



CHILDHOOD RISK

Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect

INDICATOR

Rate of children experiencing substantiated abuse or neglect per 1,000.

Numerator	Number of unique children with substantiated claims of abuse or neglect
Denominator	Children aged 0 to 18, per 1,000

DESCRIPTION

This metric captures incidents of abuse or neglect that have been substantiated or proven by Child Protective Services (CPS). Abuse and neglect are federally defined as "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."

IMPORTANCE

The link between substantiated child abuse or neglect and the negative impact on children's mental health is well documented (Norman, 2012). The most common form of maltreatment is neglect, which has the potential to disrupt a child's typical behavioral, social, and emotional development. National data on child abuse and neglect are presented to Congress through the Child Welfare Outcomes: Report to Congress, and are tracked as part of Healthy People 2020.

LIMITATIONS

- Different definitions of abuse/neglect may exist across states, as defined per state statutes and policies. This metric only includes documented, substantiated cases of abuse or neglect which may result in reporting bias for low-income and minority children, and the exclusion of less severe, yet still impactful, incidents (Dubowitz, 2002).
- This metric is a unique count of children; cases where a single child is involved in multiple substantiations are still only counted once; this metric is an underestimate of the total number of substantiated reports.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Wisconsin has had a constant rate of unique child victims of abuse/neglect, hovering between 3.4 to 3.7 per 1,000 since 2010; just under five thousand children in Wisconsin experience substantiated abuse or neglect each year. While the rate has remained steady, over 90% of cases have no re-occurrence of maltreatment within six months of substantiation, indicating that most of these cases are new families entering the CPS system each year.

National Analyses

None available.

SOURCE

Dubowitz, Howard, et al. (2002). Child neglect: Outcomes in high-risk urban preschoolers. *Pediatrics*, 109(6),1100-1107.
 Norman, Rosana E., et al. (2012). The long-term health consequences of child physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS Med*, 9(11), e1001349.
 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2017). Child Maltreatment 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.

YEAR:		2015	
WI	US	Best	Worst
3.7*	9.2	1.0	22.0
	per 1,000	PA	MA
PAST YEAR:		2014	
WI	US		
3.6*	22.9%		

* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.