

# STATEWIDE CHILD ABUSE

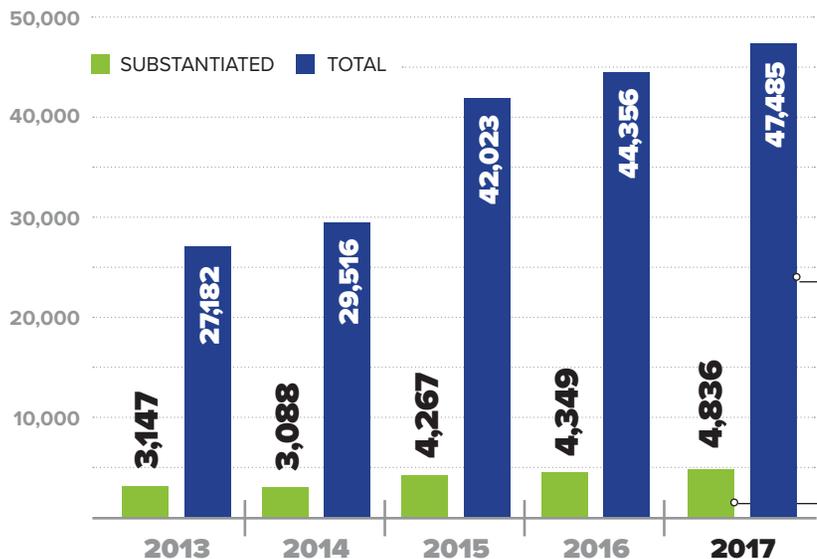
STATE POPULATION • 12,783,977 // POPULATION UNDER 18 • 2,704,268

NOTE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, January 2018.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Statewide substantiated reports of child abuse increased from 1.6 per thousand children in 2016 to 1.8 per thousand children in 2017.
- Sexual abuse remains the leading category of abuse, followed by physical abuse.
- Parents continue to be the persons most responsible for abuse of their children.
- Amendments to the Child Protective Services Law, effective in December 2014, continue to drive increases in reports of child abuse. These amendments increased the number of mandated reporters of child abuse and added additional persons who could be identified as perpetrators of child abuse.

## 2017 REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE



NOTE: Indicated outcomes are reported by counties at the conclusion of an investigation and if appealed are subject to change upon review and ruling.

### TOTAL REPORTS PER 1,000 CHILDREN



### SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS PER 1,000 CHILDREN



### SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS BY GENDER OF VICTIM



\* 1 substantiated report did not include gender of child.

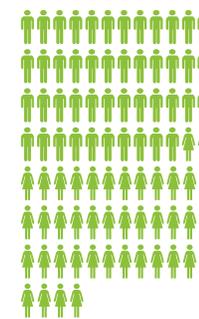
## 2017 FATALITIES

**40**



## 2017 NEAR FATALITIES

**88**



MALE  
FEMALE

## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

reports are those that allege a child might have been a victim of child abuse. Reports alleging that a child under 18 years of age may have been abused are accepted for investigation when reported prior to the victim's twentieth birthday.

These reports are made by mandated and permissive reporters. Mandated reporters are adults who work or volunteer with children and youth and are required to report suspected child abuse if they have reasonable cause that abuse has occurred under any of the following circumstances:

- The mandated reporter comes into contact with the child in the course of employment, occupation and practice of a profession, or through a regularly scheduled program, activity or service;
- The mandated reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child, or is affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization, or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5





## 2017 CHILD ABUSE REPORTS INVESTIGATED

WITHIN 30 AND 60 DAYS

**21,044**

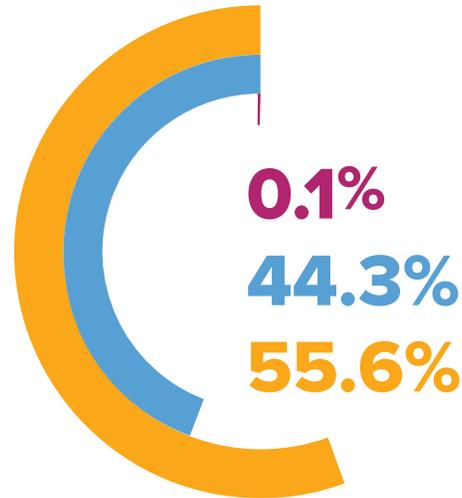
INVESTIGATIONS  
WITHIN 0-30 DAYS

**26,389**

INVESTIGATIONS  
WITHIN 31-60 DAYS

**52**

INVESTIGATIONS  
OVER 60 DAYS



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

guidance, or training of the child;

- A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse; or
- An individual 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that the individual has committed child abuse.

Visit [www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov](http://www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov) for a complete list of mandated reporters and assistance on how to make a report.

Persons who are not mandated to report are considered permissive reporters. Permissive reporters may make a referral of suspected child

abuse by calling ChildLine. Anyone who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse is encouraged to make a report.

### INVESTIGATIONS

Upon receipt of a report of suspected child abuse, the CCYA immediately begins an investigation and assures safety of the child and any other children living in the home. The CCYA is required to see the child within the following time frames:

- Immediately, if:
  - › Emergency protective custody is required, has been or will be taken; or
  - › It cannot be determined from the report whether emergency protective custody is needed.
- Within 24 hours, if the CCYA has

assured the immediate safety of the child, i.e. the child will have no contact with the alleged perpetrator.

The CCYA investigates reports of suspected child abuse when the alleged perpetrator meets the definition under the CPSL. Suspected child abuse can be caused by the alleged perpetrator by acts either he or she committed (commission) or by failing to prevent abuse (omission). The CPSL defines perpetrators of commission as:

- A parent of the child;
- A spouse or former spouse of the child's parent;
- A paramour or former paramour of the child's parent;
- A person 14 years of age or older and responsible for the child's welfare or having direct contact with children as an employee of child care services, a school or through a program, activity or service;
- An individual 14 years of age or older who resides in the same home as the child;
- An individual 18 years of age or older who does not reside in the same home as the child, but is related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity by birth or adoption to the child; or
- An individual 18 years of age or older who engages a child

in severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as those terms are defined under Section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 1466, 22 U.S.C. § 7102).

The following individuals may be considered a perpetrator for failing to act:

- A parent of the child;
- A spouse or former spouse of the child's parent;
- A paramour or former paramour of the child's parent;
- A person 18 years of age or older and responsible for the child's welfare; or
- A person 18 years of age or older who resides in the same home as the child.

Relationships of perpetrators described in this report further define how the perpetrator was connected to the child. Reports may have more than one allegation of abuse by a perpetrator against a child victim. Because some children are victims of more than one type of abuse, the chart [pg. 10] illustrating the types of allegations will be a greater number than the number of children who were victims of child abuse.

If the alleged perpetrator does not

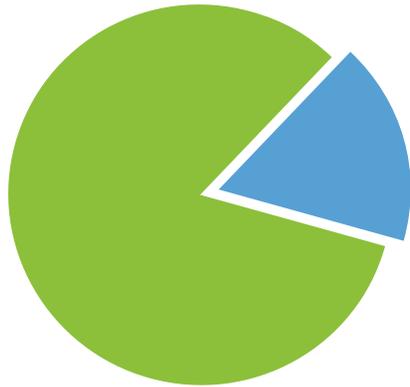
CONTINUES ON PAGE 6





# STATEWIDE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

## SOURCES OF CHILD ABUSE REPORTS



**49,780**

TOTAL REPORTERS

**41,298**

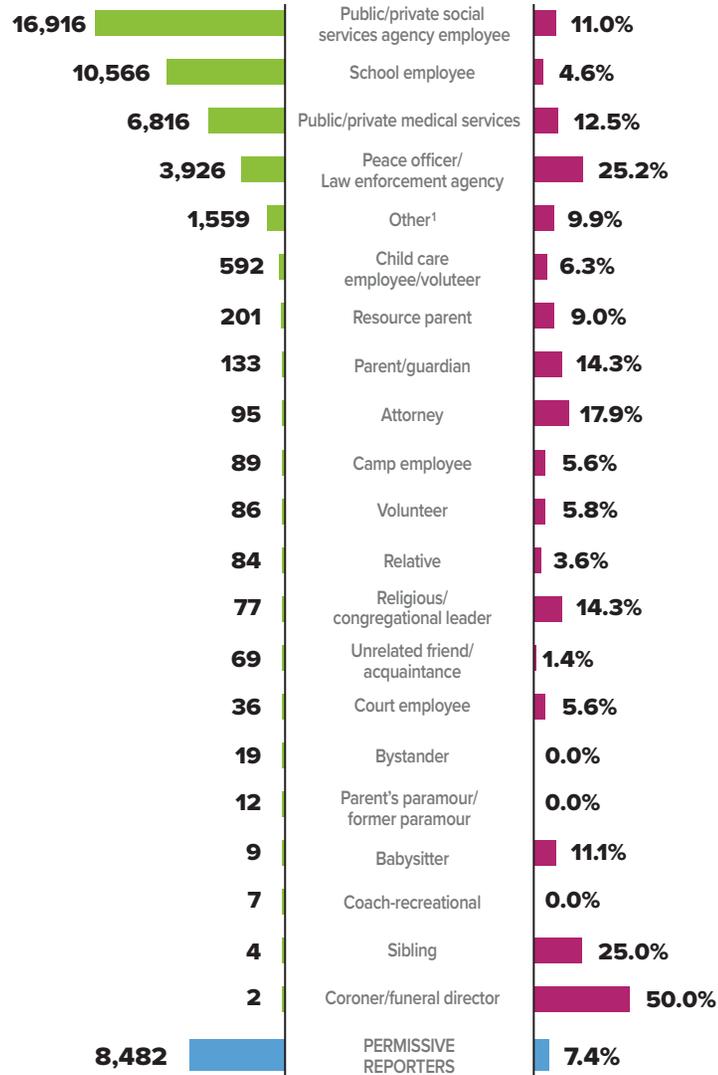
MANDATED REPORTERS

**8,482**

PERMISSIVE REPORTERS

### BREAKDOWN

TOTAL MANDATED REPORTERS BY REPORTER TYPE



### BREAKDOWN

PERCENT OF REPORTS SUBSTANTIATED BY REPORTER TYPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

fit the CPSL definition, the report is referred to law enforcement officials for investigation. Reports are also referred to law enforcement officials for a joint multidisciplinary team investigation with the CCYA and a health care professional when there are child abuse allegations that also include certain criminal offenses such as aggravated assault, kidnapping, sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or serious bodily injury by any perpetrator.

A child abuse investigation must determine within 30 days whether the report is:

- **FOUNDED** – there is court action including:
  - › A judicial adjudication that the child was abused;
  - › Acceptance into an accelerated rehabilitative disposition program;
  - › Consent decree entered in a juvenile proceeding; or
  - › Granting of a final protection from abuse order.
- **INDICATED** – CCYA or regional staff find substantial evidence that abuse has occurred based on medical evidence, the child protective service investigation, or an admission by the perpetrator;
- **UNFOUNDED** – there is a lack of evidence that the child was abused; or

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

NOTES: Some mandated reporters identified having an additional relationship to the child at time of referral. <sup>1</sup> Librarians and contractors are included in Other.



- **PENDING** – status assigned to a report when the CCYA cannot complete the investigation within 60 calendar days because criminal or juvenile court action has been initiated.

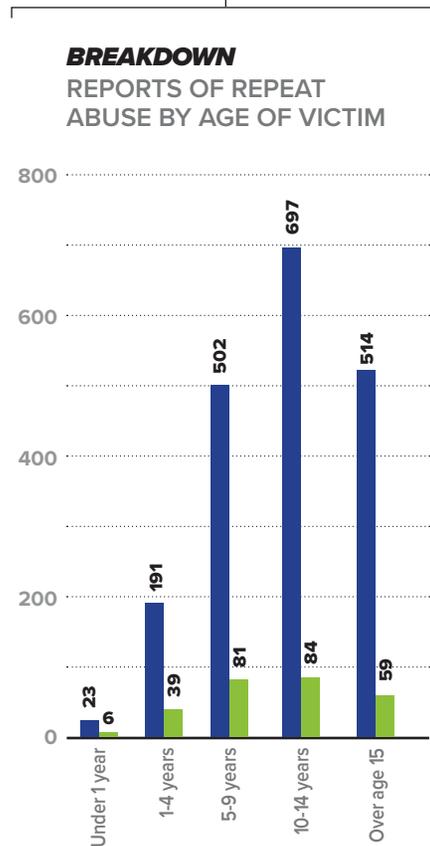
The status of indicated reports is approved by the CCYA administrator and reviewed by the CCYA solicitor.

A CCYA might take up to 60 days to complete an investigation if there is a valid reason to not complete the investigation within 30 days, such as waiting on results from medical reports or other evaluations. The CCYA must document this reason in the case file.

Substantiated reports are kept on file at both ChildLine and the county agencies until the victim’s 23rd birthday. ChildLine keeps the perpetrator’s information on file indefinitely if the name and date of birth or social security number of the perpetrator is known. Unfounded reports are kept on file for one year from the date of the report. They must be expunged within 120 days following the one-year period. If the unfounded case is accepted for services, the report is maintained as part of the case record and is then kept on file for one year following closure of the case. The report is expunged within 120 days following the one-year period.

In this report, “founded” and “indicated” reports of child abuse will be referred to as “substantiated” reports.

**REPORTS OF REPEAT ABUSE  
SUSPECTED VS. SUBSTANTIATED**



**STATEWIDE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**



**REPEAT ABUSE**

ChildLine uses the statewide database to identify if a child victim on a new report has been previously identified as a victim in a substantiated report of abuse. Upon receipt of a report at ChildLine, a caseworker searches the statewide database to identify if any subject of the report — including the child’s parent, perpetrator, or the child themselves — was involved in a previous substantiated report or one that is under investigation. In addition, during the course of a current investigation, it is possible that other previously unreported incidents of child abuse are disclosed. For example, an investigation can reveal another incident of abuse that was never before disclosed by the child or the family for a number of reasons. These previously unreported incidents are registered with ChildLine and handled as separate reports. Both types of reports are reflected in the graphic depicting reports of repeat abuse.

**OCYF REGIONAL OFFICES**

The department’s Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) has regional offices in Philadelphia, Scranton, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh. Regional office responsibilities include:

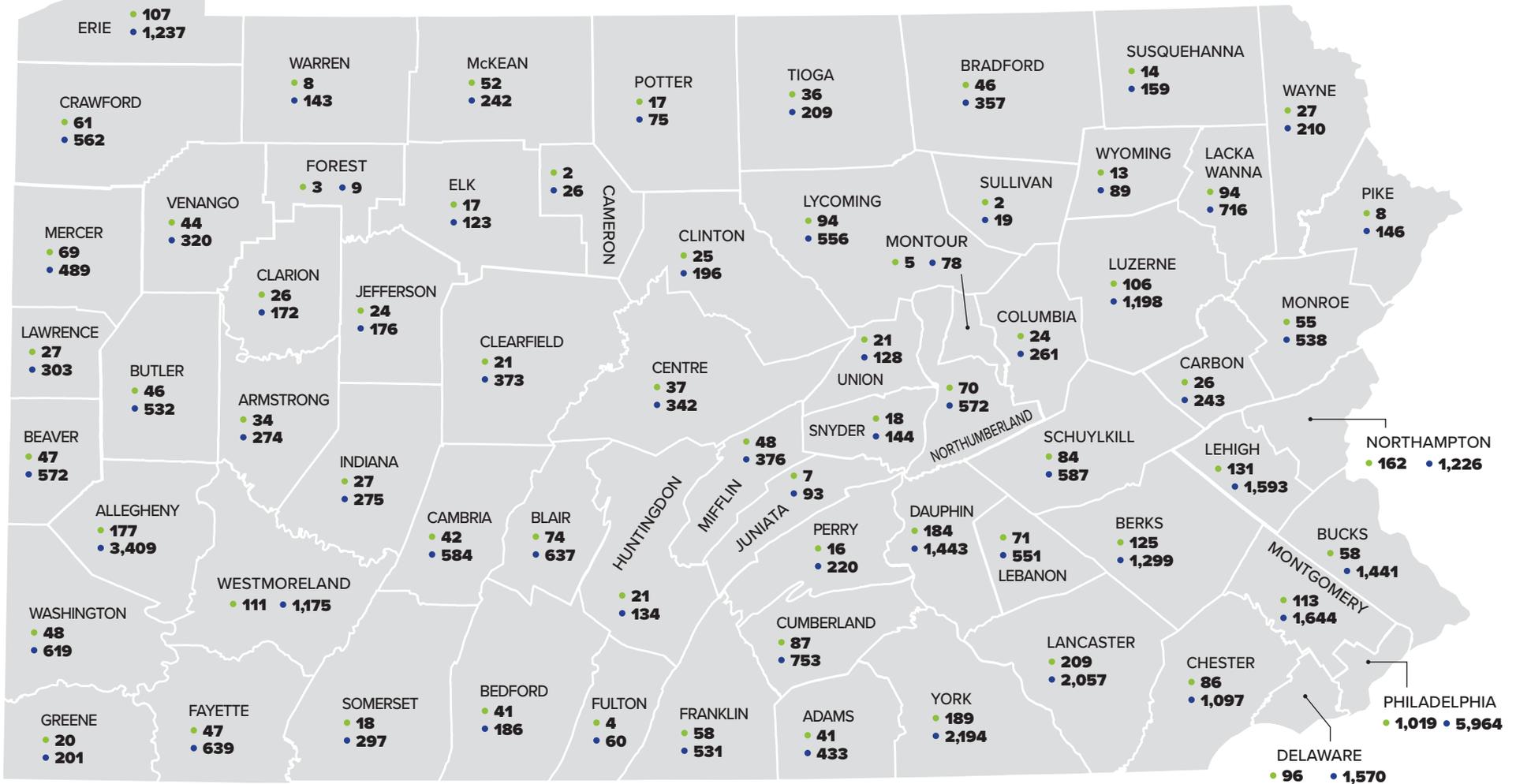
- Monitoring, licensing, and providing technical assistance to

CCYA and private children and youth agencies and facilities;

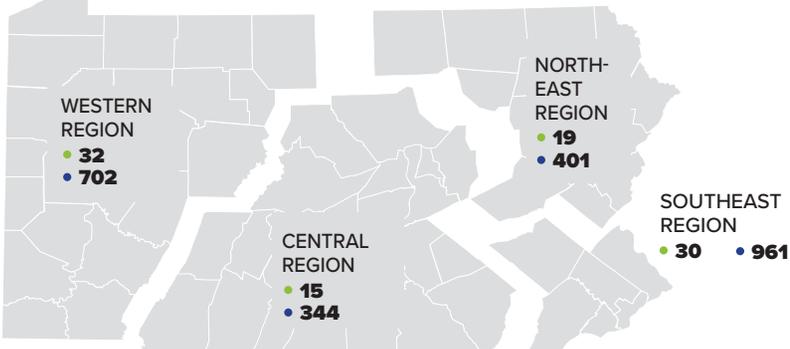
- Investigating child abuse when the alleged perpetrator is a CCYA employee or one of its agents;
- Conducting comprehensive reviews of all child fatalities and near fatalities as a result of suspected child abuse that occurs within the commonwealth;
- Monitoring CCYAs’ implementation and ongoing compliance with the CPSL;
- Ensuring regulatory compliance of agencies and facilities by investigating complaints and conducting annual inspections;
- Assisting CCYAs in the interpretation and implementation of new laws and regulations; and
- Reviewing and recommending approval of county needs-based plans and budget estimates.

When the suspected abuse has been committed by the CCYA or any of its agents or employees, the CPSL requires the department to investigate reports of suspected child abuse due to conflict of interest. An agent of the county agency is anyone who provides a children and youth social service for, or on behalf of, the CCYA. Agents might include resource parents, residential facility staff, and staff and volunteers at child care centers.

## COUNTY CHILD AND YOUTH AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS



## OCYF REGIONAL OFFICE INVESTIGATIONS



# CHILD ABUSE REPORTS BY INVESTIGATING AGENCY

● Substantiated Reports ● Total Suspected Reports

NOTE: County children and youth agencies conduct child abuse investigations unless the alleged perpetrator is an agent of the CCYA. If the alleged perpetrator is an agent of the CCYA, OCYF regional offices conduct the child abuse investigation due to a conflict of interest. This map shows reports by the investigating agency.

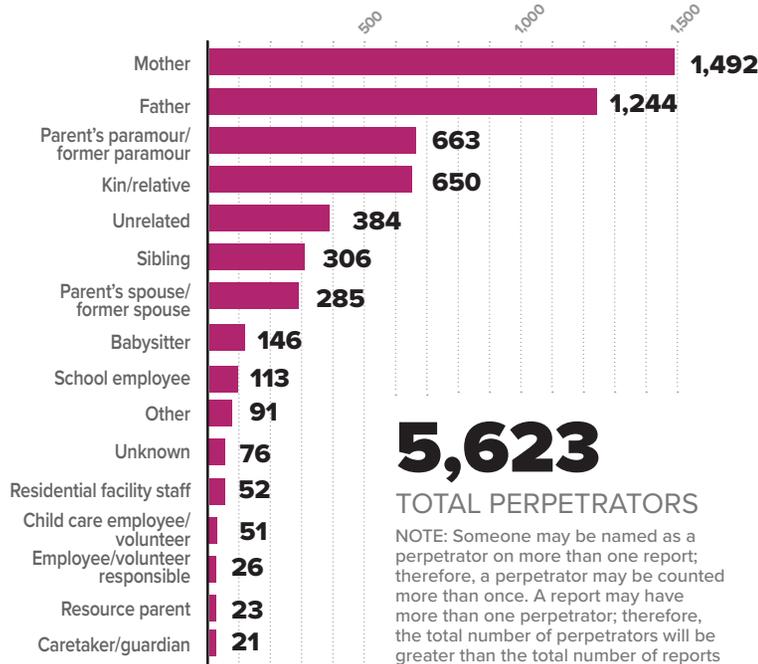




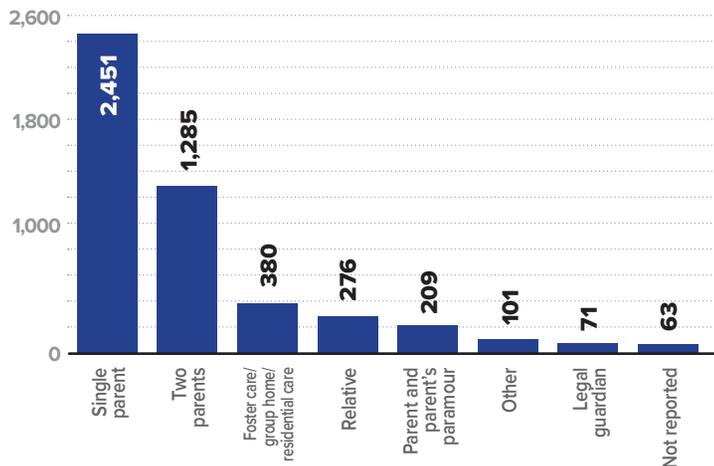


# STATEWIDE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

## RELATIONSHIP OF PERPETRATOR SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS

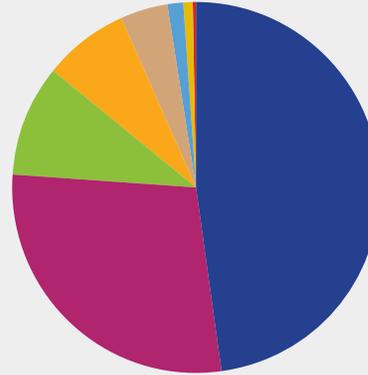


## VICTIMS' LIVING ARRANGEMENT AT TIME OF ABUSE SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS



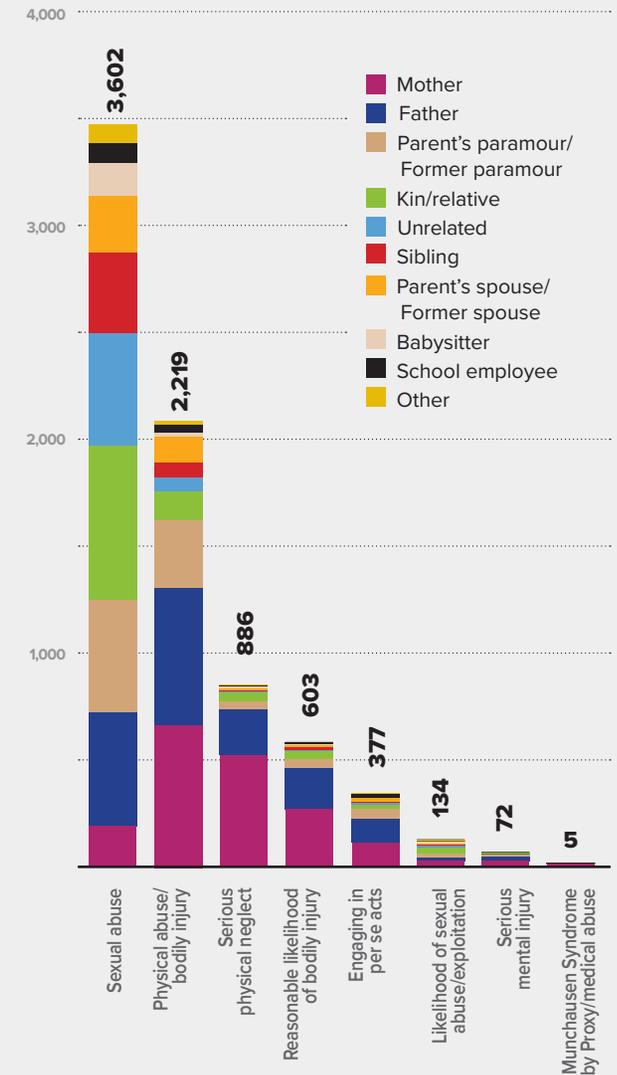
## TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS

**7,148**  
TOTAL ALLEGATIONS



- **3,431** (48.0%)  
Sexual abuse
- **2,025** (28.3%)  
Physical abuse/bodily injury
- **694** (9.7%)  
Serious physical neglect
- **523** (7.3%)  
Reasonable likelihood of bodily injury
- **304** (4.3%)  
Engaging in per se acts
- **105** (1.5%)  
Likelihood of sexual abuse/exploitation
- **61** (0.9%)  
Serious mental injury
- **5** (0.1%)  
Munchausen Syndrome By Proxy/medical abuse

## BREAKDOWN RELATIONSHIP OF PERPETRATOR



NOTE: Shown are the 10 most frequently reported perpetrator types. A report may have more than one perpetrator with more than one allegation; therefore, the total number of perpetrators and allegations will be greater than the total number of reports.

**DEFINITION: Per se act** — The definition of child abuse also includes certain acts in which the act itself constitutes abuse without any resulting injury or condition.

# CHILD ABUSE FATALITY AND NEAR FATALITY REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

**THE FATALITY OR NEAR FATALITY OF A CHILD** under suspicious circumstances impacts the wider community, with everyone left wondering what could have been done differently to prevent the incident from occurring. The department is required to review circumstances surrounding cases where suspected child abuse might have occurred, which helps the community better understand what led to the fatality or near fatality, and to help initiate a discussion on how Pennsylvanians can help prevent future occurrences.

Act 33 became effective December 30, 2008, and required that child fatalities and near fatalities where abuse was suspected be reviewed at the state and county levels. The review of child fatalities was not new to the field of child welfare, but rather codified and built upon the existing review process for fatalities to include the review of near fatalities. Act 44 of 2014 further addressed public disclosure provisions by permitting the investigating CCYA to release information to the public prior to the completion of its fatality or near fatality review team report. Act 33 of 2008 and Act 44 of 2014 increase child-serving systems' transparency and accountability related to child fatalities and near fatalities by granting public access to information related to each child fatality or near fatality when abuse is suspected.

Upon receipt of a report of suspected child abuse involving a

fatality or near fatality, two types of reviews are immediately initiated:

- The first level of review occurs at the local level in accordance with an established protocol and involves the county agency convening a team broadly representative of the community, consisting of at least six individuals who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse. County Child Abuse Fatality and Near Fatality Review Teams are required to review cases when it has been determined that abuse occurred, or when a final status determination has not been made within 30 calendar days from the date of the report to ChildLine.
- The department is responsible for conducting the second level of review for all child fatalities and near fatalities when abuse is suspected, regardless of the status determination. This means that both substantiated and unfounded cases will be reviewed.

The department has convened a Statewide Child Fatality and Near Fatality Trend Analysis Team consisting of cross-system partners and external stakeholders. The team's purpose is to analyze data and information gathered to determine the contributing factors and symptoms of abuse and to form recommendations for policy and practice changes at the state and local levels. The team will use the analyses to promote and support the implementation of effective prevention efforts in Pennsylvania that may prevent similar future occurrences. These reviews seek to identify areas that require systemic change in order to improve the delivery of services to children and families, and develop data-driven and research-informed recommendations, which will ultimately enhance the commonwealth's ability to protect children. Findings and recommendations will be posted to [www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov](http://www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov).

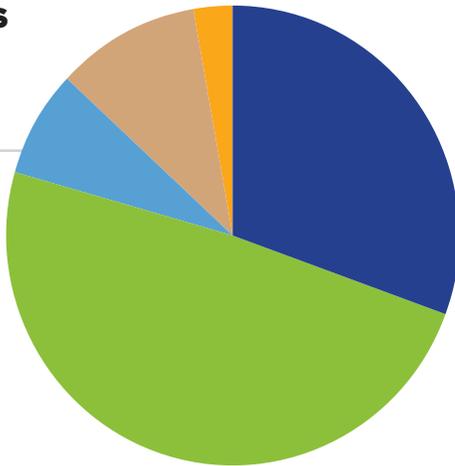
# CHILD ABUSE FATALITY AND NEAR FATALITY REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

## SUBSTANTIATED FATALITIES

**40**

**16**  
40%  
FEMALE

**24**  
60%  
MALE



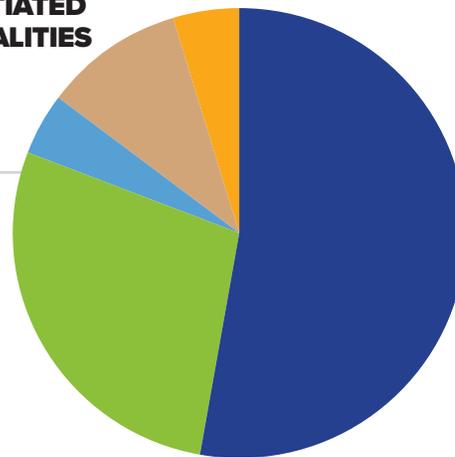
- **13** (32.5%)  
Under Age 1
- **19** (47.5%)  
Ages 1-4
- **3** (7.5%)  
Ages 5-9
- **4** (10.0%)  
Ages 10-14
- **1** (2.5%)  
Ages 15-17

## SUBSTANTIATED NEAR FATALITIES

**88**

**42**  
48%  
FEMALE

**46**  
52%  
MALE



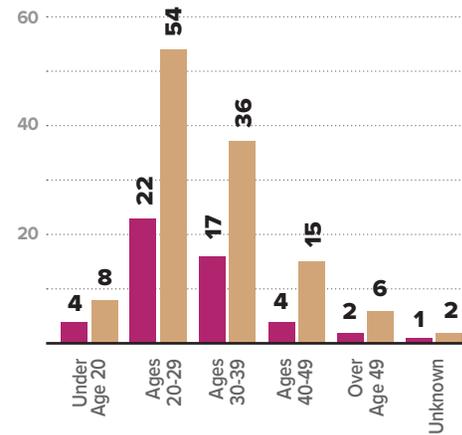
- **46** (52.3%)  
Under Age 1
- **25** (28.4%)  
Ages 1-4
- **4** (4.5%)  
Ages 5-9
- **9** (10.2%)  
Ages 10-14
- **4** (4.5%)  
Ages 15-17

Upon completion of the department's review, a final redacted report is posted at [KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov/resources/childfatalitynearfatalityreports](https://www.keepkidsafe.pa.gov/resources/childfatalitynearfatalityreports) unless the district attorney certifies that the release of the report may compromise a pending criminal investigation or proceeding. After verification from the district attorney that there is no longer a certification barring the report's release, the department's redacted report is posted to facilitate the release of information to the public.

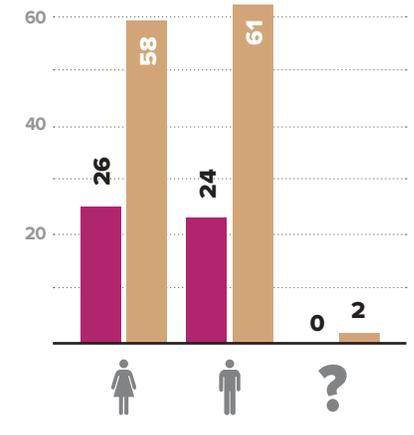
## PERPETRATOR

■ FATALITIES ■ NEAR FATALITIES

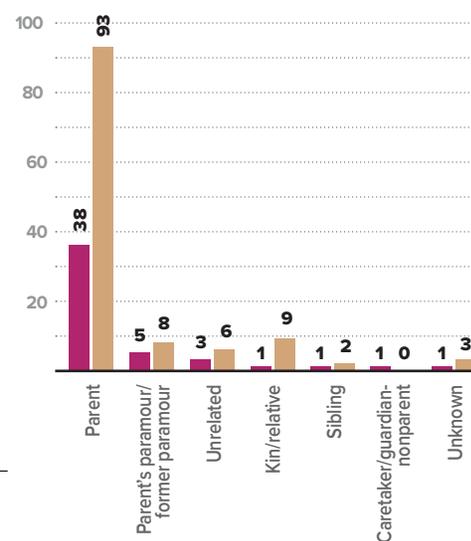
### AGE OF PERPETRATOR



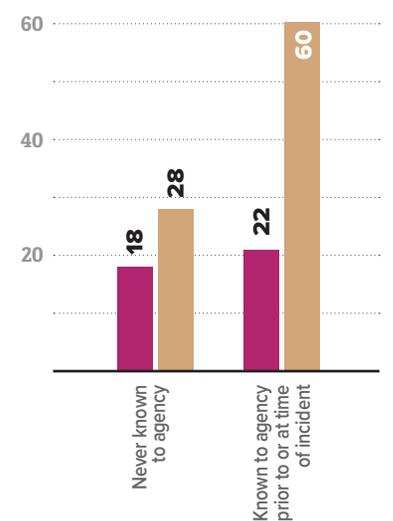
### GENDER OF PERPETRATOR



### RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM



### PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT



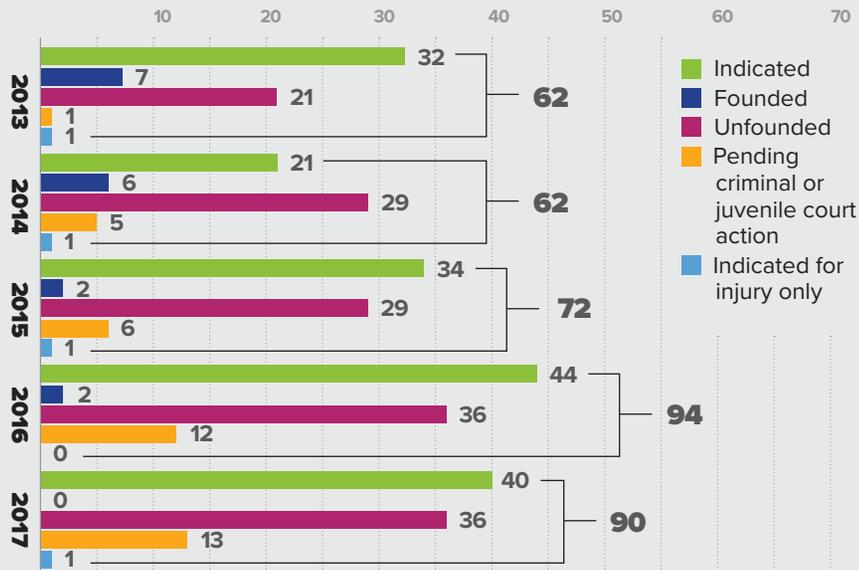
NOTE: A report may have more than one perpetrator; therefore, the total number of perpetrators will be greater than the total number of reports.

NOTE: Child fatality and near fatality data provided was extracted on 4/18/2018.

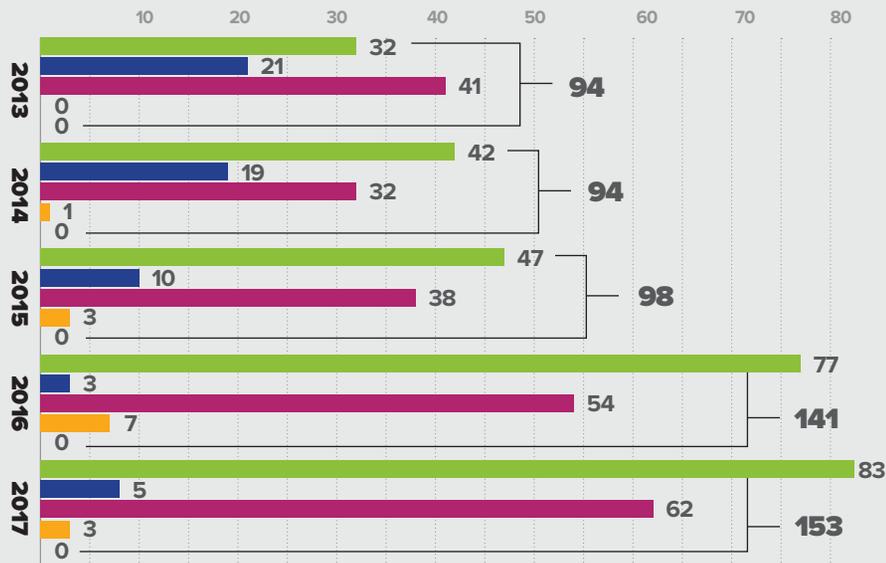
# CHILD ABUSE FATALITY AND NEAR FATALITY REVIEW AND ANALYSIS



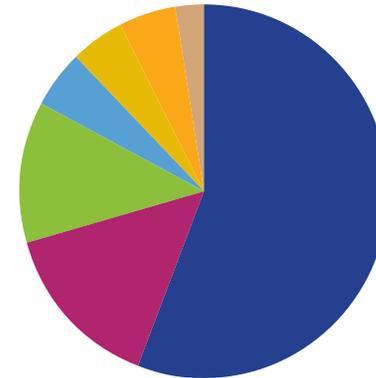
## TOTAL CHILD FATALITIES // 5-YEAR ANALYSIS



## TOTAL NEAR FATALITIES // 5-YEAR ANALYSIS

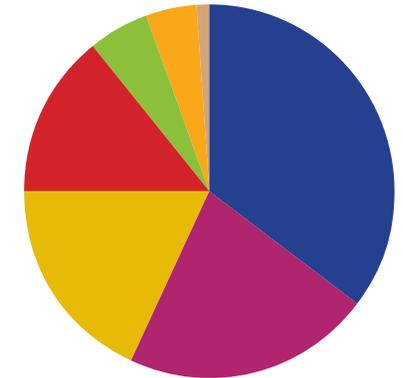


## SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES DETERMINED CAUSE



- **23** (57.5%)  
Violent act
- **6** (15.0%)  
Delay/failure to provide medical care for illness or injury
- **5** (12.5%)  
Lack of supervision
- **2** (5.0%)  
Asphyxiation/restriction of air flow
- **2** (5.0%)  
Ingestion
- **2** (5.0%)  
Unsecured guns/gun shot
- **1** (2.5%)  
Co-sleeping, substance impaired
- **0** (0.0%)  
Malnutrition/Dehydration

## SUBSTANTIATED NEAR FATALITIES DETERMINED CAUSE



- **33** (37.5%)  
Violent act
- **20** (22.7%)  
Delay/failure to provide medical care for illness or injury
- **17** (19.3%)  
Ingestion
- **13** (14.8%)  
Malnutrition/Dehydration
- **6** (6.8%)  
Lack of supervision
- **4** (4.5%)  
Unsecured guns/gun shot
- **1** (1.1%)  
Co-sleeping, substance impaired
- **0** (0.0%)  
Asphyxiation/restriction of air flow

NOTE: A child abuse fatality or near fatality may have more than one determining cause; therefore, the total number of determining causes will be greater than the total number of fatalities or near fatalities.

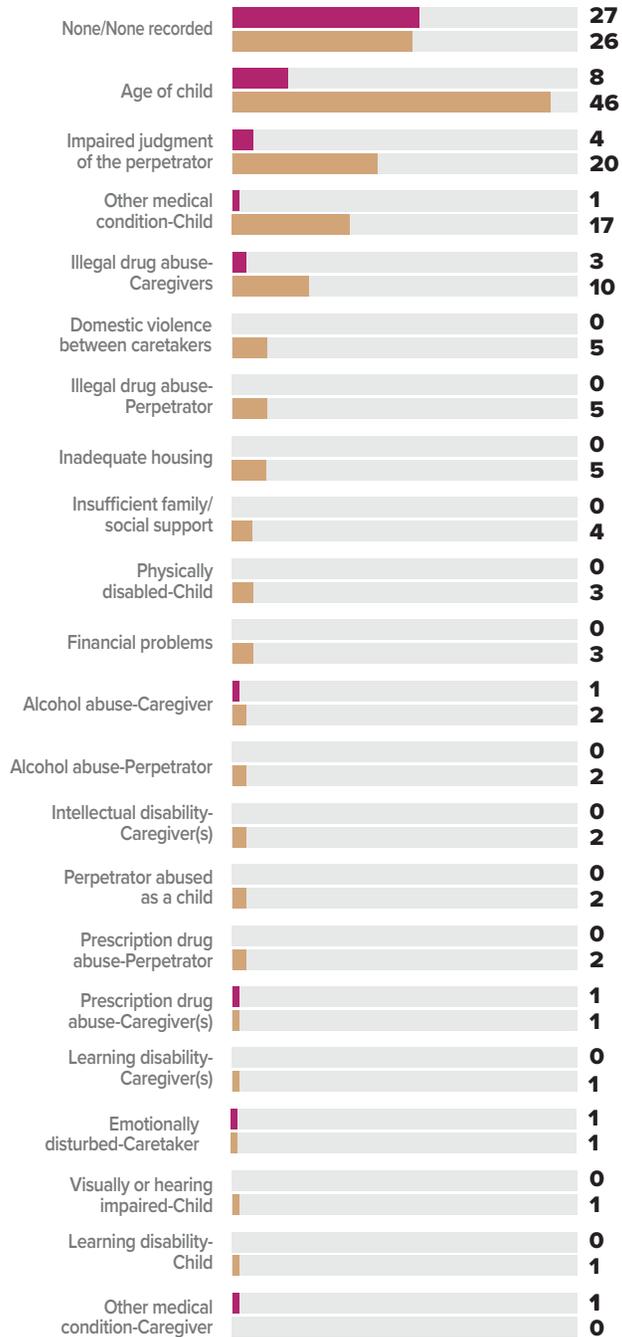
# CHILD ABUSE FATALITY AND NEAR FATALITY REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

**40**  
SUBSTANTIATED  
FATALITIES

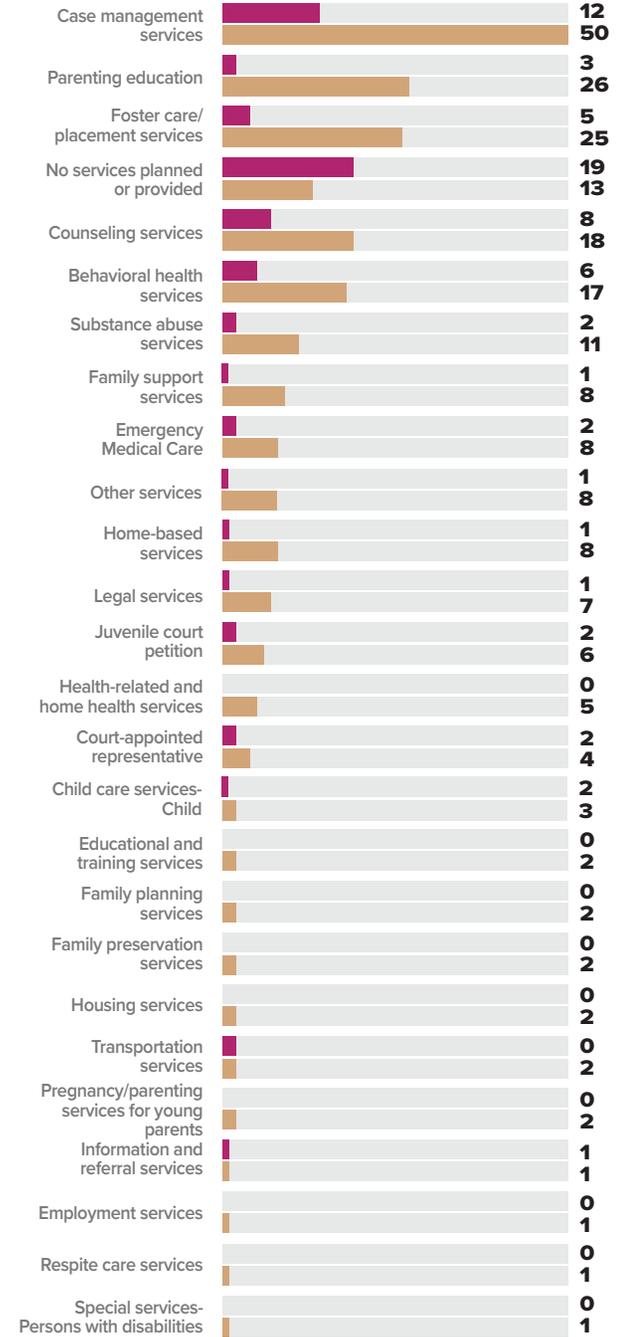
**88**  
SUBSTANTIATED  
NEAR FATALITIES

FATALITIES ■ NEAR FATALITIES ■

## INVESTIGATIONS CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

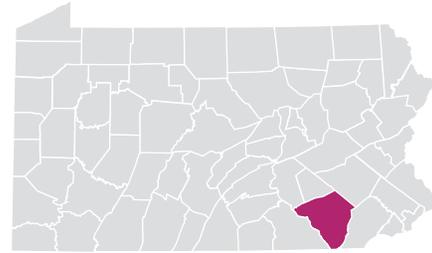


## INVESTIGATIONS SERVICES PLANNED OR PROVIDED TO FAMILY

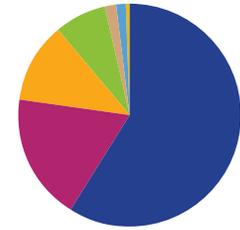


# LANCASTER COUNTY

**URBAN** // POPULATION • 533,110 / POPULATION UNDER 18 • 128,533



## TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS



**286** TOTAL ALLEGATIONS

- 169** (59.1%) Sexual abuse
- 52** (18.2%) Physical abuse/bodily injury
- 34** (11.9%) Reasonable likelihood of bodily injury
- 21** (7.3%) Serious physical neglect
- 5** (1.7%) Engaging in per se acts
- 4** (1.4%) Likelihood of sexual abuse/exploitation
- 1** (0.3%) Serious mental injury
- 0** (0.0%) Munchausen Syndrome By Proxy/medical abuse

NOTES: A report may have more than one allegation for each report; therefore, the total number of allegations will be greater than the total number of reports.

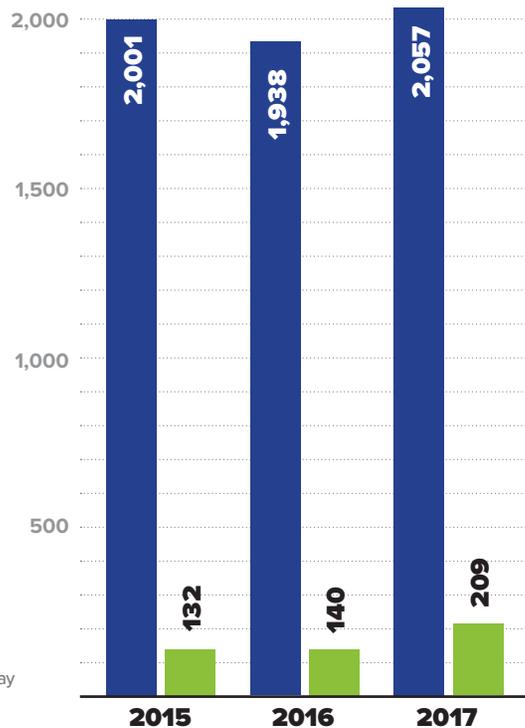
## 2017 REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE

**2,057**

■ TOTAL REPORTS

**209**

■ SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS



NOTE: CPS and GPS data reported were investigated and substantiated by the county children and youth agency and may vary from statewide data which include both county and regional investigations.

## SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS BY GENDER OF VICTIM



**FEMALE**

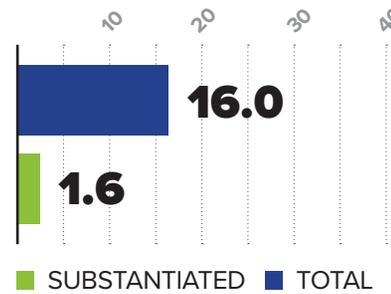
**130**  
62.2%



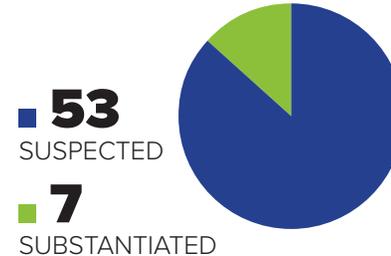
**MALE**

**79**  
37.8%

## CHILD ABUSE REPORTS PER 1,000 CHILDREN



## CASES OF REPEAT ABUSE SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS



**\$4,941,173**

**EXPENDITURES CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS AND GENERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES ASSESSMENTS**



NOTE: Expenditures include only state funding.

## 2017 FATALITIES

**4/40** ▶ **1** **3**

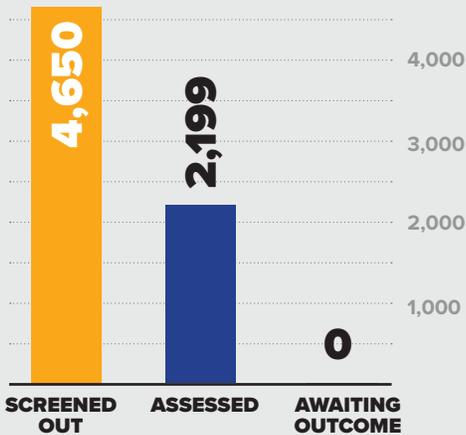
## 2017 NEAR FATALITIES

**2/88** ▶ **2** **0**

# 2017 REPORTS OF GENERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES

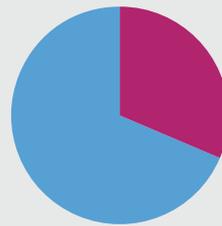
# 6,849

TOTAL REPORTS



## BREAKDOWN VALID ASSESSED REPORTS

# 692



■ TOTAL  
■ VALID  
■ INVALID

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN ASSESSED

# 3,300

TOTAL

# 967

VALID

CHILDREN ASSESSED PER 1,000 CHILDREN

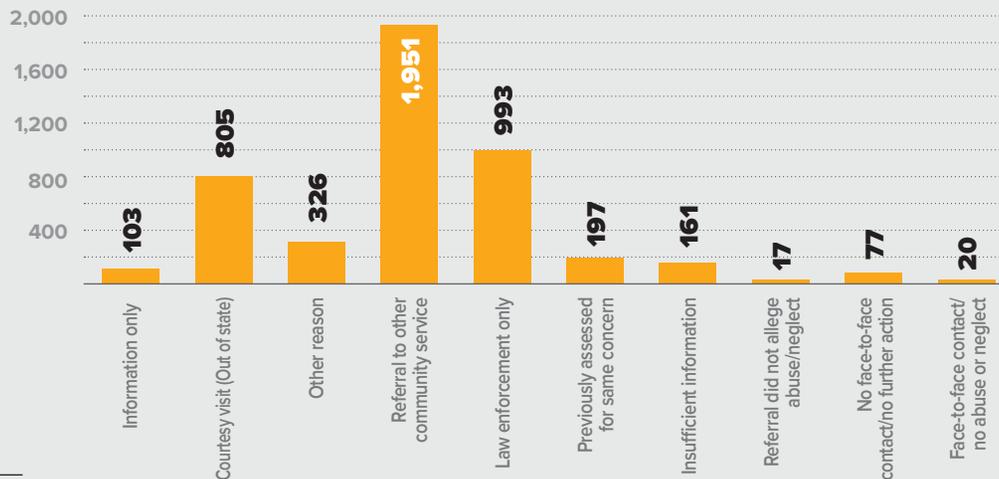
# 25.7

TOTAL

# 7.5

VALID

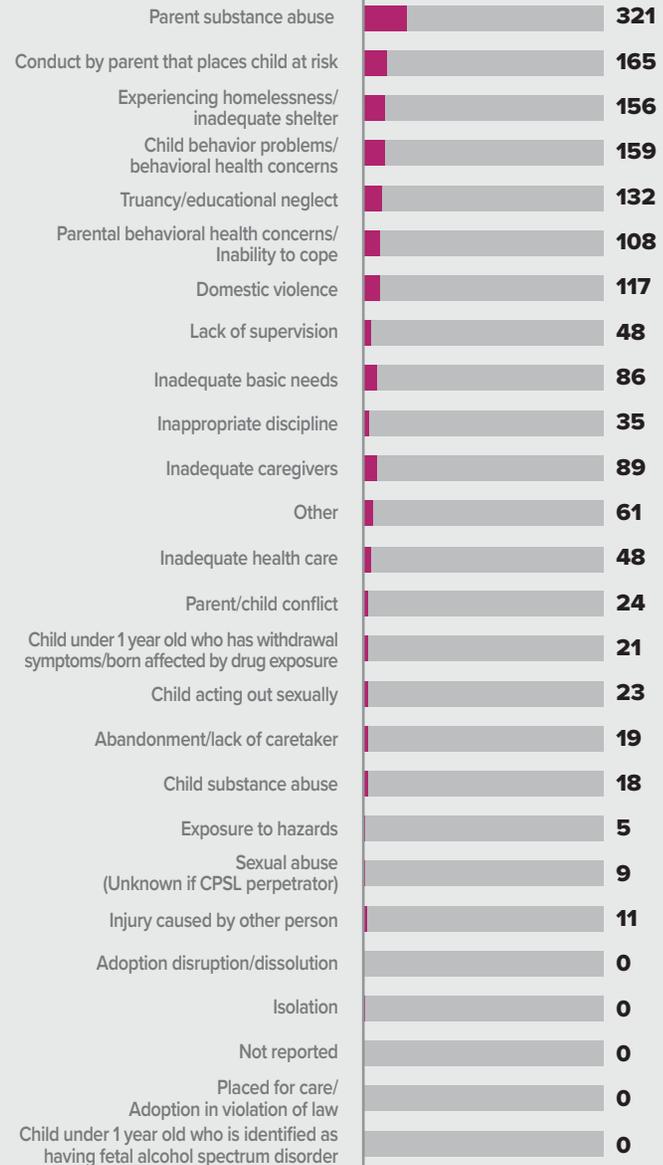
## BREAKDOWN REPORTS SCREENED OUT BY REASON



## VALID GPS ALLEGATIONS BY TYPE

# 1,655

TOTAL ALLEGATIONS



LANCASTER COUNTY

NOTES: A report may have more than one allegation for each report; therefore, the total number of allegations will be greater than the total number of reports. In some reports, more than one child was assessed with valid allegations; therefore, the number of children assessed exceeds the number of valid assessed reports.