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Minnesota Annual Child Maltreatment Report, 2018

Children and Family Services Administration

November 2019

Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Safety and Permanency Division P.O. Box 64943 St. Paul, MN 55155 651- 431-4660

dhs.csp.research@state.mn.us

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Child Maltreatment Report summary, 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this annual report is to provide information on children involved in maltreatment reports, and the work that happens across Minnesota to ensure and promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children who may have experienced maltreatment. For information on all state and federal performance measures, see the Minnesota Child Welfare Data Dashboard.

Findings

The intake process

In 2018, Minnesota child protection agencies received 86,060 reports of child maltreatment, a
 2.3% increase from 2017¹

The screening process

- Of the 86,060 child maltreatment reports, local agencies screened in 37,467, 43.5% of reports.
- For reports that were screened out, more than nine of every 10 were screened out because allegations did not meet the statutory threshold for maltreatment.
- Mandated reporters made the vast majority of reports of maltreatment, nearly four of five reports (69,275 of 86,060 reports, 80.5%).

Completed assessments and investigations

- There were 38,872 alleged victims involved in 30,655 completed assessments or investigations following screened in child maltreatment reports.
- The number of completed assessments/investigations of alleged victims with at least one screened in and completed report has remained stable since 2016.
- American Indian children were about five times more likely to be involved in completed
 maltreatment assessments/investigations than white children, while children who identify with
 two or more races and African American children were both approximately three times more
 likely to be involved.
- Children ages 8 and younger represented the majority involved in completed maltreatment assessments/investigations (58.7%).
- Alleged victims with allegations of neglect constituted the largest group of children by far, with approximately 60.8% of all children in 2018.

¹ The methodology for calculating the total number of reports was modified in 2017. See page 10 for description of methodology. Caution should be taken when comparing the total number of reports in 2017 and 2018 with numbers from previous publications.

Child protection response path assignment

• The number and proportion of reports being assigned to Family Assessment (Minnesota's alternative response path) remained consistent for a third year, at **60%** of the total **30,655** cases. This comes after a noticeable decrease in use of Family Assessment Response from 2015 to 2016. The rest received either a Family or Facility Investigation.

Assessment or investigation of safety, risk and service needs

- Improvements are essential in agency performance on the timeliness of first face-to-face contact with alleged victims in screened in maltreatment reports, critical for ensuring safety, with only **88.4**% of victims seen within the time frames established in statute. This is almost a **5**% increase from 2017, when **just under 84**% of victims were seen within time frames.
- Family Investigations completed in 2018 were more likely to be indicated as high risk for future maltreatment (31.9%) compared to Family Assessments (14.3%). Generally, 2018 had fewer high risk cases than 2017 (6,225 vs. 8,603, respectively).
- There were **17,256** children in completed maltreatment assessments/investigations who experienced a Family Investigation, with **44.4%** having a determination of maltreatment; there were **1,569** children in completed assessments/investigations who received a Facility Investigation, with **19.7%** having a maltreatment determination.
- There were 26 child deaths and 31 life-threatening injuries determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2018.

Outcomes after child maltreatment assessments/investigations conclude

 Minnesota met the federal maltreatment recurrence standard in 2018, with 9% of all children having a recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months of their first determination.

Child maltreatment appendix

The child maltreatment appendix has eight tables that break down data from 2018 by agency, including the number of:

- And percent of child maltreatment reports by screening status and agency
- Completed child maltreatment assessments/investigations by response path and agency
- Alleged victims in completed assessments/investigations by maltreatment type and rate per 1,000 children by agency
- Alleged victims by age group and agency
- Alleged victims by race and ethnicity and agency
- Alleged and determined victims in completed assessments/investigations and rate per 1,000 children by agency
- Social service agency referrals to early intervention for infants and toddlers involved in substantiated cases of maltreatment
- Assessments/investigations by Structured Decision Making (SDM) risk assessment status and agency.

Legislation

This report was prepared by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (department), Children and Family Services Administration, Child Safety and Permanency Division, for the Minnesota Legislature in response to a directive in Minn. Stat., section 257.0725. This report also fulfills reporting requirements under the Vulnerable Children and Adults Act, Minn. Stat., section 256M.80, subd. 2; the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, Minn. Stat., section 260.775; required referral to early intervention services, Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 10n; and Commissioner's duty to provide oversight, quality assurance reviews, and annual summary of reviews, Minn. Stat., section 626.556, subd. 16.

Minn. Stat., section 257.0725: The commissioner of human services shall publish an annual report on child maltreatment and on children in out-of-home placement. The commissioner shall confer with county agencies, child welfare organizations, child advocacy organizations, courts, and other groups on how to improve the content and utility of the department's annual report. Regarding child maltreatment, the report shall include the number and kinds of maltreatment reports received, and other data that the commissioner determines appropriate in a child maltreatment report.

Minn. Stat., section 256M.80, subd. 2: Statewide evaluation. Six months after the end of the first full calendar year and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall make public county agency progress in improving outcomes of vulnerable children and adults related to safety, permanency and well-being.

Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 10n: A child under age 3 who is involved in a substantiated case of maltreatment shall be referred for screening under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, part C. Parents must be informed that the evaluation and acceptance of services are voluntary. The commissioner of human services shall monitor referral rates by county and annually report that information to the legislature beginning Mar. 15, 2014. Refusal to have a child screened is not a basis for a child in need of protection or services petition under chapter 260C.

Minn. Stat., section 626.556, subd. 16: Commissioner's duty to provide oversight, quality assurance reviews, and an annual summary of reviews. It states: (a) The commissioner shall develop a plan to perform quality assurance reviews of local welfare agency screening practices and decisions. The commissioner shall provide oversight and guidance to county agencies to ensure consistent application of screening guidelines, thorough and appropriate screening decisions, and correct documentation and maintenance of reports. Quality assurance reviews must begin no later than Sept. 30, 2015. (b) The commissioner shall produce an annual report of the summary results of the reviews. The report must only include aggregate data and may not include any data that could be used to personally identify any subject whose data is included in the report. The report is public information and must be provided to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over child protection issues.

Introduction

Caring for and protecting children is one of the critical functions of any society. Communities can only be successful when children have opportunities to grow, develop and thrive.

[Annie E. Casey, 2017] No factor may be a stronger indicator of a poorly-functioning society than high rates of child maltreatment. It is widely considered to be a public health crisis in the U.S., with far-ranging negative consequences for not only developing children, but also for families and communities in which children live.



It is critical that the department monitors and reports on the experiences of children who are alleged to have been maltreated, and the work of child protection in ensuring those children are safe and reaching their full potential.

Minnesota children

After substantial increases in both the number of child maltreatment reports and alleged victims from 2015 to 2016, the following years showed a leveling-off. In 2018, patterns have remained largely unchanged.

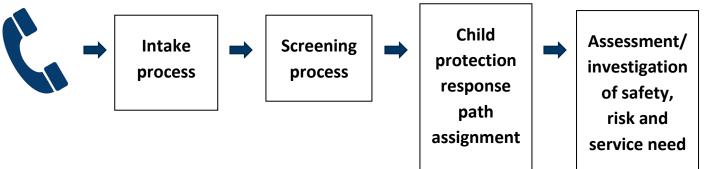
What is child maltreatment?

Minnesota Statutes provide a detailed description of what constitutes child maltreatment (see Minn. Stat. <u>626.556</u>). In general, Minnesota Statutes recognize six types of maltreatment: Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, emotional harm, medical neglect and threatened injury.

Minnesota's child protection system

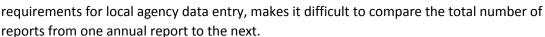
Minnesota is a state supervised, locally administered child protection system. This means that local social service agencies (87 counties and two American Indian Initiative tribes) are responsible for screening reports, assessing allegations of maltreatment, and providing child protective services for children and families. The Child Safety and Permanency Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services, provides oversight, guidance, training, technical assistance, and quality assurance monitoring of local agencies in support of that work. The purpose of this annual report is to provide information on the children affected, and the work that happens across Minnesota to ensure and promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children who may have experienced maltreatment. For information about performance on all state and federal performance measures, see the Minnesota Child Welfare Data Dashboard.

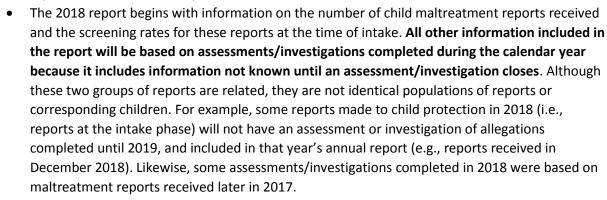
How do children who may have been maltreated come to the attention of Minnesota's child protection system and receive services?



The intake process

- When a community member has a concern that a child is being maltreated, they can (or must if they are a mandated reporter – see Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 3, for information about who is a mandated reporter) call their local child protection agency to report this concern. Local agencies document reports of maltreatment, including information about a reporter, children involved, alleged offenders, and specifics of alleged maltreatment.
- Over the past few years, data on the number of incoming child protection reports and screening rates have become more important to the overall picture of child welfare.
 Subsequently, attempts have been made to include this information, however, there have been several changes made to the methodology used. This, along with changes in





Minnesota child protection agencies received 86,060 reports of maltreatment in 2018, a 2.3% increase from 2017.

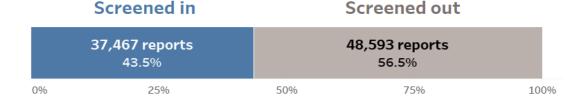


The screening process

Once a report of maltreatment has been received, local agency staff reviews the information and determines if allegation(s) meet the statutory threshold for child maltreatment. If it does, and the allegations have not been previously assessed/investigated, staff screen in the report for further assessment or investigation. The local agency cross reports all allegations of maltreatment to local law enforcement, regardless of the screening decision.

• Figure 1 shows the percent and number of reports that were screened out (48,593, 56.5%), and screened in for assessment or investigation (37,467, 43.5%).

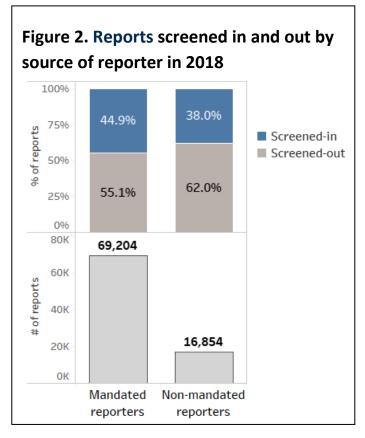
Figure 1. Screening decisions of child maltreatment reports received in 2018



Screened out maltreatment reports

- In 2018, **44,174** of the **48,593** screened out reports (**95.2%**) were screened out because allegations did not meet the statutory threshold for maltreatment. The remaining reports (**4,419, 4.8%**) were screened out for various reasons, including the following:
 - Report did not include enough identifying information (2.1%)
 - Allegations referred to an unborn child (4.5%)
 - The alleged victims were not in a family unit or covered entity (3%) and referred to the appropriate investigative agency.
- Information regarding the identity of alleged victims was provided and entered for **44,874** of the **48,593** screened out reports (**92.3%**).
- The Child Safety and Permanency Division instituted a new statewide screening review process in September 2014. This process involves a review of a random selection of approximately 5% of screened out reports each month. Each review is completed by a team and is appraised both for screening decisions and the quality of information in reports. The review team requested further consultation with local agencies regarding their screening decisions in 123 of 2,933 reports reviewed (4.2%) in 2018. Of the 123, consultations resulted in agencies screening in reports 52 times, and upholding screening decisions 67 times. The few remaining cases required further discussions with county attorneys and agency management.

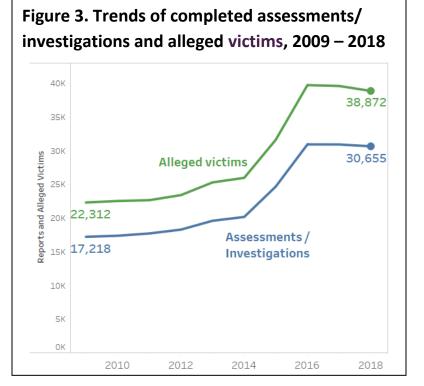
Referral source of child maltreatment reports



- Mandated reporters made the vast majority of reports of maltreatment to local agencies, with nearly four of five reports (69,204 of 86,058 reports, 80.3%). Two reports had an unidentified reporter.
- Mandated reporters include those in health care, law enforcement, mental health, social services, education and child care, among others who work with children.
- As shown in Figure 2, mandated reporters were more likely to have their reports accepted (44.9% versus 38.0%).
 The difference in acceptance rates may be due to mandated reporters being better trained to identify maltreatment, therefore, more likely to report incidents that meet the threshold.

Completed assessments and investigations

- There were 30,655
 assessments/investigations
 completed in 2018 after screened
 in reports of maltreatment; these
 reports involved 38,872 alleged
 victims.
- "Screening process" sections, data provided are based on reports that were initially made to child welfare agencies in calendar year 2018. Beginning in this section, and for all subsequent sections, the information provided is based on maltreatment reports that led to an assessment/investigation that was completed in 2018. Therefore, the number of screened in reports shown in Figure 1 (37,467 reports) is



different from the number of completed assessments/investigations (also referred to as cases throughout the rest of this report) in Figure 3 (**30,655** reports). All reports received in 2018, but not yet closed will be closed in the subsequent year, with outcomes reported in the 2019 annual Maltreatment Report.

As shown in Figure 3, the number of completed assessments/investigations and alleged victims in at least one assessment/investigation has risen substantially over the past decade. Overall, since 2009, there was a 78.0% and 74.2% increase in assessments/investigations and alleged victims, respectively. The last three years have been very stable in terms the number of child protection investigations and assessments completed.

- Some alleged victims had more than one completed assessment/investigation within the year. Table 1 shows how many victims had completed assessments/investigations in 2018.
- There were 33,971 (87.4%)
 alleged victims who had a single completed assessment or investigation in 2018. Just over 12% had multiple assessments or investigations.

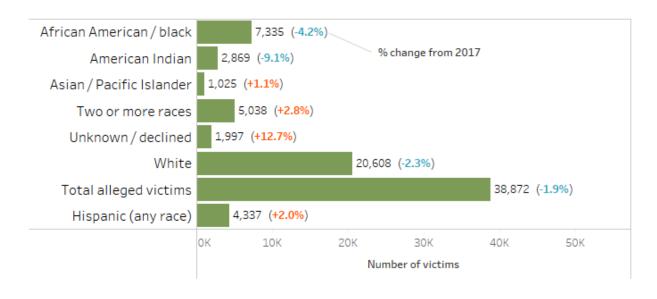
Table 1. Number of victims with one or more
completed assessment/investigation in 2018

	Number	Percent
1 assmnt/inv	33,971	87.4%
2 assmnt/inv	4,037	10.4%
3 assmnt/inv	678	1.7%
4 or more assmnt/inv	186	0.5%
Total	38,872	100.0%

Characteristics of alleged victims in completed assessments/investigations

Minnesota children involved in allegations of maltreatment live with all types of families in all
parts of the state. However, there are communities that are disproportionately likely to be
involved with the child protection system. Figures 4 and 6 show the number of alleged victims
and rates per 1,000 by race.

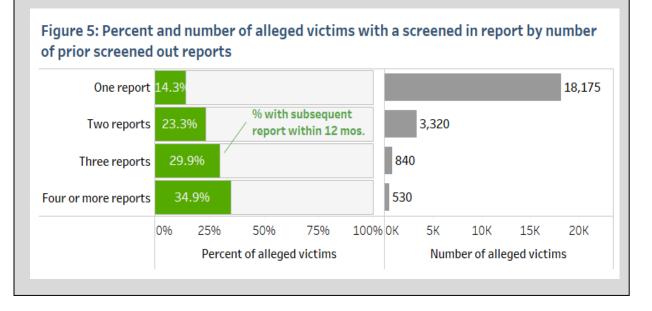
Figure 4. Number of alleged victims with at least one completed assessment/investigation by race/ethnicity in 2018



Were children who had a screened out maltreatment report in 2017 involved in a screened in (and subsequent completed assessment/investigation) maltreatment report within 12 months?

Following the recommendation of the Governor's Task Force in 2015, statutory changes were made that require county and tribal child welfare agencies to consider a child's prior screened out report history when making a decision to screen in a new report. A child's history of screened out maltreatment reports has been shown to be a predictor of future maltreatment. [Morley & Kaplan, 2011] The following figure examines whether children who had been involved in a screened out maltreatment report were eventually involved in a screened in maltreatment report. To conduct this examination, children who were in a screened out report during 2017 and had no prior child protection history within the last four years were followed to see if they were an alleged victim in a screened in report within 12 months of their initial screened out report.

- There were 22,865 children who had at least one screened out report in 2017 and no prior history in the previous four years. Of these children, 18,175 had one screened out report, 3,320 had two, 840 had three, and 530 had four or more screened out reports in 2017.
- Overall, 16.6% (N = 3,801) of children with at least one screened out report were involved
 in a screened in maltreatment report within 12 months following their initial screened out
 report. As shown in Figure 5, children in multiple screened out reports were more likely to
 have a screened in maltreatment report within 12 months of their first screened out report.

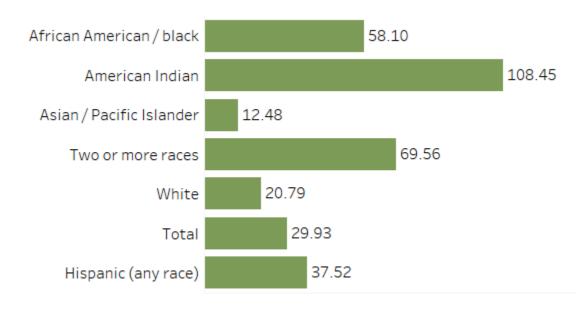


- Consistent with the Minnesota general population of children, the largest group with a screened in maltreatment report and a subsequent completed assessment or investigation are white (see Figure 4).
- Children who are African American, American Indian, and those who identify with two or more races, were disproportionately involved in completed maltreatment assessments and investigations (see Figure 6).
- Adjusted to population rates, American Indian children were 5.2 times more likely to be
 involved in completed maltreatment assessments/investigations than white children, while
 children who identify with two or more races and African American children were both about
 three times more likely.
- Between 2017 and 2018, most groups saw minimal increases or decreases in the number of alleged victims. In contrast, American Indian children saw a decline of **9.5%** from 2017.
- Minnesota child welfare agencies struggle with opportunity gaps for families of color and American Indian families across all systems serving children and families. The disproportionality seen in child protection is further evidence of this gap in services and opportunities.

Between 2017 and 2018, the number of children identified as American Indian and alleged victims in maltreatment assessments/investigations decreased by about 9.5%.



Figure 6. The per 1000 rate of alleged victims in screened in reports by race/ethnicity in 2018



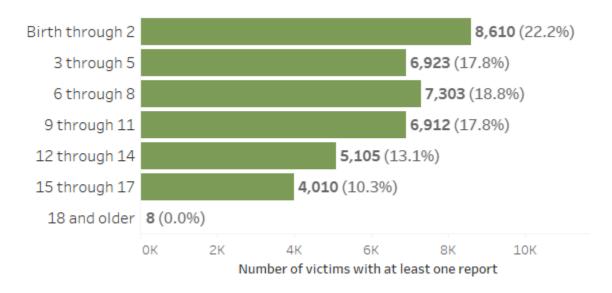
A closer look at the two or more race category

Minnesota is becoming more diverse with many children and families identifying with more than one race or ethnicity. In child welfare, the number of families self-reporting as two or more races has more than doubled since 2012. Of children who identify with more than one race:

- **87.7%** identified at least one race as white
- 62.4% identified at least one race as African American/black
- 48.9% identified at least one race as American Indian
- 8.2% identified at least one race as Asian
- 1.4% identified at least one race as Pacific Islander.
- Children ages 8 and younger represented the majority of children involved in maltreatment
 assessments and investigations (58.8%) in 2018. There were likely multiple reasons why this age
 group constituted the largest number involved in screened in maltreatment reports, including
 young children:
 - Rely almost exclusively on their caregivers for survival this makes them particularly vulnerable to maltreatment. Data from the National Incidence Study [Sedlak et al., 2010] shows that young children are more likely to be maltreated.

And their families often have more frequent contact with multiple family-serving systems who are mandated reporters for suspected maltreatment, increasing the likelihood that someone will report suspected maltreatment for these families.

Figure 7. Number and percent of alleged victims with at least one completed assessment/investigation by age group in 2018



Note: For victims with more than one report during the report year, the age at their first screened in and completed maltreatment report was used to determine their age group.

 Just under 15% of children who had screened in maltreatment reports in 2018 had a known disability (some disabilities may be undiagnosed). This rate of disability is five times more frequent than in the general population of children. [Sedlak et al., 2010]



Figure 8. Number and percent of alleged victims by disability status in 2018



- In any given report of maltreatment, a child may have one or more types of alleged maltreatment identified. There are six main categories of maltreatment: Medical neglect (not providing medical care for a child deemed necessary by a medical professional); mental injury (behavior of a caregiver that causes emotional or mental injury to a child); neglect (not adequately providing for the physical, mental or behavioral needs of a child); physical abuse (behavior that is intended to and/or results in physical harm to a child); sexual abuse (any behavior towards or exploitation of children by a caregiver that is sexual in manner); and threatened injury (attempting or threatening harm to a child or placing a child in a situation that puts them at risk for serious harm). Refer to the Minnesota Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines and Minn. Stat. § 626.556, Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors.
- Figure 9 shows the number of victims with one or more allegations per completed assessment/ investigation in 2018. The vast majority of children (74.7%) had a single allegation of maltreatment in each completed assessment/investigation.

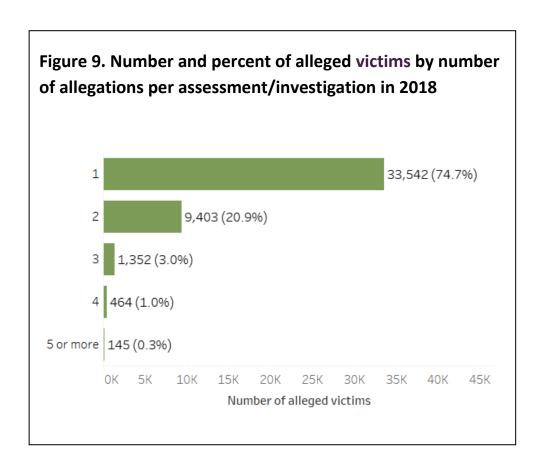
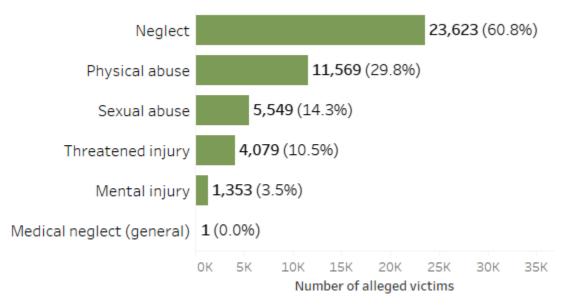




Figure 10. Number and percent of alleged victims by maltreatment type, 2018



- Alleged victims with allegations of neglect was the largest group, about 60.8% of all children who experienced maltreatment in 2018 (see Figure 10).
- The relative frequency of the different types of maltreatment continues to shift. Threatened injury, a category added in 2016, was identified for 10.5% of all victims of maltreatment in 2018.

Threatened injury, a new category for maltreatment type introduced in 2016, was identified for 10.5% of all alleged victims of maltreatment in 2018.

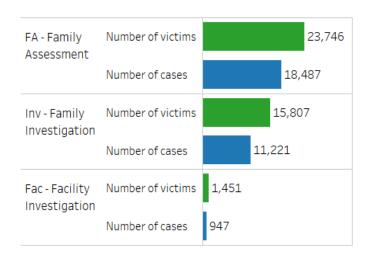
Child protection response path assignment

Once a report has been accepted and screened in, local agencies assign a case to one of three child protection responses: Family Assessment, Family Investigation, or Facility Investigation. All response paths are involuntary and families must engage with child protection or face the possibility of court action. See the sidebar on the right for information about how cases are assigned to each of the tracks. (Note: A 'case' means an investigation or assessment has been completed.)

Assignment of child maltreatment cases to child protection response paths

 Figures 11 and 12 show just over 60% of child maltreatment reports were assigned to the Family Assessment path, while the rest received either a Family or Facility Investigation.

Figure 11. Number of cases and victims by path assignment in 2018

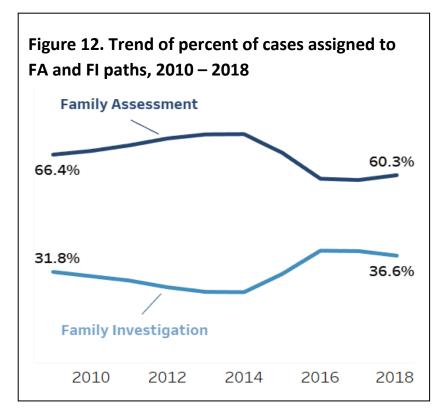


 In all types of child protection responses to maltreatment reports, the assessment or investigative phase has five shared goals, including:

Assigning reports

- By law, cases that include allegations of sexual abuse or substantial child endangerment (such as egregious harm, homicide, felony assault, abandonment, neglect due to failure to thrive and malicious punishment), must be assigned to a Family Investigation.
- Maltreatment allegations reported to occur in family foster homes or family child care homes are assigned to a Facility Investigation. Maltreatment occurring in state-licensed residential facilities, institutions and child care centers is investigated by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Licensing Division, and not included in this report.
- Cases not alleging substantial child endangerment or sexual abuse can either be assigned to Family Assessment or, if there are complicating factors associated with a report, such as frequent, similar, or recent history of past reports, or need for legal intervention due to violent activities in the home, a local agency may, at its discretion, assign a report to a Family Investigation response.

- Identify and resolve immediate safety needs of children
- Conduct fact-finding regarding circumstances described in a maltreatment report
- Identify risk of ongoing maltreatment
- Identify needs and circumstances of children (and families)
- Determine whether child protective services are focused on providing ongoing safety, permanency and well-being for children.
- In investigations (both family and facility), there is an additional goal: Use the evidence gathered through fact-finding to determine if allegations of maltreatment occurred. If a determination is made, information is maintained for a minimum of 10 years.



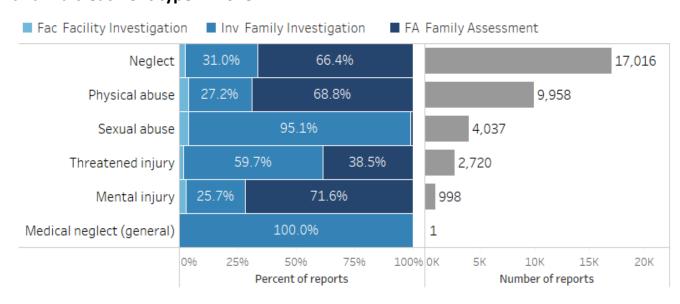
 After a long steady decline, there was a large increase in the percentage of reports being assigned to Family Investigation in 2015 and 2016. This has been followed by slight declines in 2017 and 2018.

Maltreatment type and child protection response paths

- Reports of neglect, physical abuse, mental injury, and medical neglect were most often assigned
 to the Family Assessment response path. Sexual abuse (which has a required Investigation
 response) and threatened injury were most often assigned to Family or Facility Investigations
 (see Figure 13).
- Despite a statute indicating that all sexual abuse allegations should receive a Family
 Investigation response, 1.1% of screened in maltreatment reports (N = 44 reports) having
 allegations of sexual abuse were closed as having received a Family Assessment response.
 However, 43 of those reports were at some point prior to case closure assigned to a Family or
 - Facility Investigation, but were switched back to a Family Assessment once it was indicated a Family/Facility Investigation was not needed, permissible under Minnesota Statutes. That leaves one report, or about 2.3% of all reports including sexual abuse allegations, that were closed as Family Assessment and never had an Investigation.
- Beginning in 2015, Child Safety and Permanency Division staff began reviewing every report that was

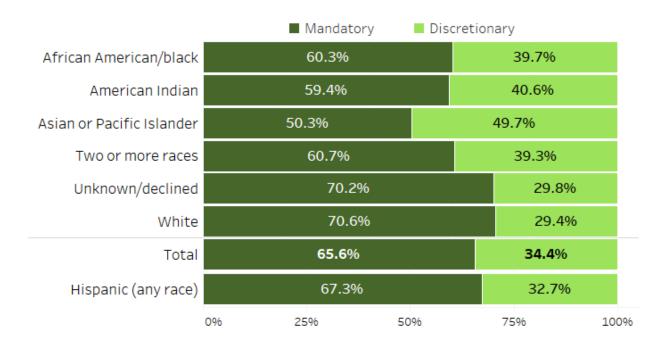
assigned to Family Assessment and had a sexual abuse allegation, contacting agencies to review these decisions. Beginning in September 2017, new cases that include an allegation of sexual abuse are forced by the electronic tracking system to be assigned to an investigation track.

Figure 13. The percent and number of cases by child protection response path and maltreatment type in 2018



- As mentioned previously, there are both mandatory and discretionary reasons that local child protection agency staff will assign a case to the Family Investigation response path.
- Figure 14 shows the percent of victims that were assigned to a Family Investigation by discretionary and mandatory reasons by race. White children are assigned to a Family Investigation for a discretionary reason less frequently compared to children from other racial and ethnic groups. There are a variety of reasons for discretionary investigation; the most common reason associated with discretionary assignment to a Family Investigation was frequency, similarity, or recentness of past reports (39.5%).

Figure 14. The percent of alleged victims by race/ethnicity assigned to Family Investigation by discretionary versus mandatory reasons in 2018







Assessment or investigation of safety, risk and service need

After a maltreatment report is screened in and a case is assigned to the appropriate child protection response path, caseworkers must make contact with alleged victims and all other relevant parties to assess the immediate safety of alleged victims. The specifics of how those meetings occur, when, and with whom are specific to each case and family. After initial interviews and meetings in both the Family Assessment and Family Investigation response paths, caseworkers make an assessment of safety, based both on professional judgement and information provided from a safety assessment tool. If a safety threat is indicated, caseworkers, along with other partners, will determine whether a safety plan can keep a child/ren safe, or if further intervention is warranted, such as placement in out-of-home care.

During the assessment or investigation phase, caseworkers also determine the risk of future maltreatment and decide whether child protective services are needed to provide ongoing safety, well-being and permanency. The assessment or investigation phase of all types of child protection responses is 45 days. If child protective services are needed, ongoing case management services are provided to a family through opening child protection case management. At closing of a Family or Facility Investigation, a determination is made as to whether or not maltreatment occurred. At any point during the assessment or investigation phase, if local agency staff feel a child/ren is/are not safe,

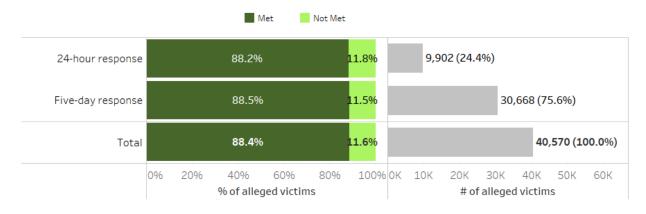
they may seek removal and place them in out-of-home care, and/or seek a Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) petition to provide court oversight and monitoring.

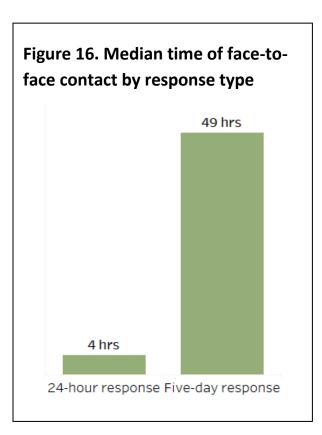
Timeliness of face-to-face contact with alleged victims of child maltreatment

- After screening a report, the first step in all child protection responses is to have face-to-face contact with alleged victims of maltreatment to determine if a child/ren is/are safe or in need of protection. Occasionally, at the time a report is received, a child/ren may already be placed on a 72-hour hold by local law enforcement. Caseworkers must see all alleged victims in a report.
- Two response time frames align with assignment of child protection response. Allegations that indicate risk of substantial child endangerment or sexual abuse require an Investigation and require local agencies to see all alleged victims within 24 hours.
- The majority of alleged victims did not have allegations that involved substantial child endangerment or sexual abuse (75.6%), therefore require face-to-face contact within five days.

- The five-day timeline applies to children named as alleged victims in child protection cases assigned both to Family Assessment response and Family Investigation, at the discretion of agency staff (rather than for mandatory reasons because of severity of current allegation/s).
- In 2018, 88.4% of victims were seen within the time frames established in statute for face-to-face contact with alleged victims (see Figure 15). This is an increase of almost 5% since 2017.
 Continued efforts in this area are underway.

Figure 15. Timeliness of face-to-face contact with alleged victims, 2018





- Despite not meeting the performance standard, the median time to face-to-face contact between child protection workers and alleged victims with allegations indicating substantial child endangerment was just under four hours. The median time of contact for all other victims was
 49 hours (see Figure 16).
- Both department staff and local child protection agency staff recognize the urgent need to improve performance on this measure so all children are seen in a timely manner, ensuring safety for alleged victims of maltreatment.

Assessment of safety and risk

- After making initial contact with alleged victims and the family, child protection caseworkers conduct a formal assessment tool regarding safety.
- A higher percentage of maltreatment cases assigned to Family Investigation compared to Family Assessment are rated as unsafe (17.5% vs 3%; see Figure 17).
- Ratings of conditionally safe require caseworkers to create a safety plan to immediately address safety needs identified in the assessment tool for an alleged victim to remain in their home. Ratings of unsafe indicate removal of a child was necessary to achieve safety.

Figure 17. Number and percent of cases by safety levels and child protection response path

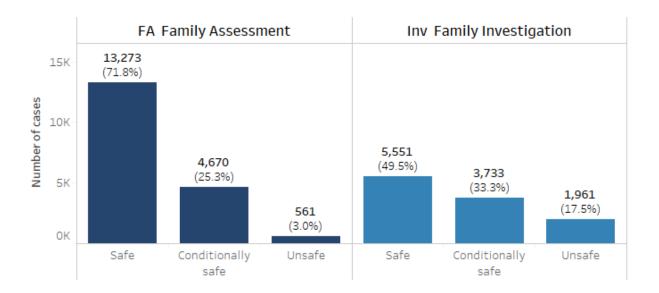
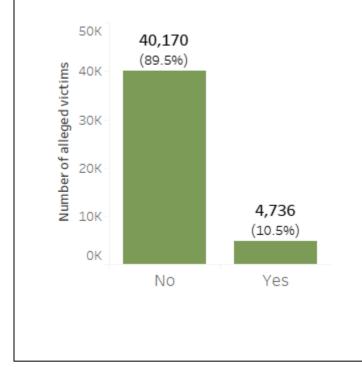


Figure 18. The number and percent of alleged victims who have an out-of-home placement during the assessment or investigation phase



- When a child is found to be in an unsafe situation in which the adult(s) responsible for their care are unable or unwilling to make necessary changes to ensure their safety, a child can be removed by law enforcement or court order from their caregiver and placed in foster care.
- Sometimes removal of a child lasts only a few days, and sometimes they are in care for many months while their families work to ensure they are able to provide for their child's safety and wellbeing.
- Figure 18 shows a small proportion of all children who were involved in screened in child maltreatment reports in 2018 were placed in out-of-home care during an assessment or investigation (10.5%). Children may enter out-of-home care at other times as a result of being maltreated or for other reasons (e.g., children's mental health needs or developmental disabilities). For more information on children in out-of-home care, see Minnesota's 2018 Out-of-home Care and Permanency report.
- By the end of an assessment or investigation, child protection caseworkers must also complete a standardized assessment tool of risk of future maltreatment.

Figure 19 provides information regarding the number of assessments/investigations in which
the current situation of alleged victims is at low, moderate or high risk of future maltreatment
by child protection response path.

 As expected, a higher percentage of child maltreatment cases assigned to Family Investigations were high risk (31.9%) than reports that were Family Assessments (14.3%).



Figure 19. The number and percent of cases by risk assessment level and child protection response path



Assessing the need for ongoing child protection services post-assessment or investigation phase

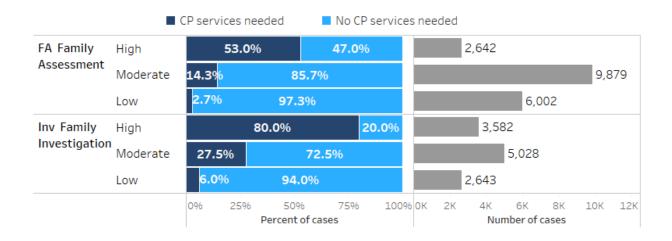
- At the conclusion of a Family Assessment or Family Investigation, child protection caseworkers indicate whether an alleged victim and/or family needs ongoing child protective services to maintain safety, and promote permanency and well-being.
- Figure 20 provides information regarding whether the need for child protective services was indicated by risk levels identified through the risk

assessment completed during the assessment or investigation phase.

- Cases that received a Family Investigation are more likely to indicate a need for post-investigation child protective services at all levels of risk.
- Although cases that are rated as high risk during an assessment or investigative phase were more likely to indicate a need for ongoing child protective services across both response paths, a majority of high risk reports that received a Family Assessment were not indicated as needing ongoing child protective services by caseworkers.
- In 2016, the department revalidated the tool used for risk assessment. This included revisions to some of the item scores used to generate the overall risk level. Department staff will continue to monitor the relationship between risk assessments and the need for child protection case management.



Figure 20. The percent and number of cases where child protective services were indicated by response category and risk level

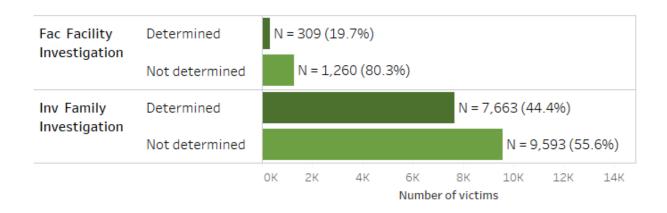


Determining maltreatment

- For both Family and Facility Investigations, there is a final step at the conclusion of a child maltreatment case not made in a Family Assessment. The final step is to make a determination of whether maltreatment occurred based on information gathered during an investigation.
- Figure 21 provides information about the number of determined reports and victims by Family or Facility Investigation. There were **7,663** children in Family Investigations and **309** in Facility Investigations who had a maltreatment determination in 2018.
- For less than half of all victims in reports that were in either type of investigation, there was a determination that maltreatment occurred (42.3%). However, the pattern is different for Facility and Family Investigations, with a maltreatment determination being made for about 44.4% of victims in Family Investigations, and 19.7% of victims in Facility Investigations.



Figure 21. The number of determined victims by Family Investigation and Facility Investigation response paths



Relationship of alleged offenders to alleged victims in completed assessments/investigations by determination

- The overwhelming majority of alleged and determined offenders in child maltreatment cases were biological parents (see Table 2 below).
- Parents, unmarried partners of parents, and step-parents had the highest rate of being determined to have maltreated a child.
- Other professionals had the lowest determination rate, at **15.4%**.
- There were 25 alleged offenders who had a relationship status entered in the data system that indicated they should have had an investigation but seem to have received a Family Assessment response. Upon review, this is explained by data entry errors in documentation of relationships, rather than inappropriate assignment of these cases to a Family Assessment response. There were fewer errors in 2018 than in previous years. The department reviews these cases on a monthly basis, and consults with local agencies when there are concerns about data entry.

Table 2. Number of alleged offenders by relationship to alleged victims, and percent child protection response and determination status in 2018

Offender relationship	Family Assessment	Investigations	Investigations determined	Percent determined
Non-caregiver sex trafficker	2	12	9	75.0%
Biological parent	16,850	9,394	4,646	49.5%
Unmarried partner of parent	1,181	1,101	544	49.4%
Step-parent	777	540	244	45.2%
Unknown or missing	31	59	26	44.1%
Other relative (non-foster parent)	440	726	318	43.8%
Friends or neighbors	32	92	39	42.4%
Other	140	471	199	42.3%
Adoptive parent	215	213	82	38.5%
Legal guardian	301	184	70	38.0%
Child daycare provider	9	156	59	37.8%
Sibling	132	684	237	34.6%
Group home or residential facility staff	0	44	14	31.8%
Relative foster parent	10	267	49	18.4%
Non-relative foster parent	6	232	37	15.9%
Other professionals	0	13	2	15.4%

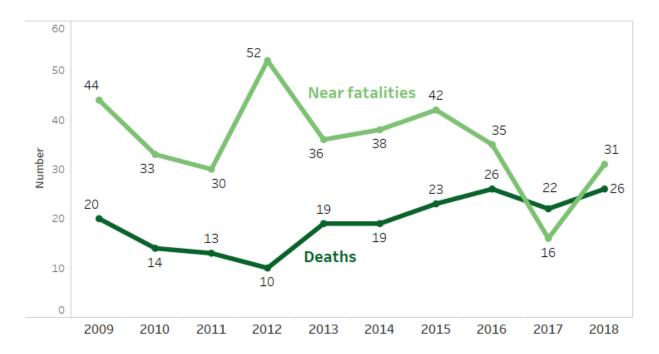
Child fatalities and near fatalities due to maltreatment

Local social service agencies and department staff take the work of protecting children very seriously. In 2016, in response to recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children and the <u>final report from the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities</u>, department staff began working with Collaborative Safety, LLC, to implement a trauma-informed, robust and scientific systemic critical incident review process for child fatalities and near fatalities due to maltreatment. The review process is designed to systemically analyze the child welfare system to identify opportunities for improvement, as well as address barriers to providing the best possible services to children and families. The model utilizes components from the same science used by other safety-critical industries, including aviation and health care; it moves away from blame and toward a system of accountability that focuses on identifying underlying systemic issues to improve Minnesota's child welfare system.

The Department began utilizing this new review process in 2017 in partnership with local agency staff and community partners. A significant component of the department's work with Collaborative Safety over the past year has involved creating, advancing, and supporting development of a safety culture within Minnesota's child welfare system. This approach has been shown to improve staff engagement and retention, and improve outcomes for children and families. The first step towards building a safety culture in Minnesota that will support learning after critical incidents and prevention of future incidents included training more than 1,600 individuals statewide since 2017 to provide information about safety science and the critical incident review process. This included training department leadership, county and tribal agency leaders, frontline staff and other child welfare partners.

- Figure 22 provides trend information regarding both near fatalities and deaths that were determined to be a result of maltreatment from 2009 to 2018.
- There were 26 deaths and 31 near fatalities determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2018.

Figure 22. Victims who died or had a near fatality as a result of maltreatment, 2009 – 2018



- Tables 3 and 4 provide detailed information about victims who died as a result of maltreatment in 2018. Table 3 provides information on victims who died as a result of maltreatment and had at least one prior screened in maltreatment report; Table 4 provides information on victims who died and had no known prior involvement in a screened in child maltreatment report.
- Of the **26** children whose deaths were determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2018, **nine children** had been involved in prior screened in child protection reports, and **17** had not.
- There are often a number of months, and sometimes longer, between when a determination is finalized and when a death occurred. The delay often results from needing to wait until criminal investigations are completed before making a determination. The tables provide information about when a death occurred; in all cases, the final determination about whether a death was a result of maltreatment was not made until 2018, which is why it is included in the 2018 report.
- Other information included in the table provides age at time of death, gender, and the type of maltreatment that resulted in death.

Table 3. Details regarding deaths determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2018, with a prior child protection history

Year of death	Age and gender	Type of maltreatment
2017	3 years old, female	Neglect, physical abuse
2017	1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	8 years old, male	Neglect, physical abuse
2018	7 years old, male	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, male	Physical abuse
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	6 years old, male	Physical abuse
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Physical abuse

Table 4. Details regarding deaths determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2018, with no prior child protection history

Year of death	Age and gender	Type of maltreatment
2017	3 years old, female	Physical abuse
2017	3 years old, male	Physical abuse
2017	1 year old, male	Neglect
2017	1 year old, male	Neglect
2017	13 years old, female	Neglect
2017	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2017	Less than 1 year old, male	Neglect
2017	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2017	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect, physical abuse
2018	3 years old, male	Physical abuse
2018	3 years old, male	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, male	Physical abuse
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, male	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, male	Physical abuse

Outcomes after child maltreatment assessments/investigations concluded

To determine how successful child protection is in assessing the needs of children and families and providing appropriate services to meet those needs, local agency and Child Safety and Permanency Division staff monitor whether children who were alleged or determined victims in child maltreatment reports have another occurrence of being an alleged or determined victim in a screened in maltreatment report within 12 months.

Re-reporting alleged victims

 Table 5 provides information on how many alleged victims in screened in maltreatment reports in 2018 had another screened in maltreatment report within 12 months of the first report by child protection response path.



Table 5. Number and percent of alleged victims with a re-report of maltreatment within 12 months by child protection response path in 2018

Response path	Total number of victims	Victims who had a re-report	Percent of victims with a re-report
Family Assessment	23,332	4,701	20.1%
Family Investigation	15,307	3,198	20.9%
Facility Investigation	1,301	190	14.6%
Total across response paths	39,940	8,089	20.3%

Recurrence of maltreatment determinations

- Table 6 provides information on how many children, by race, who were determined victims of maltreatment in 2017 had another maltreatment determination within 12 months of the first determination.
- Maltreatment recurrence is a federal performance measure that is examined annually by the Children's Bureau. It sets a federal performance standard that Minnesota must meet or face the possibility of a performance improvement plan with fiscal penalties. The federal performance standard for recurrence requires that less than 9.1% of children have a maltreatment determination recurrence within 12 months.
- Minnesota met the maltreatment recurrence standard in 2018, with **9.0%** of all children having a maltreatment determination.
- The recurrence rate for African American/black, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, children of two or more races, and children of any race who identify as Hispanic is noticeably higher than recurrence for white children.

Table 6. Number and percent of victims with a maltreatment determination recurrence within 12 months by race in 2018

Race/ethnicity	Determined victims	Determined victims with maltreatment recurrence within 12 months	Percent with maltreatment recurrence
African American/black	1,861	198	10.6%
American Indian	878	85	9.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	263	25	9.5%
Unknown/declined	255	7	2.7%
Two or more races	1,381	163	11.8%
White	3,790	281	7.4%
Total	8,428	759	9.0%
Hispanic (any race)	990	112	11.3%

Child maltreatment appendix

Table 7. Number and percent of child maltreatment reports by screening status and agency, 2018

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2018	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Aitkin	305	98	207	32.1	67.9
Anoka	3,533	1,286	2,247	36.4	63.6
Becker	741	284	457	38.3	61.7
Beltrami	1,019	466	553	45.7	54.3
Benton	763	193	570	25.3	74.7
Big Stone	76	27	49	35.5	64.5
Blue Earth	1,173	360	813	30.7	69.3
Brown	598	230	368	38.5	61.5
Carlton	825	385	440	46.7	53.3
Carver	926	431	495	46.5	53.5
Cass	478	253	225	52.9	47.1
Chippewa	126	87	39	69	31
Chisago	924	316	608	34.2	65.8
Clay	1,781	430	1,351	24.1	75.9
Clearwater	253	114	139	45.1	54.9
Cook	111	42	69	37.8	62.2
Crow Wing	1,374	322	1,052	23.4	76.6
Dakota	4,882	2,019	2,863	41.4	58.6
Douglas	808	340	468	42.1	57.9
Fillmore	278	100	178	36	64
Freeborn	673	257	416	38.2	61.8
Goodhue	725	264	461	36.4	63.6

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2018	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Grant	237	116	121	48.9	51.1
Hennepin	16,164	8,872	7,292	54.9	45.1
Houston	296	118	178	39.9	60.1
Hubbard	595	389	206	65.4	34.6
Isanti	869	209	660	24.1	75.9
Itasca	974	562	412	57.7	42.3
Kanabec	369	127	242	34.4	65.6
Kandiyohi	886	288	598	32.5	67.5
Kittson	40	12	28	30	70
Koochiching	278	76	202	27.3	72.7
Lac qui Parle	96	37	59	38.5	61.5
Lake	109	62	47	56.9	43.1
Lake of the Woods	33	13	20	39.4	60.6
Le Sueur	688	202	486	29.4	70.6
McLeod	640	225	415	35.2	64.8
Mahnomen	93	33	60	35.5	64.5
Marshall	119	36	83	30.3	69.7
Meeker	476	153	323	32.1	67.9
Mille Lacs	1,279	291	988	22.8	77.2
Morrison	629	122	507	19.4	80.6
Mower	964	426	538	44.2	55.8
Nicollet	451	160	291	35.5	64.5
Nobles	378	147	231	38.9	61.1
Norman	150	61	89	40.7	59.3
Olmsted	1,636	709	927	43.3	56.7

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2018	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Otter Tail	998	539	459	54	46
Pennington	164	79	85	48.2	51.8
Pine	1,149	284	865	24.7	75.3
Polk	759	231	528	30.4	69.6
Pope	231	117	114	50.6	49.4
Ramsey	6,394	3,182	3,212	49.8	50.2
Red Lake	32	15	17	46.9	53.1
Renville	366	181	185	49.5	50.5
Rice	1,107	397	710	35.9	64.1
Roseau	128	62	66	48.4	51.6
St. Louis	4,354	2,846	1,508	65.4	34.6
Scott	1,853	821	1,032	44.3	55.7
Sherburne	1,626	492	1,134	30.3	69.7
Sibley	282	182	100	64.5	35.5
Stearns	2,170	969	1,201	44.7	55.3
Stevens	167	92	75	55.1	44.9
Swift	305	92	213	30.2	69.8
Todd	510	147	363	28.8	71.2
Traverse	135	65	70	48.1	51.9
Wabasha	342	111	231	32.5	67.5
Wadena	636	281	355	44.2	55.8
Washington	1,998	827	1,171	41.4	58.6
Watonwan	235	114	121	48.5	51.5
Wilkin	190	80	110	42.1	57.9
Winona	1054	395	659	37.5	62.5

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2018	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Wright	2,440	801	1,639	32.8	67.2
Yellow Medicine	177	84	93	47.5	52.5
Southwest HHS	1,888	683	1,205	36.2	63.8
Des Moines Valley HHS	500	166	334	33.2	66.8
Faribault-Martin	586	305	281	52	48
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	581	192	389	33	67
White Earth Nation	464	314	150	67.7	32.3
MN Prairie	1,502	567	935	37.7	62.3
Minnesota	86,144	37,463	48,681	43.5	56.5

Table 8. Number of completed maltreatment assessments/investigations by response path and agency, 2018

Aganay	Comily Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total vananta
Agency Aitkin	Family Assessment	Family Investigation 23	Facility Investigation 1	Total reports 93
Anoka	646	481	28	
				1,155
Becker	107	112	5	224
Beltrami	154	210	15	379
Benton	114	66	1	181
Big Stone	18	6	1	25
Blue Earth	254	75	1	330
Brown	160	30	6	196
Carlton	139	106	16	261
Carver	302	65	5	372
Cass	120	78	9	207
Chippewa	48	34	4	86
Chisago	166	87	5	258
Clay	189	70	9	268
Clearwater	66	37	3	106
Cook	22	18	0	40
Crow Wing	161	77	9	247
Dakota	1,067	738	39	1,844
Douglas	148	124	6	278
Fillmore	79	9	0	88
Freeborn	151	55	1	207
Goodhue	131	33	4	168
Grant	42	49	4	95

Agency	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total reports
Hennepin	3,609	2,720	216	6,545
Houston	71	11	2	84
Hubbard	257	95	15	367
Isanti	109	57	4	170
Itasca	161	124	30	315
Kanabec	65	53	2	120
Kandiyohi	94	98	3	195
Kittson	12	2	0	14
Koochiching	61	21	0	82
Lac qui Parle	25	7	0	32
Lake	39	9	1	49
Lake of the Woods	12	1	0	13
Le Sueur	76	25	4	105
McLeod	76	117	4	197
Mahnomen	21	7	2	30
Marshall	18	14	1	33
Meeker	92	20	1	113
Mille Lacs	145	123	13	281
Morrison	81	36	0	117
Mower	293	62	0	355
Nicollet	122	24	3	149
Nobles	85	31	1	117
Norman	30	18	1	49
Olmsted	531	126	5	662
Otter Tail	178	252	6	436

Agency	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total reports
Pennington	32	37	4	73
Pine	147	84	9	240
Polk	136	51	9	196
Pope	51	43	7	101
Ramsey	1,451	1,323	72	2,846
Red Lake	15	2	0	17
Renville	86	59	1	146
Rice	218	104	2	324
Roseau	47	16	0	63
St. Louis	1,257	945	116	2,318
Scott	523	153	29	705
Sherburne	287	128	20	435
Sibley	68	70	1	139
Stearns	505	231	23	759
Stevens	61	18	3	82
Swift	42	37	2	81
Todd	87	27	6	120
Traverse	28	25	0	53
Wabasha	92	18	1	111
Wadena	161	68	7	236
Washington	415	265	34	714
Watonwan	75	24	0	99
Wilkin	49	13	2	64
Winona	197	78	12	287
Wright	367	267	17	651

Agency	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total reports
Yellow Medicine	50	27	2	79
Southwest HHS	334	198	16	548
Des Moines Valley HHS	108	40	4	152
Faribault-Martin	189	97	7	293
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	169	10	14	193
White Earth Nation	225	28	25	278
MN Prairie	399	99	16	514
Minnesota	18,487	11,221	947	30,655

Table 9. Number of alleged victims in completed assessments/investigations by maltreatment type and rate per 1,000 children by agency, 2018

Agency	Medical neglect	Threatened injury	Neglect	Sexual abuse	Mental injury	Physical abuse	Total alleged victims*	Child pop. est. (2016)	Rate per 1,000
Aitkin	0	19	91	17	0	22	128	2,654	48.2
Anoka	0	46	894	212	15	466	1,492	84,276	17.7
Becker	0	24	196	54	12	86	291	8,350	34.9
Beltrami	0	28	449	54	25	99	589	11,777	50
Benton	0	19	132	24	7	61	214	10,159	21.1
Big Stone	0	6	24	5	0	11	40	1,056	37.9
Blue Earth	0	17	299	44	0	83	422	13,265	31.8
Brown	0	22	166	20	31	63	245	5,567	44
Carlton	0	21	235	57	35	106	350	8,017	43.7
Carver	0	59	263	54	40	121	468	27,643	16.9
Cass	0	58	181	25	30	69	288	6,297	45.7
Chippewa	0	27	70	16	1	22	115	2,832	40.6
Chisago	0	24	204	31	9	87	323	12,745	25.3
Clay	0	41	267	67	4	72	402	15,517	25.9
Clearwater	0	12	95	17	18	29	134	2,200	60.9
Cook	0	4	35	4	1	5	43	858	50.1
Crow Wing	0	30	183	70	20	118	357	14,059	25.4
Dakota	0	63	1,476	254	6	590	2,205	103,532	21.3
Douglas	0	33	223	47	54	119	361	8,045	44.9
Fillmore	0	7	60	6	2	57	121	5,127	23.6
Freeborn	0	8	194	21	10	117	300	6,701	44.8
Goodhue	0	18	128	19	2	69	208	10,379	20

	Medical	Threatened		Sexual	Mental	Physical	Total alleged	Child pop.	Rate per
Agency	neglect	injury	Neglect	abuse	injury	abuse	victims*	est. (2016)	1,000
Grant	0	21	80	4	16	30	107	1,351	79.2
Hennepin	0	1,292	4,381	1,464	203	3,050	8,294	275,532	30.1
Houston	0	5	64	11	7	28	96	4,052	23.7
Hubbard	0	80	337	65	76	142	502	4,415	113.7
Isanti	0	16	132	30	5	66	208	9,428	22.1
Itasca	0	76	330	80	11	102	481	9,446	50.9
Kanabec	0	23	77	16	7	43	143	3,424	41.8
Kandiyohi	0	28	200	45	3	79	298	10,417	28.6
Kittson	0	1	10	2	0	3	14	887	15.8
Koochiching	0	1	53	10	2	18	75	2,313	32.4
Lac qui Parle	0	2	27	5	3	6	39	1,337	29.2
Lake	0	6	39	7	0	23	64	1,931	33.1
Lake of the Woods	0	0	4	1	1	8	14	691	20.3
Le Sueur	0	16	88	21	4	50	157	6,737	23.3
McLeod	0	18	215	47	10	64	306	8,355	36.6
Mahnomen	0	1	18	5	3	19	38	1,771	21.5
Marshall	0	5	21	17	1	10	50	2,137	23.4
Meeker	0	16	90	12	1	33	138	5,655	24.4
Mille Lacs	0	9	249	97	13	123	396	6,276	63.1
Morrison	0	8	94	29	3	26	157	7,790	20.2
Mower	0	5	244	58	5	139	399	9,848	40.5
Nicollet	0	17	118	16	21	52	194	7,487	25.9
Nobles	0	16	61	34	4	56	150	5,850	25.6
Norman	0	2	36	14	4	15	62	1,565	39.6
Olmsted	0	16	552	94	14	220	817	37,946	21.5

Agency	Medical neglect	Threatened injury	Neglect	Sexual abuse	Mental injury	Physical abuse	Total alleged victims*	Child pop. est. (2016)	Rate per
Otter Tail	0	10	369	45	44	156	523	12,741	41
Pennington	1	7	72	9	2	17	94	3,264	28.8
Pine	0	12	187	40	2	111	305	5,815	52.5
Polk	0	17	180	27	15	63	269	7,653	35.1
Pope	0	12	86	12	10	33	121	2,306	52.5
Ramsey	0	666	2,083	501	115	917	3,746	127,779	29.3
Red Lake	0	0	12	4	1	4	21	991	21.2
Renville	0	7	140	18	21	49	196	3,377	58
Rice	0	21	215	73	15	170	447	14,414	31
Roseau	0	4	67	9	0	11	88	3,728	23.6
St. Louis	0	381	1,674	363	79	821	2,578	38,171	67.5
Scott	0	136	420	111	7	284	820	40,626	20.2
Sherburne	0	16	300	88	30	168	530	25,132	21.1
Sibley	0	8	95	11	4	61	159	3,566	44.6
Stearns	0	106	564	122	11	278	922	36,346	25.4
Stevens	0	9	64	15	11	22	92	1,985	46.3
Swift	0	3	83	5	6	24	104	2,137	48.7
Todd	0	3	97	22	0	28	145	5,836	24.8
Traverse	0	10	43	5	5	20	58	682	85
Wabasha	0	7	78	13	8	48	141	4,724	29.8
Wadena	0	39	185	43	33	61	273	3,451	79.1
Washington	0	20	474	179	11	358	896	63,271	14.2
Watonwan	0	7	66	15	0	23	99	2,633	37.6
Wilkin	0	1	57	5	2	14	70	1,436	48.7
Winona	0	38	235	34	60	83	350	9,231	37.9

Agency	Medical neglect	Threatened injury	Neglect	Sexual abuse	Mental injury	Physical abuse	Total alleged victims*	Child pop. est. (2016)	Rate per 1,000
Wright	0	123	492	125	44	245	849	37,776	22.5
Yellow Medicine	0	10	71	21	3	23	100	2,322	43.1
Southwest HHS	0	76	468	122	34	174	715	18,148	39.4
Des Moines Valley HHS	0	15	112	43	2	61	199	4,899	40.6
Faribault-Martin	0	16	276	54	1	99	383	7,344	52.2
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe [†]	0	2	199	4	0	37	236	1,975	119.5
White Earth Nation [†]	0	2	309	8	13	57	357	1,981	180.2
MN Prairie	0	29	465	101	25	172	691	19,176	36
Minnesota	1	4,079	23,623	5,549	1,353	11,569	38,872	1,298,657	30

[†] The data for these two groups are 2010 Census numbers which represent children residing on the Leech Lake and White Earth reservations who indicated American Indian alone or as one of two or more races. There are no intercensal child population estimates for these groups. The Leech Lake reservation overlaps Cass, Itasca, Beltrami and Hubbard counties. The White Earth reservation overlaps Mahnomen, Becker, and Clearwater counties.

^{*} Total unique victims can be less than the sum of victims in all maltreatment types as a child could be represented in multiple maltreatment types.

Table 10. Number of alleged victims by age group and by agency, 2018

Agency	Birth – 2	3 – 5	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Aitkin	27	19	20	32	22	9	0
Anoka	351	254	303	256	189	153	0
Becker	78	60	42	50	41	23	0
Beltrami	154	126	102	98	72	42	0
Benton	44	41	45	39	23	25	0
Big Stone	11	9	9	4	3	4	0
Blue Earth	119	81	77	82	49	19	0
Brown	58	52	53	41	30	17	0
Carlton	64	62	75	63	42	47	0
Carver	79	95	79	95	56	68	0
Cass	52	49	40	47	56	46	0
Chippewa	19	19	28	23	13	14	0
Chisago	59	59	62	62	49	36	0
Clay	93	87	85	62	50	28	0
Clearwater	22	21	31	24	24	17	0
Cook	12	11	6	4	7	4	0
Crow Wing	98	65	55	63	50	26	0
Dakota	418	376	429	454	285	269	0
Douglas	66	75	58	57	65	44	0
Fillmore	33	28	17	18	13	12	0
Freeborn	72	43	62	50	41	34	0
Goodhue	54	39	41	33	24	18	0
Grant	16	22	24	25	10	12	0
Hennepin	1,869	1,418	1,564	1,516	1,095	933	4

Agency	Birth – 2	3 – 5	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Houston	24	15	22	14	10	11	0
Hubbard	97	93	92	93	95	57	0
Isanti	47	38	39	26	31	31	0
Itasca	128	88	80	91	58	45	0
Kanabec	33	23	24	25	30	9	0
Kandiyohi	79	69	57	38	35	22	0
Kittson	3	0	5	2	2	2	0
Koochiching	8	21	19	15	10	2	0
Lac qui Parle	4	9	8	12	5	2	0
Lake	11	14	9	18	10	2	0
Lake of the Woods	0	3	2	3	3	3	0
Le Sueur	37	22	29	21	24	24	0
McLeod	54	60	64	62	44	23	0
Mahnomen	6	10	8	7	3	4	0
Marshall	16	6	6	11	8	4	0
Meeker	34	28	26	25	19	7	0
Mille Lacs	103	71	66	69	60	31	0
Morrison	46	35	28	21	19	9	0
Mower	89	75	59	94	56	32	0
Nicollet	33	29	44	38	28	22	0
Nobles	23	27	33	28	33	9	1
Norman	11	6	14	9	14	8	0
Olmsted	208	144	158	135	114	74	0
Otter Tail	113	94	108	89	79	55	0
Pennington	24	18	16	18	9	9	0
Pine	71	53	52	42	48	40	0

Agency Polk	Birth – 2 67 29	3 - 5 44	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Polk		44				13 17	19 and older
	29		56	50	30	26	0
Pope		25	19	21	17	14	0
Ramsey	931	618	704	682	440	406	0
Red Lake	9	6	4	0	1	1	0
Renville	40	39	35	37	32	14	0
Rice	93	77	73	93	68	48	0
Roseau	20	20	23	13	5	7	0
St. Louis	570	519	516	467	339	245	3
Scott	155	137	155	144	117	119	0
Sherburne	101	71	118	104	74	64	0
Sibley	21	36	36	27	31	10	0
Stearns	198	168	184	170	107	108	0
Stevens	20	14	15	22	17	10	0
Swift	30	24	18	19	10	6	0
Todd	29	30	22	25	25	15	0
Traverse	16	10	17	4	6	6	0
Wabasha	37	24	24	30	20	10	0
Wadena	57	44	46	49	52	32	0
Washington	188	170	175	149	133	88	0
Watonwan	24	26	16	14	10	9	0
Wilkin	19	19	12	10	2	8	0
Winona	81	67	80	62	36	32	0
Wright	153	147	179	151	116	109	0
Yellow Medicine	18	20	19	22	16	5	0
Southwest HHS	151	159	146	120	91	58	0
Des Moines Valley HHS	42	46	34	33	27	21	0

Agency	Birth – 2	3 – 5	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Faribault-Martin	67	71	74	63	57	58	0
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	64	37	59	58	16	7	0
White Earth Nation	93	58	69	51	51	42	0
MN Prairie	121	130	136	156	97	65	0
Minnesota	8,614	7,018	7,439	7,050	5,199	4,080	8

Note: Some victims may be involved in more than one report during the report period.

Table 11. Number of alleged victims by race, ethnicity and agency, 2018

Agency	African American/ black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Aitkin	*	17	*	13	*	93	128	*
Anoka	297	37	16	201	74	867	1,492	108
Becker	*	47	*	54	9	175	291	12
Beltrami	12	360	*	61	*	143	589	20
Benton	40	*	*	45	*	124	214	15
Big Stone	*	*	*	*	*	30	40	*
Blue Earth	66	12	*	44	*	277	422	41
Brown	*	*	*	10	11	216	245	41
Carlton	*	110	*	63	*	174	350	9
Carver	52	8	12	64	36	296	468	57
Cass	*	29	*	19	11	228	288	*
Chippewa	8	*	*	12	9	80	115	16
Chisago	*	*	7	21	19	264	323	19
Clay	41	36	*	76	*	248	402	77
Clearwater	*	29	*	14	*	80	134	*
Cook	*	12	*	*	*	24	43	*
Crow Wing	*	18	*	30	*	303	357	*
Dakota	396	43	45	356	385	980	2,205	355
Douglas	12	*	*	45	14	286	361	22
Fillmore	*	*	*	8	7	102	121	7
Freeborn	16	*	17	30	*	217	300	63
Goodhue	23	10	*	20	*	144	208	16
Grant	*	*	*	*	7	96	107	*

Agency	African American/ black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Hennepin	3,553	471	251	1,566	221	2,232	8,294	1,191
Houston	*	*	*	*	12	79	96	*
Hubbard	10	47	*	42	*	399	502	16
Isanti	*	*	*	13	17	172	208	*
Itasca	8	38	*	71	*	346	481	9
Kanabec	*	*	*	16	8	117	143	*
Kandiyohi	26	*	*	10	16	235	298	129
Kittson	*	*	*	*	*	12	14	*
Koochiching	*	*	*	*	*	62	75	*
Lac qui Parle	*	*	*	*	*	35	39	*
Lake	*	*	*	*	*	58	64	*
Lake of the Woods	*	*	*	*	*	13	14	*
Le Sueur	*	*	*	8	10	132	157	28
McLeod	*	*	*	21	14	266	306	55
Mahnomen	*	17	*	10	*	11	38	*
Marshall	*	*	*	10	*	40	50	*
Meeker	*	*	*	*	12	118	138	14
Mille Lacs	*	126	*	28	19	217	396	15
Morrison	*	*	*	31	*	122	157	*
Mower	53	*	18	33	*	283	399	87
Nicollet	21	*	*	29	*	140	194	36
Nobles	7	*	11	*	14	111	150	70
Norman	*	*	*	*	*	50	62	9
Olmsted	137	*	29	151	*	495	817	91
Otter Tail	15	12	*	47	*	408	523	37

Agency	African American/ black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Pennington	11	*	*	*	*	76	94	21
Pine	*	54	*	14	7	228	305	12
Polk	9	15	*	28	*	208	269	79
Pope	*	*	*	*	8	102	121	*
Ramsey	1,458	154	463	507	137	1,027	3,746	443
Red Lake	*	*	*	*	*	13	21	*
Renville	*	*	*	12	*	179	196	47
Rice	53	*	*	29	75	283	447	93
Roseau	*	17	*	*	*	64	88	*
St. Louis	250	329	21	379	69	1,530	2,578	70
Scott	74	33	17	99	72	525	820	114
Sherburne	42	*	*	49	70	364	530	27
Sibley	*	*	*	23	9	123	159	45
Stearns	171	10	*	83	*	637	922	81
Stevens	8	8	*	7	*	64	92	17
Swift	21	*	*	*	*	69	104	14
Todd	*	*	*	7	*	133	145	7
Traverse	*	26	*	*	*	29	58	*
Wabasha	8	*	*	7	9	110	141	22
Wadena	10	*	*	19	10	231	273	11
Washington	125	9	36	96	220	410	896	62
Watonwan	*	*	*	*	*	87	99	45
Wilkin	*	*	*	*	*	59	70	*
Winona	53	*	*	18	18	255	350	19
Wright	45	8	10	73	78	635	849	37

Agency	African American/ black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Yellow Medicine	*	21	*	11	*	64	100	15
Southwest HHS	43	64	10	89	49	460	715	108
Des Moines Valley HHS	7	*	11	16	*	151	199	42
Faribault-Martin	*	*	*	45	7	327	383	59
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	*	226	*	8	*	*	236	*
White Earth Nation	*	324	*	32	*	*	357	*
MN Prairie	72	*	*	40	9	565	691	108
Minnesota	7,335	2,869	1,025	5,038	1,997	20,608	38,872	4,337

^{*} The number of children is omitted to prevent identification of individuals. Totals include the omitted data.

Table 12. Number of alleged and determined victims in completed assessments/investigations and rate per 1,000 children by agency, 2018

Agency	Unique alleged victims	Unique determined victims	Child pop. est. (2016)	Determined victims per 1,000
Aitkin	128	24	2,654	9
Anoka	1,492	299	84,276	3.5
Becker	291	88	8,350	10.5
Beltrami	589	247	11,777	21
Benton	214	47	10,159	4.6
Big Stone	40	5	1,056	4.7
Blue Earth	422	41	13,265	3.1
Brown	245	21	5,567	3.8
Carlton	350	93	8,017	11.6
Carver	468	38	27,643	1.4
Cass	288	34	6,297	5.4
Chippewa	115	33	2,832	11.7
Chisago	323	62	12,745	4.9
Clay	402	45	15,517	2.9
Clearwater	134	19	2,200	8.6
Cook	43	9	858	10.5
Crow Wing	357	57	14,059	4.1
Dakota	2,205	388	103,532	3.7
Douglas	361	118	8,045	14.7
Fillmore	121	2	5,127	0.4
Freeborn	300	38	6,701	5.7
Goodhue	208	37	10,379	3.6
Grant	107	32	1,351	23.7
Hennepin	8,294	2,068	275,532	7.5
Houston	96	1	4,052	0.2
Hubbard	502	32	4,415	7.2
Isanti	208	64	9,428	6.8
Itasca	481	57	9,446	6
Kanabec	143	35	3,424	10.2
Kandiyohi	298	89	10,417	8.5
Kittson	14	1	887	1.1
Koochiching	75	9	2,313	3.9
Lac qui Parle	39	0	1,337	0
Lake	64	8	1,931	4.1

	Unique alleged	Unique determined	Child pop. est.	Determined
Agency	victims	victims	(2016)	victims per 1,000
Lake of the Woods	14	0	691	0
Le Sueur	157	10	6,737	1.5
McLeod	306	64	8,355	7.7
Mahnomen	38	1	1,771	0.6
Marshall	50	17	2,137	8
Meeker	138	14	5,655	2.5
Mille Lacs	396	75	6,276	12
Morrison	157	25	7,790	3.2
Mower	399	29	9,848	2.9
Nicollet	194	24	7,487	3.2
Nobles	150	26	5,850	4.4
Norman	62	13	1,565	8.3
Olmsted	817	56	37,946	1.5
Otter Tail	523	104	12,741	8.2
Pennington	94	12	3,264	3.7
Pine	305	35	5,815	6
Polk	269	46	7,653	6
Pope	121	27	2,306	11.7
Ramsey	3,746	1,064	127,779	8.3
Red Lake	21	5	991	5
Renville	196	48	3,377	14.2
Rice	447	70	14,414	4.9
Roseau	88	5	3,728	1.3
St. Louis	2,578	482	38,171	12.6
Scott	820	75	40,626	1.8
Sherburne	530	102	25,132	4.1
Sibley	159	38	3,566	10.7
Stearns	922	174	36,346	4.8
Stevens	92	15	1,985	7.6
Swift	104	38	2,137	17.8
Todd	145	6	5,836	1
Traverse	58	10	682	14.7
Wabasha	141	9	4,724	1.9
Wadena	273	15	3,451	4.3
Washington	896	134	63,271	2.1
Watonwan	99	11	2,633	4.2
Wilkin	70	4	1,436	2.8

Agency	Unique alleged victims	Unique determined victims	Child pop. est. (2016)	Determined victims per 1,000
Winona	350	68	9,231	7.4
Wright	849	124	37,776	3.3
Yellow Medicine	100	13	2,322	5.6
Southwest HHS	715	178	18,148	9.8
Des Moines Valley HHS	199	31	4,899	6.3
Faribault-Martin	383	71	7,344	9.7
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe [†]	236	2	1,975	1
White Earth Nation [†]	357	26	1,981	13.1
MN Prairie	691	51	19,176	2.7
Minnesota	38,872	7,588	1,298,657	5.8

[†] The data for these two groups are 2010 Census numbers which represent children residing on the Leech Lake and White Earth reservations who indicated American Indian alone or as one of two or more races. There are no intercensal child population estimates for these groups. The Leech Lake reservation overlaps Cass, Itasca, Beltrami and Hubbard counties. The White Earth reservation overlaps Mahnomen, Becker and Clearwater counties.

Table 13. Number of social service agency referrals to early intervention for infants and toddlers involved in substantiated cases of maltreatment, 2018

Agency	Children with a referral	Children required to be referred	Referral rate		
Aitkin	1	3	33.3		
Anoka	84	88	95.5		
Becker	18	28	64.3		
Beltrami	71	77	92.2		
Benton	10	10	100.0		
Big Stone	0	0			
Blue Earth	9	10	90.0		
Brown	0	0			
Carlton	14	19	73.7		
Carver	3	5	60.0		
Cass	7	8	87.5		
Chippewa	4	5	80.0		
Chisago	6	10	60.0		
Clay	5	5	100.0		
Clearwater	6	7	85.7		
Cook	1	2	50.0		
Crow Wing	4	6	66.7		
Dakota	95	106	89.6		
Douglas	21	25	84.0		
Fillmore	0	0			
Freeborn	8	10	80.0		
Goodhue	9	9	100.0		
Grant	7	7	100.0		
Hennepin	503	539	93.3		
Houston	1	1	100.0		
Hubbard	4	5	80.0		
Isanti	13	15	86.7		
Itasca	10	13	76.9		
Kanabec	7	7	100.0		
Kandiyohi	14	15	93.3		
Kittson	0	0			
Koochiching	1	1	100.0		
Lac qui Parle	0	0			
Lake	3	3	100.0		
Lake of the Woods	0	0			
Le Sueur	1	2	50.0		
McLeod	9	10	90.0		
Mahnomen	0	0			
Marshall	8	8	100.0		
Meeker	3	4	75.0		
Mille Lacs	16	24	66.7		
Morrison	11	11	100.0		
Mower	5	5	100.0		

Agency	Children with a referral	Children required to be referred	Referral rate		
Nicollet	2	3	66.7		
Nobles	2	5	40.0		
Norman	0	1	0.0		
Olmsted	3	4	75.0		
Otter Tail	22	32	68.8		
Pennington	4	5	80.0		
Pine	9	9	100.0		
Polk	9	13	69.2		
Pope	4	7	57.1		
Ramsey	304	315	96.5		
Red Lake	0	0			
Renville	6	11	54.5		
Rice	20	23	87.0		
Roseau	0	0			
St. Louis	63	88	71.6		
Scott	12	17	70.6		
Sherburne	13	17	76.5		
Sibley	5	6	83.3		
Stearns	23	30	76.7		
Stevens	3	6	50.0		
Swift	7	8	87.5		
Todd	0	0			
Traverse	4	5	80.0		
Wabasha	1	1	100.0		
Wadena	0	2	0.0		
Washington	21	26	80.8		
Watonwan	0	2	0.0		
Wilkin	0	0			
Winona	0	8	0.0		
Wright	14	20	70.0		
Yellow Medicine	1	1	100.0		
Southwest HHS	33	38	86.8		
Des Moines Valley HHS	3	3	100.0		
Faribault-Martin	6	11	54.5		
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	1	1	100.0		
White Earth Nation	0	1	0.0		
MN Prairie	1	6	16.7		
Minnesota	1,588	1,828	86.9		

Table 14. Number of assessments/investigations by SDM risk assessment status and by agency, 2018

Agency	Low risk, no CP services needed	Low risk, CP services needed	Low risk, total	Moderate risk, no CP services needed	Moderate risk, CP services needed	Moderate risk, total	High risk, no CP services needed	High risk, CP services needed	High risk, total
Aitkin	18	2	20	33	7	40	17	15	32
Anoka	351	14	365	483	90	573	93	100	193
Becker	31	2	33	93	17	110	11	70	81
Beltrami	69	7	76	105	74	179	25	85	110
Benton	28	0	28	70	9	79	3	74	77
Big Stone	2	1	3	8	9	17	1	3	4
Blue Earth	108	2	110	131	19	150	41	27	68
Brown	33	0	33	85	15	100	25	32	57
Carlton	77	2	79	90	25	115	17	34	51
Carver	150	4	154	129	28	157	9	47	56
Cass	60	1	61	66	19	85	27	25	52
Chippewa	15	3	18	17	30	47	2	15	17
Chisago	71	3	74	112	20	132	15	32	47
Clay	42	3	45	119	21	140	38	40	78
Clearwater	36	0	36	50	6	56	7	5	12
Cook	3	0	3	14	2	16	11	10	21
Crow Wing	71	6	77	95	16	111	16	35	51
Dakota	681	7	688	826	56	882	61	175	236
Douglas	43	1	44	129	15	144	21	63	84
Fillmore	20	0	20	46	3	49	13	7	20
Freeborn	46	3	49	80	40	120	18	23	41
Goodhue	18	2	20	70	10	80	36	28	64
Grant	12	2	14	37	10	47	7	23	30
Hennepin	1,462	24	1,486	2,512	652	3,165	362	1,320	1,682
Houston	16	0	16	39	5	44	11	12	23
Hubbard	137	5	142	112	24	136	37	36	73
Isanti	29	2	31	61	16	77	7	58	65

	Low risk, no CP services	Low risk, CP services	Low risk,	Moderate risk, no CP services	Moderate risk, CP services	Moderate	High risk, no CP services	High risk, CP services	High risk,
Agency	needed	needed	total	needed	needed	risk, total	needed	needed	total
Itasca	69	11	80	106	35	141	23	41	64
Kanabec	24	6	30	38	13	51	17	20	37
Kandiyohi	46	1	47	80	19	99	10	37	47
Kittson	5	0	5	4	3	7	0	2	2
Koochiching	16	0	16	26	8	34	19	13	32
Lac qui Parle	6	1	7	11	6	17	1	8	9
Lake	5	0	5	11	11	22	3	18	21
Lake of the Woods	5	3	8	1	3	4	1	0	1
Le Sueur	29	2	31	41	13	54	6	10	16
McLeod	45	2	47	78	22	100	15	31	46
Mahnomen	9	0	9	9	4	13	3	3	6
Marshall	4	0	4	12	6	18	5	5	10
Meeker	29	0	29	47	10	57	14	12	26
Mille Lacs	58	3	61	115	38	153	18	37	55
Morrison	23	1	24	50	15	65	3	25	28
Mower	164	0	164	156	24	180	4	9	13
Nicollet	35	6	41	44	32	76	4	25	29
Nobles	32	6	38	43	21	64	2	12	14
Norman	16	2	18	23	3	26	1	5	6
Olmsted	135	1	136	316	79	396	49	79	128
Otter Tail	127	3	130	149	42	191	36	72	108
Pennington	15	1	16	28	4	32	14	7	21
Pine	65	1	66	92	30	122	14	28	42
Polk	44	0	45	93	13	106	11	28	40
Pope	29	0	29	36	15	51	5	9	14
Ramsey	991	59	1,050	1,157	301	1,458	51	216	267
Red Lake	7	0	7	7	1	8	2	0	2
Renville	34	2	36	58	19	77	13	20	33
Rice	96	2	98	133	28	161	31	33	64

	Low risk, no CP	Low risk,		Moderate	Moderate		High risk,	High risk,	
Agency	services needed	CP services needed	Low risk, total	risk, no CP services needed	risk, CP services needed	Moderate risk, total	no CP services needed	CP services needed	High risk, total
Roseau	19	3	22	14	9	23	7	11	18
St. Louis	592	14	606	957	136	1,093	227	276	503
Scott	269	7	276	270	62	332	23	48	71
Sherburne	157	8	165	162	31	193	23	34	57
Sibley	31	7	38	44	30	74	0	27	27
Stearns	242	10	252	293	61	354	63	68	131
Stevens	13	1	14	36	13	49	4	13	17
Swift	8	0	8	22	8	30	8	33	41
Todd	26	3	29	40	12	52	10	24	34
Traverse	9	0	9	22	13	35	5	4	9
Wabasha	31	0	31	46	8	54	13	15	28
Wadena	49	5	54	87	38	126	15	34	49
Washington	242	7	249	289	55	344	38	58	96
Watonwan	25	1	26	46	6	52	1	20	21
Wilkin	12	0	12	25	14	39	3	8	11
Winona	47	1	48	152	7	159	24	47	71
Wright	269	7	276	241	34	275	38	46	84
Yellow Medicine	18	1	19	24	9	33	4	21	25
Southwest HHS	135	7	142	210	52	262	34	96	130
Des Moines Valley HHS	43	1	44	52	20	72	8	24	32
Faribault-Martin	65	1	66	140	15	155	25	40	65
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	43	8	51	62	33	95	13	20	33
White Earth Nation	68	17	85	56	47	103	18	47	65
MN Prairie	122	4	126	243	30	273	50	51	101
Minnesota	8,327	322	8,650	12,109	2,799	14,911	1,960	4,264	6,225

Note: Across all agencies, there were around 900 reports excluded from this table because they did not have an associated SDM Risk Assessment complete

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