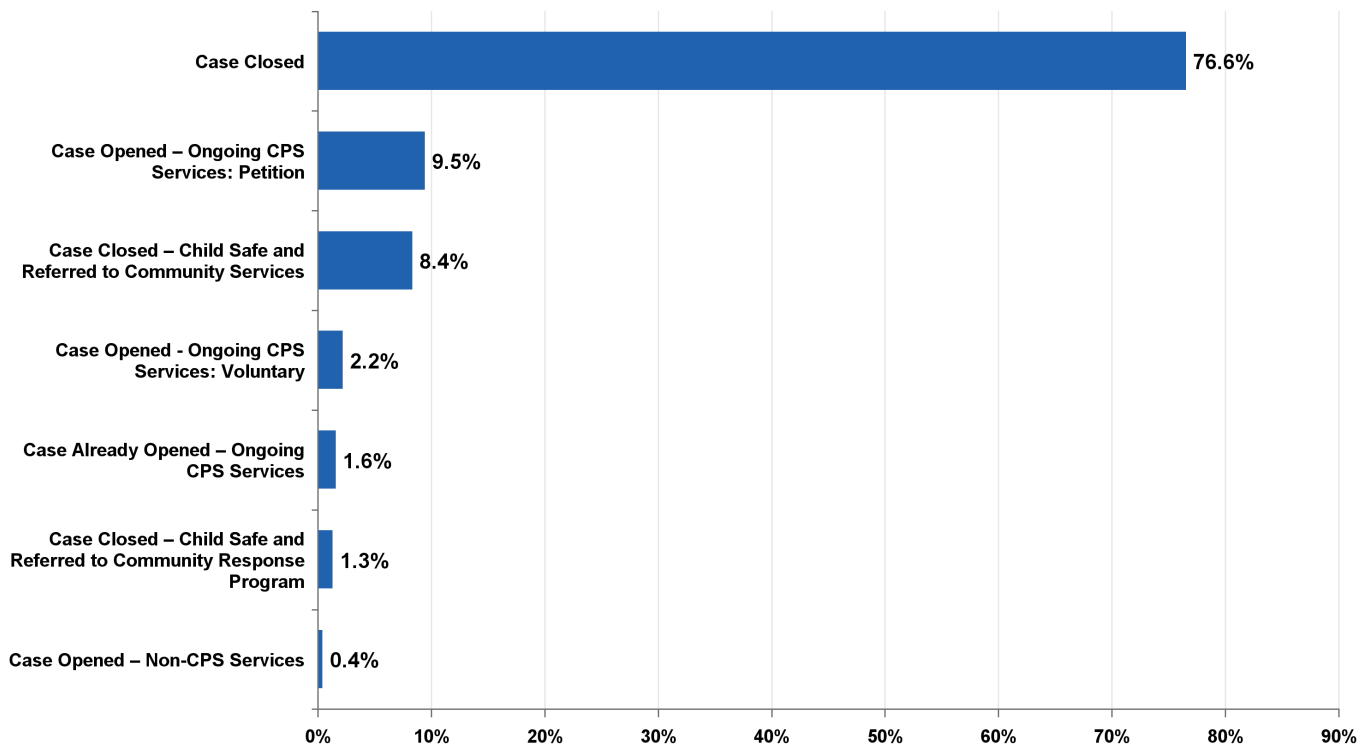
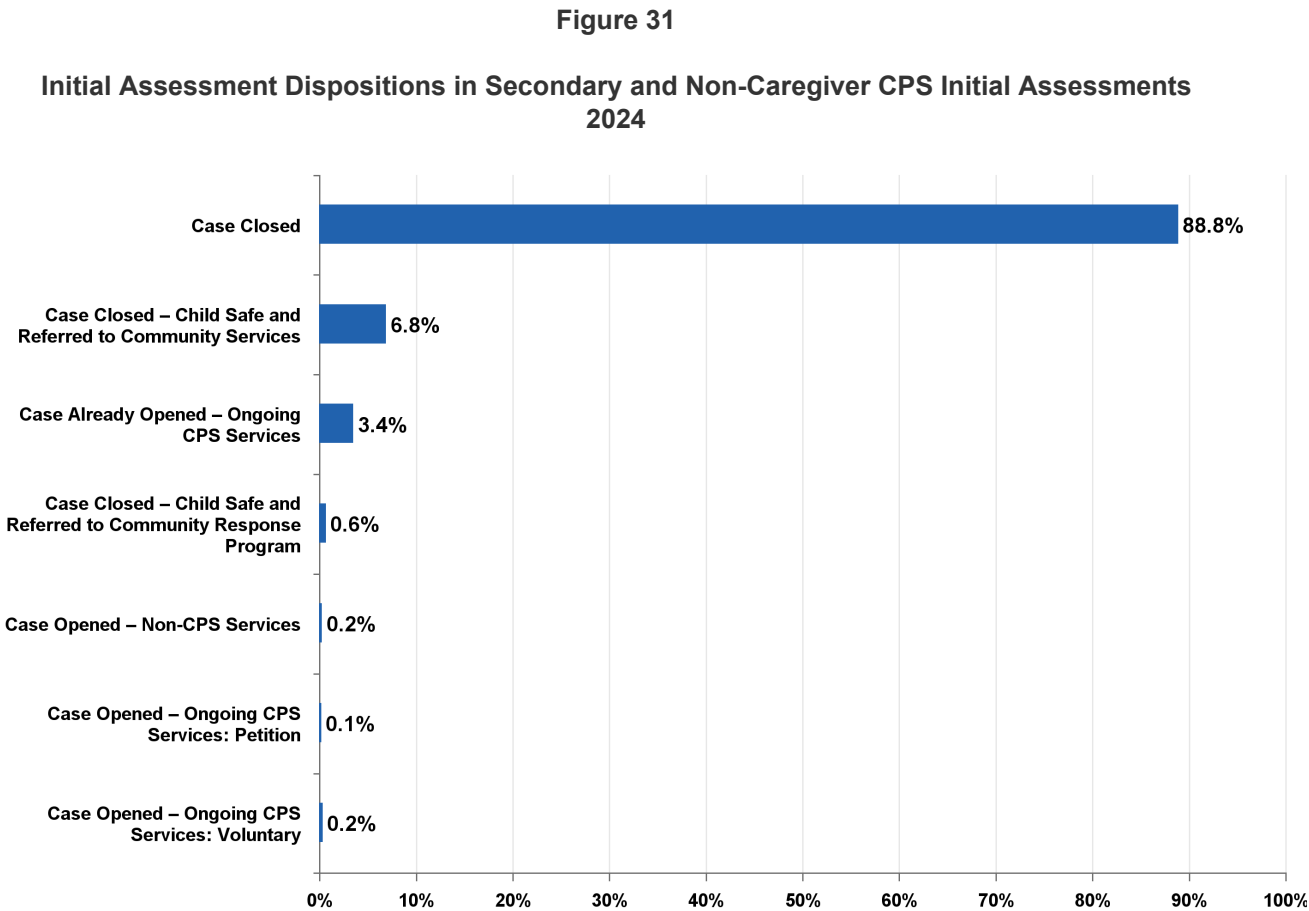


Figure 31, below, shows the 1,266 secondary CPS initial assessments and non-caregiver investigations by initial assessment disposition conducted in 2024.



## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 majority (96.9 percent) of cases where the safety decision is safe, the case was closed. Conversely, in the majority (93.4 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 2024

Initial Assessment Disposition	Safe		Unsafe		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Case Already Opened – Ongoing CPS Services	131	0.8%	143	0.8%	274	1.6%
Case Closed	13,291	76.3%	86	0.5%	13,377	76.8%
Case Closed – Child Safe and Referred to Community Response Program	231	1.3%	1	0.0%	232	1.3%
Case Closed – Child Safe and Referred to Community Services	1,386	8.0%	48	0.3%	1,434	8.2%
Case Opened – Non-CPS Services	71	0.4%	7	0.0%	78	0.5%
Case Opened – Ongoing CPS Services: Petition	118	0.7%	1,514	8.7%	1,632	9.4%
Case Opened - Ongoing CPS Services: Voluntary	157	0.9%	232	1.3%	389	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,385</b>	<b>88.3%</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>17,416</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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 2020 – CY 2024**

Measure	Standard	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024
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.	3.3	5	2.9	3.5	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 2020 – CY 2024**

Measure	Standard	CY 2019 – CY 2020	CY 2020 – CY 2021	CY 2021 – CY 2022	CY 2022 – CY 2023	CY 2023 – CY 2024
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%	3.4%	3.8%	2.5%



## 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 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families facilitated the adoption of 571 children from the public child welfare system, of which 569 children qualified for an Adoption Assistance. One component of Adoption Assistance is a monthly financial subsidy. Of the 569 children that qualified for Adoption Assistance, 498 of them qualified for a monthly adoption assistance subsidy totaling about \$6,382,536 in calendar year 2024. The total Adoption Assistance payments for all recipients in 2024 was \$90,161,691.

'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 2024, a total of 90 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 61 children have documentation on the length of time between adoption finalization and when they entered out-of-home care. The 61 children re-entered out-of-home care after an average of 75.6 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 2024, a total of 129 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 86 children have documentation on the length of time between guardianship finalization and when they entered out-of-home care. The 86 children re-entered out-of-home care after an average of 66.2 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 2024**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Count of Unique Children in OHC After Adoption</b>	<b>Count of Unique Children in OHC After Guardianship</b>
Less than two years old	6	13
Two to five years old	28	25
Six to twelve years old	34	47
Thirteen years or older	5	17
Unable to determine	17	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>129</b>

## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 14 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 2024**

Age Group	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Adoption	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Guardianship
Age < 1 - 3 years	0	3
Age 4 - 7 years	8	8
Age 8 - 11 years	6	14
Age 12 - 15 years	55	69
Age 16+ years	21	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>129</b>

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 2024**

Type of Previous Adoption	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Adoption
Domestic	17
International	2
Public Child Welfare (SNAP)	45
Relative	9
Stepparent	3
Tribal / Customary Adoption	1
Unable to Determine	13
<b>Total:</b>	<b>90</b>

Table 18

Type of Previous Guardianship for Children in Finalized Guardianships

CY 2024

Type of Previous Guardianship	Count of Unique Children in OHC After Guardianship
Family Court – Guardianship under s. 48.9795	24
Guardianship under s. 48.977	59
Out of State Guardianship	10
Public Child Welfare – Guardianship under s. 48.9795	6
Unable to Determine	30
<b>Total:</b>	<b>129</b>

## 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. Funding for expansion of Home Visiting programs

Children in Wisconsin, who are three years of age and under, account for the largest number of child abuse and neglect victims. Wisconsin's Family Foundations Home Visiting Program partners with parents and caregivers to promote health, social, emotional, and physical child development and overall family well-being. **In Wisconsin, there are 32 counties and four tribes with no home visiting programs.** Wisconsin uses four evidenced-based models: Early Head Start-Home Based, Health Families America, Parents and Teachers and Nurse-Family Partnership. These programs address social and community factors that can negatively impact families' well-being. There are a wide variety of activities that the programs provide. For example, in 2023, 82 percent of participating families received a depression screening and 91 percent of participating families received information about intimate partner violence.<sup>1</sup> These prevention efforts align with the struggles and needs of families involved in child protective services.

Studies have demonstrated that high-quality home visiting has led to decreases in child maltreatment.<sup>2</sup>

- A 15-year study of Nurse-Family Partnership found a 48 percent reduction in rates of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect among low-income families.<sup>3</sup>
- Health Families America: Maltreatment recurrence was reduced by one-third for families that already had been involved with child protective services.<sup>4</sup>
- Parents as Teachers families practice better home safety, have fewer maltreatment reports, a 22 percent lower likelihood of substantiated child maltreatment, reduced CPS reinvolved, and improved protective factors like parental resilience and children's social-emotional competence.<sup>5</sup>

Research also shows that **home visiting is cost-effective**, saving money that otherwise would be spent later on more costly programs and services. Cost-benefit analyses show that high-quality home visiting programs offer a return on investment ranging from \$1.80 to \$5.70 for every dollar spent (though costs vary across programs), due to reduced expenditures on child protection, K-12 special education and grade retention, health care, and criminal justice.<sup>6,7</sup>

Ensuring access to home visiting programs that focus on early intervention through in-home support, education, and assistance in accessing community services/supports is a necessary prevention strategy. Funding home visiting to support expansion to all counties and tribes will have a profound impact on children and families.

### 2. Investment in evidence-based services, such as Motivational Interviewing

Motivational Interviewing is an evidenced-based practice professionals can use to support families involved in the child welfare system.<sup>8</sup> This practice is recognized on the federal Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse for its effectiveness in supporting client-driven behavioral change, strengthening family engagement and keeping families together. Motivational interviewing can be used by child welfare professionals to aid in their decision making at key points during a child welfare assessment.

**Motivational Interviewing has received the highest evidence-based rating by the federal government.**

Under President Trump's Putting Families First Prevention Services Act, Wisconsin can claim federal funds on state dollars spent on approved evidence-based services.<sup>9</sup> This means for state dollars spent improving effectiveness of the child welfare system on services like Motivational Interviewing, Wisconsin is able to recover a percentage of those funds, as reimbursement. **This makes Motivational Interviewing a good investment for family outcomes AND state tax dollars.**

1. Family Foundations Home Visiting Program 2023 Annual Report, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, accessed October 2025.

2, 4, 7. Casey Family Home Visiting Programs, Casey Family Programs, accessed October 2025.

3. Olds DL, Eckenrode J, Henderson CR Jr, Kitzman H, Powers J, Cole R, Sidora K, Morris P, Pettitt LM, Luckey D. Long-term effects of home visitation on maternal life course and child abuse and neglect. Fifteen-year follow-up of a randomized trial. JAMA. 1997 Aug 27;278(8):637-43.

5. Research and Results, Parents as Teachers, accessed October 2025.

6. About Home Visiting Results, National Home Visiting Resource Center, accessed October 2025.

8. Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, "Motivational Interviewing," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, accessed October 2025.

9. Family First Prevention Services Act, Public Law 115-123 (enacted February 9, 2018).

The Department of Children and Families will need to support local agencies by providing training, technical assistance and infrastructure in order to achieve fidelity to the evidenced-based model, a requirement under federal law. Increased investment of state funding in child welfare services will enable Wisconsin to improve child welfare outcomes as well as capitalize on federal reimbursement opportunities.

### 3. Support for Wisconsin Wraparound

The Department of Children and Families is committed to increasing services for children and youth with high acuity needs, and their families. State agencies have heard from families and community partners that children and youth aren't getting the behavioral health services they need. **Wisconsin Wraparound is a collaboration between Wisconsin's Department of Children & Families (DCF), Department of Health Services (DHS), and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that addresses the complex behavioral needs of children and youth** by focusing on the following barriers:

- Services are fragmented (service systems only see a part of the larger puzzle) and children and youth are falling through the cracks.
- Children and youth are entering the child welfare system because of behavioral health needs, not because of abuse or neglect.

In 2023, there were 757 instances where a child/youth was removed from their home with a removal reason of a child behavior problem and/or child diagnosed condition. These children and youth are better served through resources in their community before crisis occurs and without child welfare intervention.

The proposed Wisconsin Wraparound program would provide wraparound services to children and families through individualized, team-based coordinated services and supports. More details about the proposed effort can be found here: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/familyfirst/behavioral-health-project/childrens-behavioral-health-project.pdf>.

**In order to pursue this effort, DHS needs State Legislative Approval to request a federal Medicaid waiver. This can be accomplished through passage of 2025 SB110 and 2025 AB115.**

After legislative approval, DHS could then begin the process of writing the waiver request and embarking on program design with key partners across the state.

This initiative represents a significant step toward ensuring all Wisconsin children have access to the behavioral health services they need.

## 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. 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.

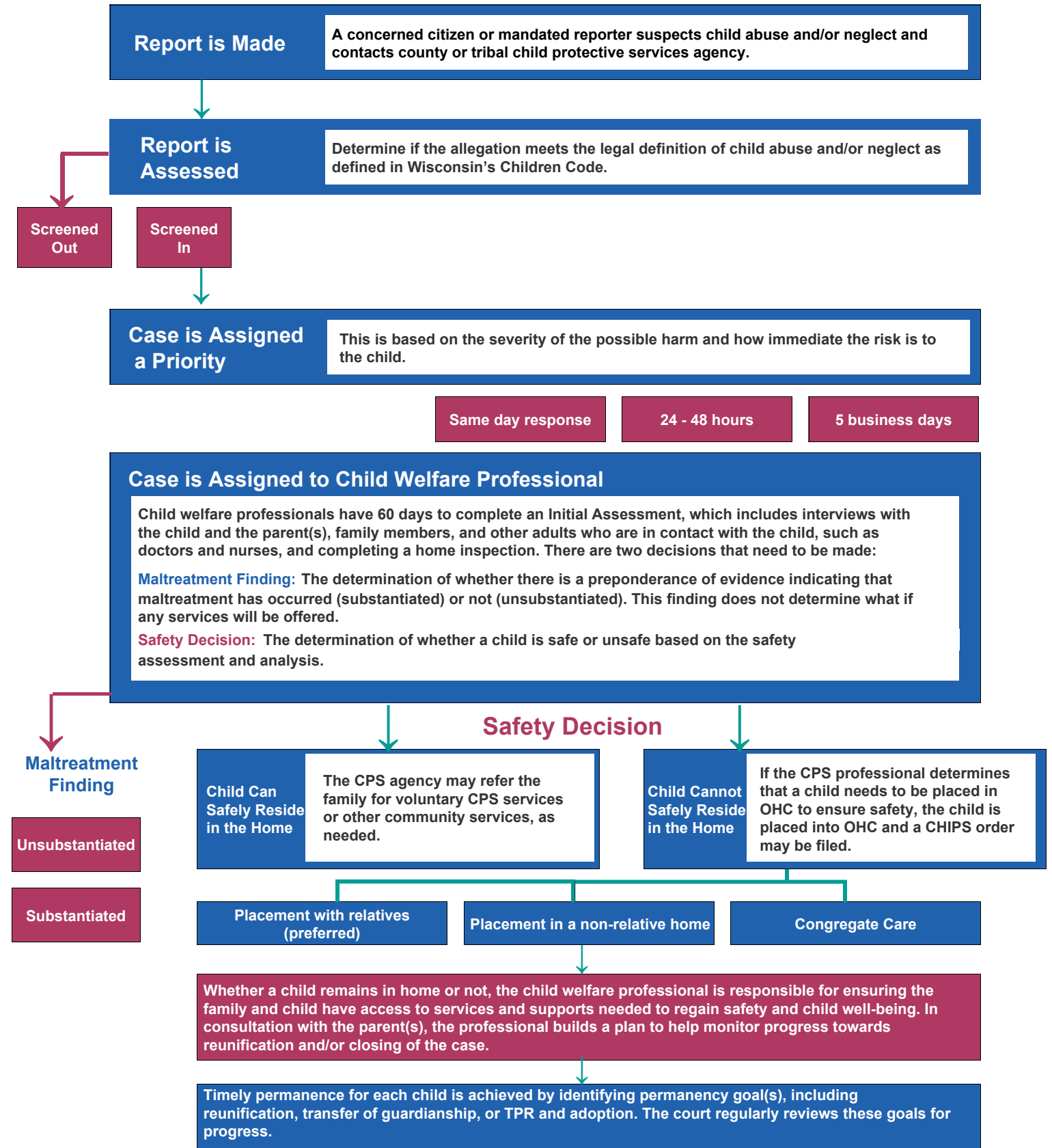
The maltreatment allegation of unborn child abuse is excluded from maltreatment allegation counts in the body of this report and presented here separately.

- In calendar year 2024, CPS agencies screened-in 189 allegations of unborn child abuse for further assessment.
- The most common reporters of screened-in unborn child abuse allegation were social service professionals (27.5 percent), medical professionals (21 percent) and legal/law enforcement professionals (18 percent).
- A total of 47 of the 189 screened-in allegations (24.9 percent) of unborn child abuse had a finding of "Services Needed" at the conclusion of the initial assessment. Additionally, 28 children were placed in out-of-home care within 60 days of an allegation of unborn child abuse.

Appendix C

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.





## Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

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 2024 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.

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix E

### Total CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions by County 2024

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	309	216	69.9%	93	30.1%	20	9
Ashland	265	215	81.1%	50	18.9%	54	102
Barron	591	358	60.6%	233	39.4%	79	127
Bayfield	120	86	71.7%	34	28.3%	19	43
Brown	4,173	3,073	73.6%	1,100	26.4%	216	174
Buffalo	196	162	82.7%	34	17.3%	26	50
Burnett	217	167	77.0%	50	23.0%	33	14
Calumet	507	405	79.9%	102	20.1%	86	19
Chippewa	831	654	78.7%	177	21.3%	30	28
Clark	397	319	80.4%	78	19.6%	48	16
Columbia	636	524	82.4%	112	17.6%	109	64
Crawford	135	105	77.8%	30	22.2%	71	11
Dane	3,581	2,690	75.1%	891	24.9%	236	238
Dodge	839	686	81.8%	153	18.2%	128	8
Door	347	247	71.2%	100	28.8%	55	13
Douglas	814	456	56.0%	358	44.0%	100	237
Dunn	605	511	84.5%	94	15.5%	29	18
Eau Claire	1,343	1,074	80.0%	269	20.0%	118	45
Florence	6	0	0.0%	6	100.0%	1	0
Fond Du Lac	1,615	1,282	79.4%	333	20.6%	164	149
Forest	51	32	62.7%	19	37.3%	60	45
Grant	597	438	73.4%	159	26.6%	142	70
Green	537	404	75.2%	133	24.8%	41	18
Green Lake	184	144	78.3%	40	21.7%	23	29
Iowa	159	137	86.2%	22	13.8%	43	6
Iron	48	37	77.1%	11	22.9%	15	0
Jackson	437	262	60.0%	175	40.0%	22	10
Jefferson	655	490	74.8%	165	25.2%	180	8
Juneau	388	304	78.4%	84	21.6%	20	30
Kenosha	2,673	2,022	75.6%	651	24.4%	118	179
Kewaunee	204	155	76.0%	49	24.0%	29	25
La Crosse	1,127	761	67.5%	366	32.5%	64	417
Lafayette	220	167	75.9%	53	24.1%	47	2

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix E

### Total CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions by County 2024

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	430	267	62.1%	163	37.9%	70	6
Lincoln	424	323	76.2%	101	23.8%	52	26
Manitowoc	1,066	728	68.3%	338	31.7%	110	54
Marathon	1,358	901	66.3%	457	33.7%	160	53
Marinette	503	403	80.1%	100	19.9%	47	195
Marquette	171	133	77.8%	38	22.2%	20	7
Menominee	82	44	53.7%	38	46.3%	14	4
Milwaukee	15,002	9,202	61.3%	5,800	38.7%	1,192	53
Monroe	713	557	78.1%	156	21.9%	42	67
Oconto	662	536	81.0%	126	19.0%	68	31
Oneida	327	189	57.8%	138	42.2%	198	103
Outagamie	3,221	2,417	75.0%	804	25.0%	70	176
Ozaukee	411	312	75.9%	99	24.1%	33	47
Pepin	111	95	85.6%	16	14.4%	17	7
Pierce	449	329	73.3%	120	26.7%	27	86
Polk	657	508	77.3%	149	22.7%	164	60
Portage	851	644	75.7%	207	24.3%	32	19
Price	224	173	77.2%	51	22.8%	49	0
Racine	2,632	1,852	70.4%	780	29.6%	322	56
Richland	250	179	71.6%	71	28.4%	63	12
Rock	2,357	1,993	84.6%	364	15.4%	234	131
Rusk	183	143	78.1%	40	21.9%	54	18
Saint Croix	1,121	838	74.8%	283	25.2%	101	43
Sauk	617	422	68.4%	195	31.6%	79	202
Sawyer	223	141	63.2%	82	36.8%	23	22
Shawano	414	266	64.3%	148	35.7%	60	2
Sheboygan	1,046	764	73.0%	282	27.0%	153	43
Taylor	261	193	73.9%	68	26.1%	42	0
Trempealeau	462	368	79.7%	94	20.3%	37	33
Vernon	209	123	58.9%	86	41.1%	86	11
Vilas	139	99	71.2%	40	28.8%	69	289
Walworth	693	521	75.2%	172	24.8%	89	10
Washburn	273	211	77.3%	62	22.7%	12	14

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix E

### Total CPS Referrals and Screening Decisions by County 2024

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	898	686	76.4%	212	23.6%	40	14
Waukesha	2,021	1,746	86.4%	275	13.6%	188	78
Waupaca	763	551	72.2%	212	27.8%	86	9
Waushara	353	265	75.1%	88	24.9%	52	3
Winnebago	3,154	2,408	76.3%	746	23.7%	294	157
Wood	1,259	1,063	84.4%	196	15.6%	85	20
<b>State Total</b>	<b>70,797</b>	<b>51,176</b>	<b>72.3%</b>	<b>19,621</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>6,960</b>	<b>4,365</b>

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix F

### CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County \* 2024

County	2023 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Total CPS Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Population
Adams	2,785	156	56.0
Ashland	3,325	70	21.1
Barron	9,769	378	38.7
Bayfield	2,734	57	20.8
Brown	61,506	1,788	29.1
Buffalo	2,677	49	18.3
Burnett	2,624	85	32.4
Calumet	11,609	168	14.5
Chippewa	14,141	276	19.5
Clark	10,217	117	11.5
Columbia	11,715	169	14.4
Crawford	3,076	44	14.3
Dane	111,383	1,323	11.9
Dodge	16,855	211	12.5
Door	4,714	155	32.9
Douglas	8,317	528	63.5
Dunn	8,741	137	15.7
Eau Claire	21,116	442	20.9
Florence	650	9	13.8
Fond Du Lac	21,702	560	25.8
Forest	1,822	29	15.9
Grant	10,873	221	20.3
Green	7,848	241	30.7
Green Lake	4,205	67	15.9
Iowa	5,120	31	6.1
Iron	994	14	14.1
Jackson	4,417	302	68.4
Jefferson	16,578	225	13.6
Juneau	4,996	134	26.8
Kenosha	35,829	998	27.9
Kewaunee	4,280	67	15.7
La Crosse	23,093	593	25.7
Lafayette	4,230	85	20.1

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix F

### CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County \* 2024

County	2023 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Total CPS Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Population
Langlade	3,665	266	72.6
Lincoln	5,048	155	30.7
Manitowoc	16,250	539	33.2
Marathon	30,980	784	25.3
Marinette	7,862	149	19.0
Marquette	2,983	53	17.8
Menominee	1,344	74	55.1
Milwaukee	215,270	9,336	43.4
Monroe	11,665	237	20.3
Oconto	7,747	235	30.3
Oneida	6,273	256	40.8
Outagamie	43,816	1,295	29.6
Ozaukee	19,366	151	7.8
Pepin	1,639	21	12.8
Pierce	8,616	205	23.8
Polk	8,972	237	26.4
Portage	13,249	321	24.2
Price	2,363	75	31.7
Racine	44,050	1,221	27.7
Richland	3,584	126	35.2
Rock	36,388	614	16.9
Rusk	2,854	72	25.2
Saint Croix	22,735	434	19.1
Sauk	14,542	301	20.7
Sawyer	3,337	119	35.7
Shawano	8,661	250	28.9
Sheboygan	25,055	423	16.9
Taylor	4,594	115	25.0
Trempealeau	8,186	139	17.0
Vernon	8,035	156	19.4
Vilas	3,825	57	14.9
Walworth	20,174	267	13.2
Washburn	3,044	100	32.9
Washington	28,654	322	11.2



# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix F

### CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County \* 2024

County	2023 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Total CPS Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Population
Waukesha	85,573	379	4.4
Waupaca	10,251	323	31.5
Waushara	4,378	145	33.1
Winnebago	34,428	1,169	34.0
Wood	15,732	307	19.5
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,249,129</b>	<b>31,157</b>	<b>24.9</b>

\* Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 Easy Access Population Profile <https://www.ojjdp.gov>

Per capita measures in the 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator.

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix G

### County Maltreatment Substantiation Rates 2024

County	Number of CPS Initial Assessments	Total CPS Reports	Traditional Response Maltreatment Allegations	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
Adams	93	156	188	5	2.7
Ashland	49	70	76	11	14.5
Barron	227	378	80	11	13.8
Bayfield	30	57	64	15	23.4
Brown	1,079	1,788	801	127	15.9
Buffalo	34	49	55	10	18.2
Burnett	47	85	94	15	16.0
Calumet	102	168	205	35	17.1
Chippewa	175	276	304	30	9.9
Clark	73	117	139	38	27.3
Columbia	109	169	195	14	7.2
Crawford	29	44	54	4	7.4
Dane	862	1,323	1,523	218	14.3
Dodge	153	211	136	25	18.4
Door	96	155	185	15	8.1
Douglas	353	528	568	11	1.9
Dunn	94	137	153	19	12.4
Eau Claire	255	442	382	78	20.4
Florence	6	9	9	1	11.1
Fond Du Lac	324	560	684	115	16.8
Forest	19	29	32	8	25.0
Grant	151	221	266	31	11.7
Green	127	241	265	10	3.8
Green Lake	40	67	69	27	39.1
Iowa	22	31	43	9	20.9
Iron	11	14	15	0	0.0
Jackson	162	302	324	68	21.0
Jefferson	165	225	108	39	36.1
Juneau	81	134	159	50	31.4
Kenosha	631	998	1,149	283	24.6
Kewaunee	49	67	68	4	5.9
La Crosse	358	593	223	27	12.1
Lafayette	52	85	94	27	28.7

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix G

### County Maltreatment Substantiation Rates 2024

County	Number of CPS Initial Assessments	Total CPS Reports	Traditional Response Maltreatment Allegations	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
Langlade	157	266	247	48	19.4
Lincoln	95	155	171	27	15.8
Manitowoc	332	539	321	73	22.7
Marathon	452	784	190	57	30.0
Marinette	100	149	179	33	18.4
Marquette	37	53	59	13	22.0
Menominee	38	74	81	5	6.2
Milwaukee	5,571	9,336	10,989	785	7.1
Monroe	155	237	284	35	12.3
Oconto	122	235	284	17	6.0
Oneida	138	256	280	42	15.0
Outagamie	784	1,295	490	57	11.6
Ozaukee	94	151	177	20	11.3
Pepin	16	21	21	2	9.5
Pierce	118	205	53	23	43.4
Polk	145	237	253	30	11.9
Portage	191	321	354	119	33.6
Price	50	75	89	14	15.7
Racine	748	1,221	1,637	228	13.9
Richland	71	126	152	5	3.3
Rock	360	614	703	100	14.2
Rusk	40	72	78	20	25.6
Saint Croix	276	434	499	46	9.2
Sauk	190	301	174	35	20.1
Sawyer	79	119	134	28	20.9
Shawano	141	250	270	33	12.2
Sheboygan	277	423	449	39	8.7
Taylor	65	115	133	49	36.8
Trempealeau	94	139	160	8	5.0
Vernon	83	156	180	7	3.9
Vilas	39	57	58	20	34.5
Walworth	171	267	304	56	18.4
Washburn	55	100	115	35	30.4

Appendix G

County Maltreatment Substantiation Rates  
2024

County	Number of CPS Initial Assessments	Total CPS Reports	Traditional Response Maltreatment Allegations	Maltreatment Substantiation Count	Maltreatment Substantiation Rate
Washington	208	322	383	37	9.7
Waukesha	271	379	431	70	16.2
Waupaca	210	323	370	58	15.7
Waushara	86	145	185	29	15.7
Winnebago	707	1,169	417	90	21.6
Wood	193	307	347	47	13.5
<b>State Total</b>	<b>19,005</b>	<b>31,157</b>	<b>30,411</b>	<b>3,820</b>	<b>12.6%</b>

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix H

### Child Victimization Rate by County \* ^ 2024

County	2023 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Population
Adams	2,785	5	1.8
Ashland	3,325	11	3.3
Barron	9,769	10	1.0
Bayfield	2,734	15	5.5
Brown	61,506	119	1.9
Buffalo	2,677	10	3.7
Burnett	2,624	11	4.2
Calumet	11,609	31	2.7
Chippewa	14,141	28	2.0
Clark	10,217	35	3.4
Columbia	11,715	13	1.1
Crawford	3,076	4	1.3
Dane	111,383	196	1.8
Dodge	16,855	24	1.4
Door	4,714	15	3.2
Douglas	8,317	11	1.3
Dunn	8,741	18	2.1
Eau Claire	21,116	68	3.2
Florence	650	1	1.5
Fond Du Lac	21,702	99	4.6
Forest	1,822	8	4.4
Grant	10,873	26	2.4
Green	7,848	9	1.1
Green Lake	4,205	25	5.9
Iowa	5,120	9	1.8
Iron	994	0	0.0
Jackson	4,417	58	13.1
Jefferson	16,578	32	1.9
Juneau	4,996	38	7.6
Kenosha	35,829	231	6.4
Kewaunee	4,280	3	0.7
La Crosse	23,093	27	1.2
Lafayette	4,230	25	5.9

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix H

### Child Victimization Rate by County \* ^ 2024

County	2023 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Population
Langlade	3,665	46	12.6
Lincoln	5,048	24	4.8
Manitowoc	16,250	65	4.0
Marathon	30,980	56	1.8
Marinette	7,862	29	3.7
Marquette	2,983	12	4.0
Menominee	1,344	5	3.7
Milwaukee	215,270	726	3.4
Monroe	11,665	31	2.7
Oconto	7,747	15	1.9
Oneida	6,273	42	6.7
Outagamie	43,816	46	1.0
Ozaukee	19,366	19	1.0
Pepin	1,639	2	1.2
Pierce	8,616	19	2.2
Polk	8,972	27	3.0
Portage	13,249	88	6.6
Price	2,363	14	5.9
Racine	44,050	205	4.7
Richland	3,584	5	1.4
Rock	36,388	92	2.5
Rusk	2,854	20	7.0
Saint Croix	22,735	44	1.9
Sauk	14,542	31	2.1
Sawyer	3,337	24	7.2
Shawano	8,661	30	3.5
Sheboygan	25,055	39	1.6
Taylor	4,594	46	10.0
Trempealeau	8,186	6	0.7
Vernon	8,035	6	0.7
Vilas	3,825	20	5.2
Walworth	20,174	50	2.5
Washburn	3,044	32	10.5
Washington	28,654	33	1.2

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix H

### Child Victimization Rate by County \* ^ 2024

County	2023 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Child Victims	Child Victims per 1,000 Population
Waukesha	85,573	69	0.8
Waupaca	10,251	57	5.6
Waushara	4,378	20	4.6
Winnebago	34,428	80	2.3
Wood	15,732	46	2.9
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,249,129</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>2.8</b>

\* The 'Number of Child Victims' and 'Child Victims per 1,000 population' columns represent the count/rate of children victimized in a specific county. This count/rate is larger than the unique maltreated children and rate displayed on Table 4 as children may be victimized in more than one county.

^ Population Source: Office of Juvenile Justice 2023 Easy Access Population Profile: <https://ojjdp.gov>

Per capita measures in the 2024 report use data from the 2023 census as the denominator.

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix I

### Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and Maltreatment Finding, by County \* ^ ~ 2024

County	Unique CPS maltreatment 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	156	2	110	0	112	1	40	0	41	2	32	0	34	0	1	0	1
Ashland	70	5	31	2	38	4	18	0	22	2	12	1	15	0	1	0	1
Barron	378	4	20	0	24	3	16	0	19	4	33	0	37	0	0	0	0
Bayfield	57	15	19	2	36	0	15	0	15	0	7	0	7	0	6	0	6
Brown	1,788	74	391	14	479	26	140	2	168	27	116	1	144	0	9	1	10
Buffalo	49	8	21	0	29	0	17	0	17	2	6	0	8	0	1	0	1
Burnett	85	13	55	0	68	1	13	0	14	1	7	0	8	0	4	0	4
Calumet	168	21	86	0	107	5	52	0	57	9	19	0	28	0	13	0	13
Chippewa	276	22	164	1	187	3	66	0	69	5	32	0	37	0	11	0	11
Clark	117	20	50	1	71	7	28	0	35	11	17	0	28	0	5	0	5
Columbia	169	7	108	2	117	3	38	0	41	4	32	0	36	0	1	0	1
Crawford	44	3	24	0	27	0	10	1	11	1	9	0	10	0	6	0	6
Dane	1,323	154	763	49	966	22	302	9	333	42	152	17	211	0	12	1	13
Dodge	211	19	56	0	75	4	30	0	34	1	19	0	20	1	6	0	7
Door	155	10	91	3	104	2	44	2	48	3	13	2	18	0	15	0	15
Douglas	528	6	341	6	353	1	133	0	134	4	55	1	60	0	21	0	21
Dunn	137	9	80	0	89	3	28	0	31	7	21	1	29	0	4	0	4
Eau Claire	442	41	165	4	210	14	79	3	96	23	38	3	64	0	12	0	12
Florence	9	0	6	0	6	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fond Du Lac	560	75	294	24	393	14	158	6	178	22	70	4	96	4	12	1	17
Forest	29	7	15	2	24	0	3	0	3	1	4	0	5	0	0	0	0
Grant	221	22	104	6	132	4	85	0	89	4	27	2	33	1	11	0	12
Green	241	7	162	9	178	2	46	3	51	1	28	0	29	0	5	2	7
Green Lake	67	20	23	0	43	4	6	1	11	3	10	0	13	0	2	0	2



# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix I

### Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and Maltreatment Finding, by County \* ^ ~ 2024

County	Unique CPS maltreatment 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
Iowa	31	1	13	0	14	0	8	0	8	8	7	0	15	0	6	0	6
Iron	14	0	7	0	7	0	6	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	302	54	169	0	223	6	43	1	50	8	35	0	43	0	8	0	8
Jefferson	225	19	23	6	48	6	20	1	27	14	15	4	33	0	0	0	0
Juneau	134	36	53	0	89	6	36	2	44	8	17	0	25	0	1	0	1
Kenosha	998	217	535	23	775	33	203	5	241	33	92	1	126	0	7	0	7
Kewaunee	67	0	48	0	48	4	13	0	17	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
La Crosse	593	10	88	14	112	5	27	1	33	12	55	9	76	0	2	0	2
Lafayette	85	18	31	0	49	2	26	0	28	7	9	0	16	0	1	0	1
Langlade	266	40	147	2	189	4	37	0	41	4	11	0	15	0	2	0	2
Lincoln	155	16	87	0	103	6	32	1	39	5	22	0	27	0	2	0	2
Manitowoc	539	59	129	0	188	11	54	0	65	3	57	0	60	0	8	0	8
Marathon	784	34	52	1	87	7	29	1	37	15	47	0	62	1	3	0	4
Marinette	149	17	93	3	113	5	27	0	32	8	17	1	26	3	5	0	8
Marquette	53	10	21	1	32	0	14	2	16	3	8	0	11	0	0	0	0
Menominee	74	5	45	1	51	0	11	0	11	0	10	0	10	0	9	0	9
Milwaukee	9,336	445	6,564	128	7,137	160	2,473	22	2,655	180	789	13	982	0	213	2	215
Monroe	237	25	127	7	159	6	78	1	85	4	32	0	36	0	4	0	4
Oconto	235	9	168	1	178	4	69	0	73	4	20	0	24	0	9	0	9
Oneida	256	40	174	17	231	0	24	0	24	2	18	3	23	0	2	0	2
Outagamie	1,295	16	131	64	211	10	83	8	101	31	130	6	167	0	8	3	11
Ozaukee	151	12	79	2	93	2	41	0	43	6	27	2	35	0	6	0	6
Pepin	21	2	7	0	9	0	7	0	7	0	4	0	4	0	1	0	1
Pierce	205	20	16	0	36	0	8	0	8	3	6	0	9	0	0	0	0

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix I

### Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and Maltreatment Finding, by County \* ^ ~ 2024

County	Unique CPS maltreatment 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
Polk	237	21	137	15	173	7	36	5	48	2	26	1	29	0	3	0	3
Portage	321	98	146	4	248	9	59	0	68	8	18	0	26	4	8	0	12
Price	75	9	41	0	50	1	14	0	15	4	12	0	16	0	8	0	8
Racine	1,221	128	657	83	868	42	381	34	457	58	143	49	250	0	50	12	62
Richland	126	0	75	0	75	4	28	0	32	1	30	0	31	0	14	0	14
Rock	614	71	396	3	470	17	142	0	159	12	60	1	73	0	1	0	1
Rusk	72	16	29	0	45	0	10	0	10	4	13	0	17	0	6	0	6
Saint Croix	434	36	315	3	354	3	83	0	86	7	47	0	54	0	5	0	5
Sauk	301	19	54	5	78	4	38	0	42	12	28	2	42	0	12	0	12
Sawyer	119	24	63	0	87	3	30	1	34	1	9	0	10	0	3	0	3
Shawano	250	22	163	0	185	4	40	1	45	7	28	0	35	0	5	0	5
Sheboygan	423	19	250	3	272	8	91	0	99	12	28	3	43	0	35	0	35
Taylor	115	44	48	0	92	2	15	0	17	3	16	1	20	0	4	0	4
Trempealeau	139	1	86	3	90	2	32	0	34	5	26	0	31	0	3	2	5
Vernon	156	2	94	0	96	2	42	0	44	3	21	0	24	0	16	0	16
Vilas	57	20	25	0	45	0	4	0	4	0	7	0	7	0	2	0	2
Walworth	267	41	167	1	209	9	61	0	70	6	17	0	23	0	2	0	2
Washburn	100	26	37	0	63	2	26	0	28	7	15	1	23	0	1	0	1
Washington	322	18	204	2	224	5	82	0	87	12	35	0	47	2	23	0	25
Waukesha	379	31	190	3	224	15	116	0	131	23	39	6	68	1	7	0	8
Waupaca	323	41	166	17	224	6	82	1	89	11	37	1	49	0	4	4	8
Waushara	145	26	96	0	122	2	40	0	42	1	16	0	17	0	4	0	4
Winnebago	1,169	58	146	0	204	14	99	0	113	18	82	0	100	0	0	0	0
Wood	307	22	195	0	217	9	61	0	70	16	43	0	59	0	1	0	1

Appendix I

Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Type and  
Maltreatment Finding, by County \* ^ ~  
2024

County	Unique CPS maltreatment 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
State Total	31,157	2,462	15,766	537	18,765	571	6,349	116	7,036	770	2,985	136	3,891	17	674	28	719

\* 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.

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix J

### County Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by Maltreatment Type \* 2024

County	Neglect Substantiation Percent	Physical Abuse Substantiation Percent	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Percent	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Percent	Total County Substantiation Percent
Adams	1.8%	2.4%	5.9%	0.0%	2.7%
Ashland	13.2%	18.2%	13.3%	0.0%	14.5%
Barron	16.7%	15.8%	10.8%	0.0%	13.8%
Bayfield	41.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.4%
Brown	15.4%	15.5%	18.8%	0.0%	15.9%
Buffalo	27.6%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	18.2%
Burnett	19.1%	7.1%	12.5%	0.0%	16.0%
Calumet	19.6%	8.8%	32.1%	0.0%	17.1%
Chippewa	11.8%	4.3%	13.5%	0.0%	9.9%
Clark	28.2%	20.0%	39.3%	0.0%	27.3%
Columbia	6.0%	7.3%	11.1%	0.0%	7.2%
Crawford	11.1%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	7.4%
Dane	15.9%	6.6%	19.9%	0.0%	14.3%
Dodge	25.3%	11.8%	5.0%	14.3%	18.4%
Door	9.6%	4.2%	16.7%	0.0%	8.1%
Douglas	1.7%	0.7%	6.7%	0.0%	1.9%
Dunn	10.1%	9.7%	24.1%	0.0%	12.4%
Eau Claire	19.5%	14.6%	35.9%	0.0%	20.4%
Florence	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%
Fond Du Lac	19.1%	7.9%	22.9%	23.5%	16.8%
Forest	29.2%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	25.0%
Grant	16.7%	4.5%	12.1%	8.3%	11.7%
Green	3.9%	3.9%	3.4%	0.0%	3.8%
Green Lake	46.5%	36.4%	23.1%	0.0%	39.1%
Iowa	7.1%	0.0%	53.3%	0.0%	20.9%
Iron	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Jackson	24.2%	12.0%	18.6%	0.0%	21.0%
Jefferson	39.6%	22.2%	42.4%	0.0%	36.1%
Juneau	40.4%	13.6%	32.0%	0.0%	31.4%
Kenosha	28.0%	13.7%	26.2%	0.0%	24.6%
Kewaunee	0.0%	23.5%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%
La Crosse	8.9%	15.2%	15.8%	0.0%	12.1%

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix J

### County Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by Maltreatment Type \* 2024

County	Neglect Substantiation Percent	Physical Abuse Substantiation Percent	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Percent	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Percent	Total County Substantiation Percent
Lafayette	36.7%	7.1%	43.8%	0.0%	28.7%
Langlade	21.2%	9.8%	26.7%	0.0%	19.4%
Lincoln	15.5%	15.4%	18.5%	0.0%	15.8%
Manitowoc	31.4%	16.9%	5.0%	0.0%	22.7%
Marathon	39.1%	18.9%	24.2%	25.0%	30.0%
Marinette	15.0%	15.6%	30.8%	37.5%	18.4%
Marquette	31.3%	0.0%	27.3%	0.0%	22.0%
Menominee	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.2%
Milwaukee	6.2%	6.0%	18.3%	0.0%	7.1%
Monroe	15.7%	7.1%	11.1%	0.0%	12.3%
Oconto	5.1%	5.5%	16.7%	0.0%	6.0%
Oneida	17.3%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	15.0%
Outagamie	7.6%	9.9%	18.6%	0.0%	11.6%
Ozaukee	12.9%	4.7%	17.1%	0.0%	11.3%
Pepin	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%
Pierce	55.6%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	43.4%
Polk	12.1%	14.6%	6.9%	0.0%	11.9%
Portage	39.5%	13.2%	30.8%	33.3%	33.6%
Price	18.0%	6.7%	25.0%	0.0%	15.7%
Racine	14.7%	9.2%	23.2%	0.0%	13.9%
Richland	0.0%	12.5%	3.2%	0.0%	3.3%
Rock	15.1%	10.7%	16.4%	0.0%	14.2%
Rusk	35.6%	0.0%	23.5%	0.0%	25.6%
Saint Croix	10.2%	3.5%	13.0%	0.0%	9.2%
Sauk	24.4%	9.5%	28.6%	0.0%	20.1%
Sawyer	27.6%	8.8%	10.0%	0.0%	20.9%
Shawano	11.9%	8.9%	20.0%	0.0%	12.2%
Sheboygan	7.0%	8.1%	27.9%	0.0%	8.7%
Taylor	47.8%	11.8%	15.0%	0.0%	36.8%
Trempealeau	1.1%	5.9%	16.1%	0.0%	5.0%
Vernon	2.1%	4.5%	12.5%	0.0%	3.9%
Vilas	44.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	34.5%

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix J

### County Maltreatment Allegation Substantiation Rate by Maltreatment Type \* 2024

County	Neglect Substantiation Percent	Physical Abuse Substantiation Percent	Sexual Abuse Substantiation Percent	Emotional Abuse Substantiation Percent	Total County Substantiation Percent
Walworth	19.6%	12.9%	26.1%	0.0%	18.4%
Washburn	41.3%	7.1%	30.4%	0.0%	30.4%
Washington	8.0%	5.7%	25.5%	8.0%	9.7%
Waukesha	13.8%	11.5%	33.8%	12.5%	16.2%
Waupaca	18.3%	6.7%	22.4%	0.0%	15.7%
Waushara	21.3%	4.8%	5.9%	0.0%	15.7%
Winnebago	28.4%	12.4%	18.0%	0.0%	21.6%
Wood	10.1%	12.9%	27.1%	0.0%	13.5%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix K

### Count and Percentage of CPS Initial Assessments by Maltreater Relationship, by County \* 2024

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	93	85	91.4%	8	8.6%
Ashland	49	43	87.8%	6	12.2%
Barron	227	221	97.4%	6	2.6%
Bayfield	30	28	93.3%	2	6.7%
Brown	1,079	973	90.2%	106	9.8%
Buffalo	34	32	94.1%	2	5.9%
Burnett	47	45	95.7%	2	4.3%
Calumet	102	98	96.1%	4	3.9%
Chippewa	175	171	97.7%	4	2.3%
Clark	73	69	94.5%	4	5.5%
Columbia	109	108	99.1%	1	0.9%
Crawford	29	25	86.2%	4	13.8%
Dane	862	790	91.6%	72	8.4%
Dodge	153	144	94.1%	9	5.9%
Door	96	88	91.7%	8	8.3%
Douglas	353	348	98.6%	5	1.4%
Dunn	94	87	92.6%	7	7.4%
Eau Claire	255	239	93.7%	16	6.3%
Florence	6	6	100.0%	0	0.0%
Fond Du Lac	324	310	95.7%	14	4.3%
Forest	19	17	89.5%	2	10.5%
Grant	151	145	96.0%	6	4.0%
Green	127	119	93.7%	8	6.3%
Green Lake	40	39	97.5%	1	2.5%
Iowa	22	20	90.9%	2	9.1%
Iron	11	10	90.9%	1	9.1%
Jackson	162	151	93.2%	11	6.8%
Jefferson	165	155	93.9%	10	6.1%
Juneau	81	72	88.9%	9	11.1%
Kenosha	631	589	93.3%	42	6.7%
Kewaunee	49	49	100.0%	0	0.0%
La Crosse	358	338	94.4%	20	5.6%
Lafayette	52	47	90.4%	5	9.6%
Langlade	157	151	96.2%	6	3.8%

# Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2024

## Appendix K

### Count and Percentage of CPS Initial Assessments by Maltreater Relationship, by County \* 2024

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	95	91	95.8%	4	4.2%
Manitowoc	332	306	92.2%	26	7.8%
Marathon	452	428	94.7%	24	5.3%
Marinette	100	95	95.0%	5	5.0%
Marquette	37	34	91.9%	3	8.1%
Menominee	38	34	89.5%	4	10.5%
Milwaukee	5,571	5,154	92.5%	417	7.5%
Monroe	155	144	92.9%	11	7.1%
Oconto	122	120	98.4%	2	1.6%
Oneida	138	134	97.1%	4	2.9%
Outagamie	784	732	93.4%	52	6.6%
Ozaukee	94	85	90.4%	9	9.6%
Pepin	16	15	93.8%	1	6.3%
Pierce	118	113	95.8%	5	4.2%
Polk	145	136	93.8%	9	6.2%
Portage	191	187	97.9%	4	2.1%
Price	50	47	94.0%	3	6.0%
Racine	748	685	91.6%	63	8.4%
Richland	71	65	91.5%	6	8.5%
Rock	360	342	95.0%	18	5.0%
Rusk	40	37	92.5%	3	7.5%
Saint Croix	276	257	93.1%	19	6.9%
Sauk	190	172	90.5%	18	9.5%
Sawyer	79	78	98.7%	1	1.3%
Shawano	141	138	97.9%	3	2.1%
Sheboygan	277	272	98.2%	5	1.8%
Taylor	65	59	90.8%	6	9.2%
Trempealeau	94	87	92.6%	7	7.4%
Vernon	83	80	96.4%	3	3.6%
Vilas	39	38	97.4%	1	2.6%
Walworth	171	165	96.5%	6	3.5%
Washburn	55	51	92.7%	4	7.3%
Washington	208	196	94.2%	12	5.8%
Waukesha	271	246	90.8%	25	9.2%



Appendix K

Count and Percentage of CPS Initial Assessments by Maltreater Relationship, by County \*  
2024

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	210	186	88.6%	24	11.4%
Waushara	86	86	100.0%	0	0.0%
Winnebago	707	664	93.9%	43	6.1%
Wood	193	180	93.3%	13	6.7%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>19,005</b>	<b>17,739</b>	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>6.7%</b>

\* '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 \*  
2024**

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	85	81	4	4.7%
Ashland	43	34	9	20.9%
Barron	221	169	52	23.5%
Bayfield	28	24	4	14.3%
Brown	972	861	111	11.4%
Buffalo	32	26	6	18.8%
Burnett	45	35	10	22.2%
Calumet	98	91	7	7.1%
Chippewa	171	153	18	10.5%
Clark	69	57	12	17.4%
Columbia	106	92	14	13.2%
Crawford	25	16	9	36.0%
Dane	789	739	50	6.3%
Dodge	144	124	20	13.9%
Door	88	76	12	13.6%
Douglas	348	325	23	6.6%
Dunn	87	77	10	11.5%
Eau Claire	238	198	40	16.8%
Florence	6	3	3	50.0%
Fond Du Lac	310	269	41	13.2%
Forest	17	14	3	17.6%
Grant	145	127	18	12.4%
Green	119	109	10	8.4%
Green Lake	39	34	5	12.8%
Iowa	20	20	0	0.0%
Iron	10	10	0	0.0%
Jackson	151	119	32	21.2%
Jefferson	155	125	30	19.4%
Juneau	71	51	20	28.2%
Kenosha	367	321	46	12.5%
Kewaunee	49	40	9	18.4%
La Crosse	312	282	30	9.6%
Lafayette	46	35	11	23.9%
Langlade	151	123	28	18.5%

## Appendix L

**Safety Assessment Results in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments, by County \*  
2024**

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	90	68	22	24.4%
Manitowoc	306	265	41	13.4%
Marathon	427	380	47	11.0%
Marinette	95	78	17	17.9%
Marquette	34	30	4	11.8%
Menominee	34	31	3	8.8%
Milwaukee	5,154	4,705	449	8.7%
Monroe	144	122	22	15.3%
Oconto	120	93	27	22.5%
Oneida	134	108	26	19.4%
Outagamie	731	660	71	9.7%
Ozaukee	84	67	17	20.2%
Pepin	15	11	4	26.7%
Pierce	113	96	17	15.0%
Polk	136	120	16	11.8%
Portage	187	135	52	27.8%
Price	47	36	11	23.4%
Racine	681	643	38	5.6%
Richland	65	57	8	12.3%
Rock	338	305	33	9.8%
Rusk	37	31	6	16.2%
Saint Croix	234	201	33	14.1%
Sauk	172	148	24	14.0%
Sawyer	78	67	11	14.1%
Shawano	138	115	23	16.7%
Sheboygan	271	224	47	17.3%
Taylor	59	36	23	39.0%
Trempealeau	87	73	14	16.1%
Vernon	80	69	11	13.8%
Vilas	38	28	10	26.3%
Walworth	165	136	29	17.6%
Washburn	51	41	10	19.6%
Washington	196	167	29	14.8%
Waukesha	217	203	14	6.5%

Appendix L

**Safety Assessment Results in Primary Caregiver CPS Initial Assessments, by County \***  
**2024**

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	185	171	14	7.6%
Waushara	86	77	9	10.5%
Winnebago	664	603	61	9.2%
Wood	177	132	45	25.4%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>17,416</b>	<b>15,385</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>11.7%</b>

\*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 CY2024**

### **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>