



Legislative Report

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report, 2019

Children and Family Services

October 2020

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Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 3.197, requires the disclosure of the cost to prepare this report. The estimated cost of preparing this report is \$10,667.30.

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Child Maltreatment Report summary, 2019

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 2019, Minnesota child protection agencies received **85,917** reports of child maltreatment, a **0.16%** decrease from 2018.¹

The screening process

- Of the **85,917** child maltreatment reports, local agencies screened in **37,649**, **43.8%** 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 (**68,902** of **85,917** reports, **80.2%**).

Completed assessments and investigations

- There were **38,298** alleged victims involved in **29,736** completed assessments or investigations following screened in child maltreatment reports
- The number 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 (**57.5%**)
- Alleged victims with allegations of neglect constituted the largest group of children by far, with approximately **60%** of all children in 2019.

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 **62.8%** of the total **29,736** 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 **88.1%** of victims seen within the time frames established in statute. This is almost a **.3%** decrease from 2018, when **just over 88%** of victims were seen within time frames.
- Family Investigations completed in 2019 were more likely to be indicated as high risk for future maltreatment (**27.8%**) compared to Family Assessments (**13.5%**).
- There were **16,111** children in completed maltreatment assessments/investigations who experienced a Family Investigation, with **42.8%** having a determination of maltreatment; there were **1,362** children in completed assessments/investigations who received a Facility Investigation, with **24.2%** having a maltreatment determination.
- There were **17** child deaths and **13** life-threatening injuries determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2019.

Outcomes after child maltreatment assessments/investigations conclude

- Minnesota met the federal maltreatment recurrence standard in 2019, with **6.2%** 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 2019 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 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 department staff monitor and report 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 2019, patterns remained generally unchanged.

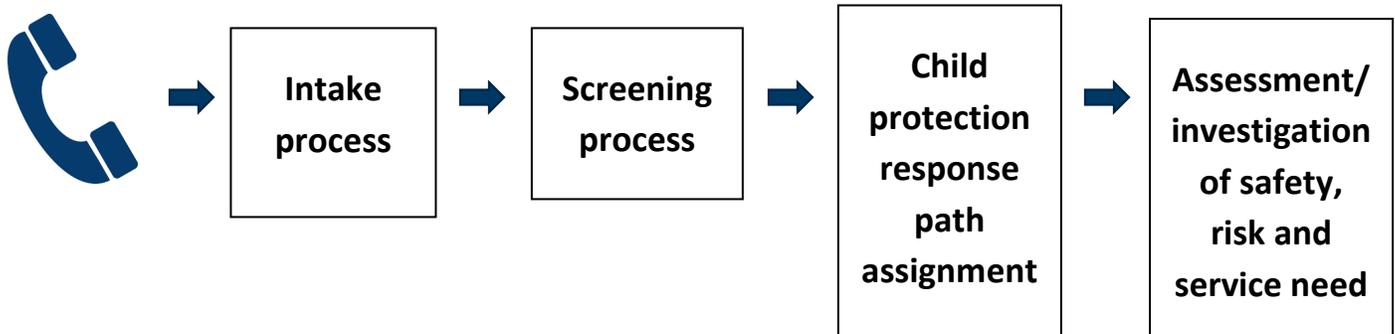
What is child maltreatment?

Minnesota Statutes provide a detailed description of what constitutes child maltreatment (see Minn. Stat. [626.556](#)). In general, Minnesota Statutes recognize six types of maltreatment: Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, emotional harm 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 department's Child Safety and Permanency Division 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. Attempts were made to include this information, however, there were several changes made to the methodology used. This, along with changes in requirements for local agency data entry, makes it difficult to compare the total number of reports from one annual report to the next.
- The 2019 report begins with information on the number of child maltreatment reports received and screening rates for these reports at the time of intake. **All other information included in the report is based on assessments/investigations completed during the calendar year because it includes information not known until an assessment/investigation closes.** Although these two groups of reports are related, they are not identical populations of reports or corresponding children. For example, some reports made to child protection in 2019 (i.e., reports at the intake phase) will not have an assessment or investigation of allegations completed until 2020, and included in that year's annual report (e.g., reports received in December 2019). Likewise, some assessments/investigations completed in 2019 were based on maltreatment reports received later in 2018.
- Minnesota child protection agencies received **85,917** reports of maltreatment in 2019, a **0.16%** decrease from 2018.

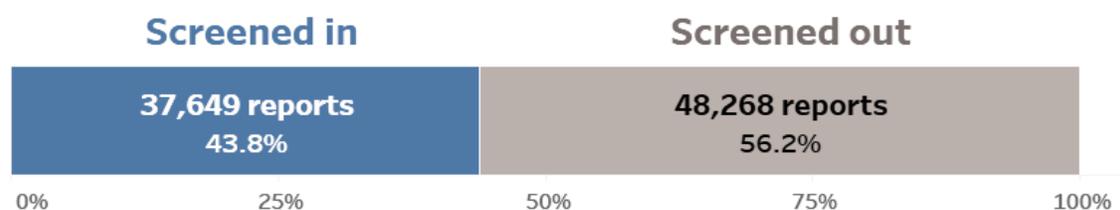


The screening process

Once a report of maltreatment is 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 reports 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 (**48,268, 56.2%**), and screened in for assessment or investigation (**37,649, 43.8%**).

Figure 1. Screening decisions of child maltreatment reports received in 2019

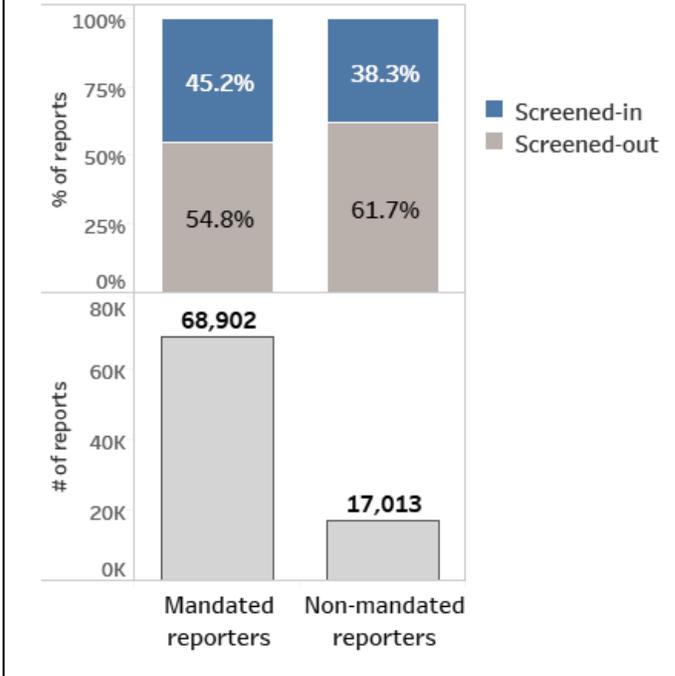


Screened out maltreatment reports

- In 2019, **43,881** of the **48,268** screened out reports (**90.9%**) were screened out because allegations did not meet the statutory threshold for maltreatment. The remaining reports (**4,387, 9.1%**) were screened out for various reasons, including the following:
 - Report did not include enough identifying information (**1.7%**)
 - Allegations referred to an unborn child (**4.5%**)
 - Alleged victims were not in a family unit or covered entity (**2.9%**) and referred to the appropriate investigative agency.
- Information regarding the identity of alleged victims was provided and entered for **44,454** of the **48,268** screened out reports (**92.1%**).
- 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 screening decisions in **95** of **3,070** reports reviewed (**3.1%**) in 2019. Of the **95**, consultations resulted in agencies screening in reports **35** times, and upholding screening decisions **38** times. The remaining cases required further discussions with county attorneys and agency management, or had additional agency policies surrounding decisions.

Referral source of child maltreatment reports

Figure 2. Reports screened in and out by source of reporter in 2019

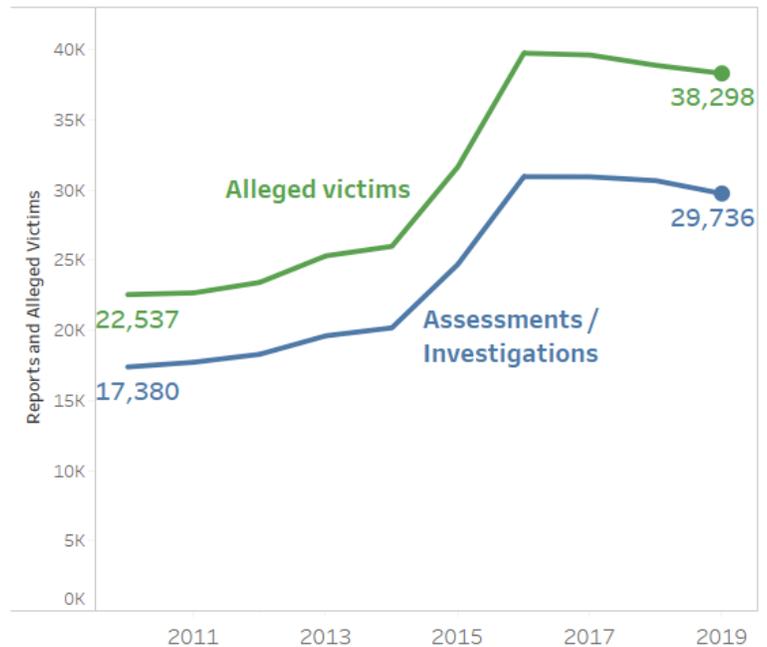


- Mandated reporters made the vast majority of reports of maltreatment to local agencies, with nearly four of five reports (**68,902** of **85,915** reports, **80.2%**). Two reports had unidentified reporters.
- Mandated reporters include those in health care, law enforcement, mental health, social services, 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 (**45.2%** versus **38.3%**). 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 statutory threshold.

Completed assessments and investigations

- There were **29,736** assessments/investigations completed in 2019 after screened in reports of maltreatment; these reports involved **38,298** alleged victims.
- For the “Intake process” and “Screening process” sections, data provided are based on reports that were initially made to child welfare agencies in calendar year 2019. Beginning in this section, and for all subsequent sections, the information provided is based on maltreatment reports that led to an assessment/investigation completed in 2019. Therefore, the number of screened in reports shown in Figure 1 (**37,649** reports) is different from the number of completed assessments/investigations (also

Figure 3. Trends of completed assessments/ investigations and alleged victims, 2010 – 2019



referred to as cases throughout the rest of this report) in Figure 3 (**29,736** reports). All reports received in 2019, but not yet closed, will be closed in the subsequent year, with outcomes reported in the 2020 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 2010, there was a **71.1%** and **70.0%** increase in assessments/investigations and alleged victims, respectively. The past three years have been very stable in terms of 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 2019.
- There were **33,556 (87.6%)** alleged victims who had a single completed assessment or investigation in 2019. Just over **12%** had multiple assessments or investigations.

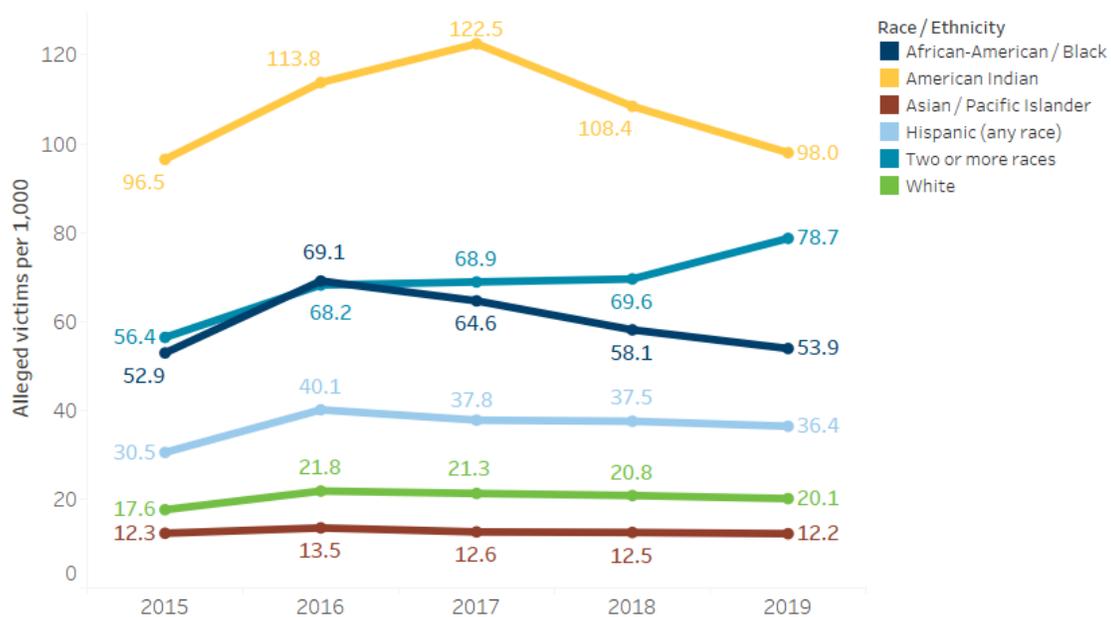
Table 1. Number of victims with one or more completed assessment/investigation in 2019

	Number	Percent
1 assmnt/inv	33,556	87.6%
2 assmnt/inv	3,939	10.3%
3 assmnt/inv	642	1.7%
4 or more assmnt/inv	161	0.4%
Total	38,298	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 per 1,000 with at least one completed assessment/investigation by race/ethnicity, 2015 – 2019

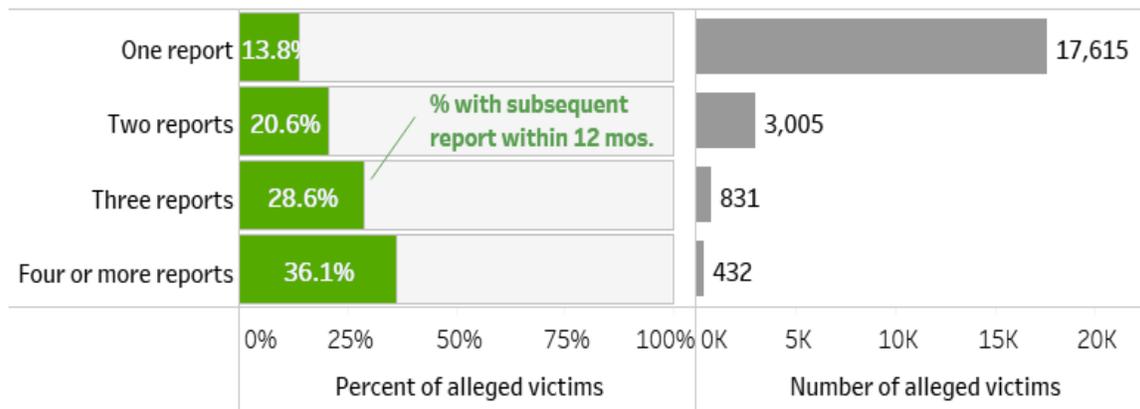


Were children who had a screened out maltreatment report in 2018 involved in a screened in (and subsequent completed assessment/investigation) maltreatment report within 12 months?

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 2018 and had no prior child protection history within the past 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 **21,883** children who had at least one screened out report in 2018 and no prior history in the previous four years. Of these children, **17,615** had one screened out report, **3,005** had two, **831** had three, and **432** had four or more screened out reports in 2018.
- Overall, **15.7%** (N = **3,438**) 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.

Figure 5: Percent and number of alleged victims with a screened in report by number of prior screened out reports

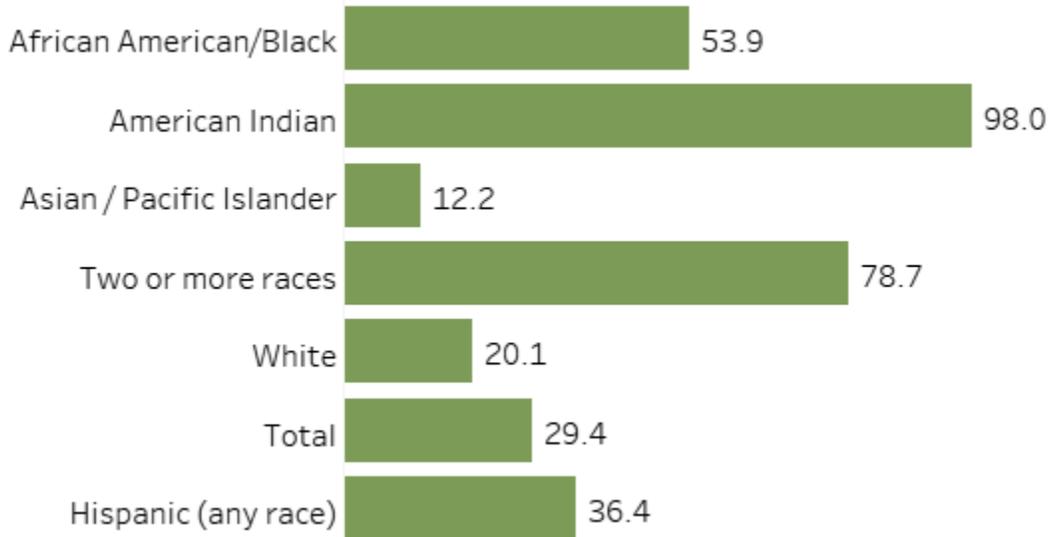


- Consistent with Minnesota's general population of children, the largest group with a screened in maltreatment report and a subsequent completed assessment or investigation are white (see Figure 4).
- Children who are African American, American Indian, and those who identify with two or more races, were disproportionately involved in completed maltreatment assessments and investigations (see Figure 6).
- Adjusted to population rates, American Indian children were **4.8 times** more likely to be involved in completed maltreatment assessments/investigations than white children, while children who identify with two or more races were **four times**, and African American children **2.6 times** more likely.
- Between 2018 and 2019, most groups saw minimal increases or decreases in the number of alleged victims. In contrast, American Indian children saw a decline of **7.7%** from 2018.
- 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 2018 and 2019, the number of children identified as American Indian and alleged victims in maltreatment assessments/investigations decreased by about 7.7%.



Figure 6. The per 1000 rate of alleged victims in screened in reports by race/ethnicity in 2019



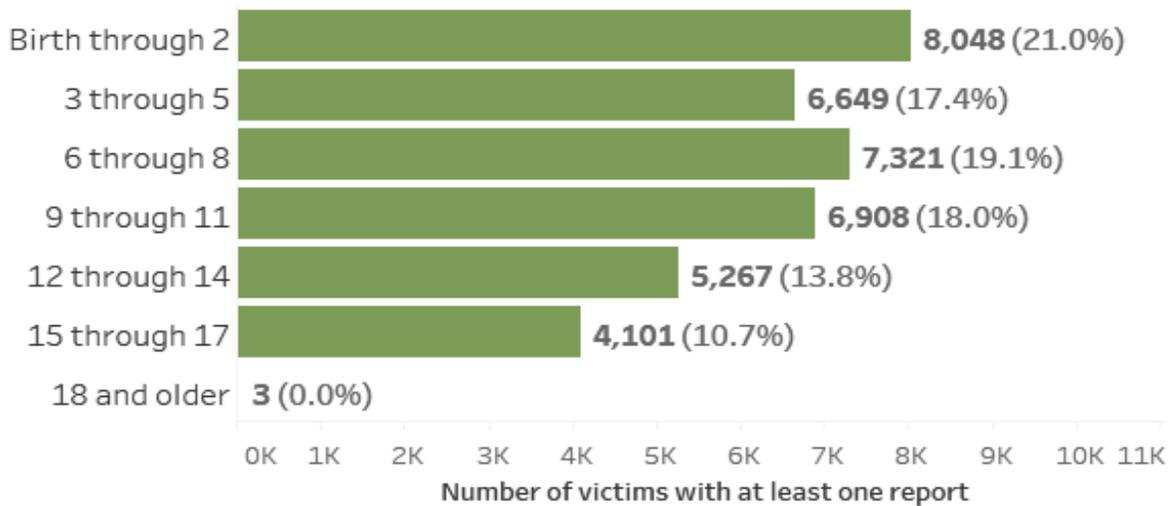
A closer look at the two or more race category

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:

- **86.1%** identified at least one race as white
 - **60.0%** identified at least one race as African American/Black
 - **55.1%** identified at least one race as American Indian
 - **6.6%** identified at least one race as Asian
 - **1.6%** identified at least one race as Pacific Islander.
- Children ages 8 and younger represented the majority of children involved in maltreatment assessments and investigations (**57.5%**) in 2019. 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.

- 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 2019

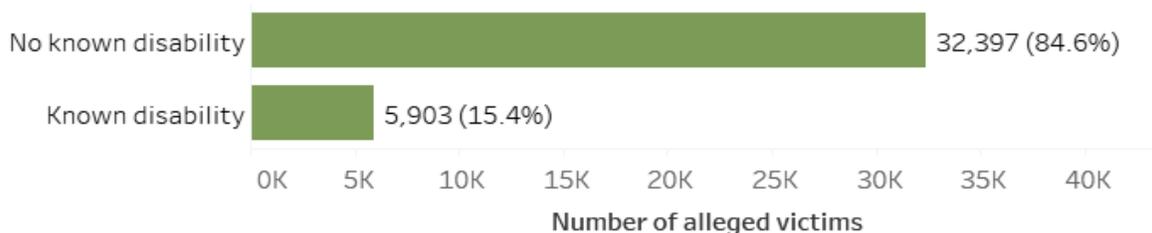


Note: For victims with more than one report during the report year, the age at their first screened in and completed maltreatment report was used to determine their age group.

- Just over **15%** of children who had screened in maltreatment reports in 2019 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 2019



- In any given report of maltreatment, a child may have one or more types of alleged maltreatment identified. There are five main categories of maltreatment: **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 2019. The vast majority of children (**74%**) had a single allegation of maltreatment in each completed assessment/investigation.

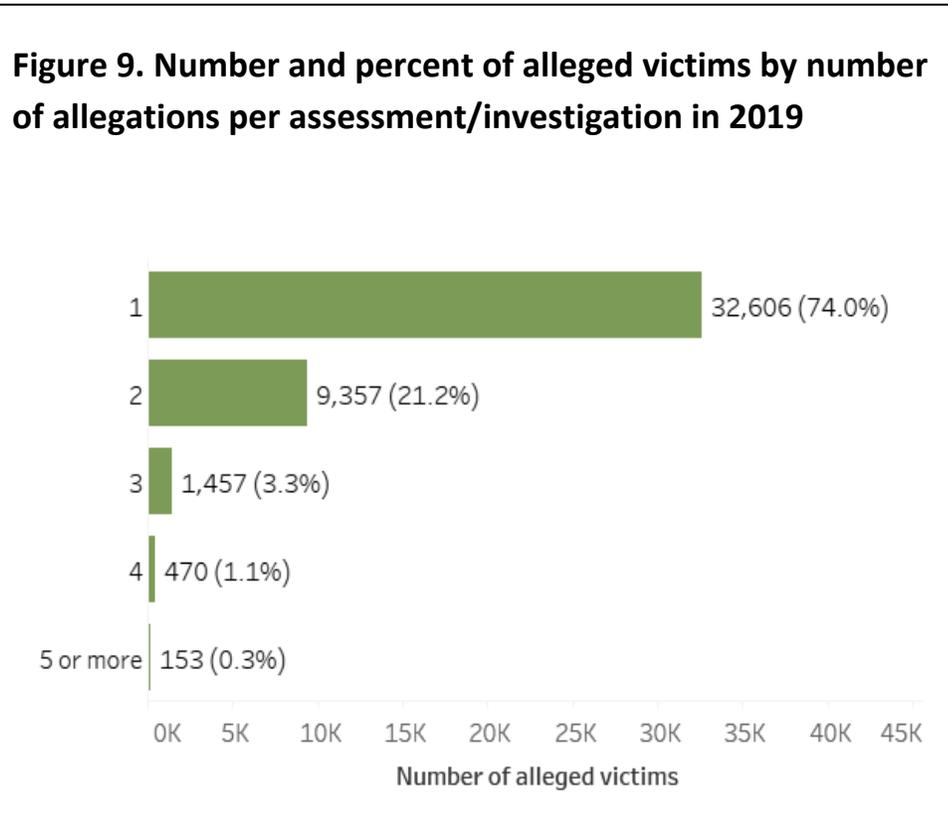
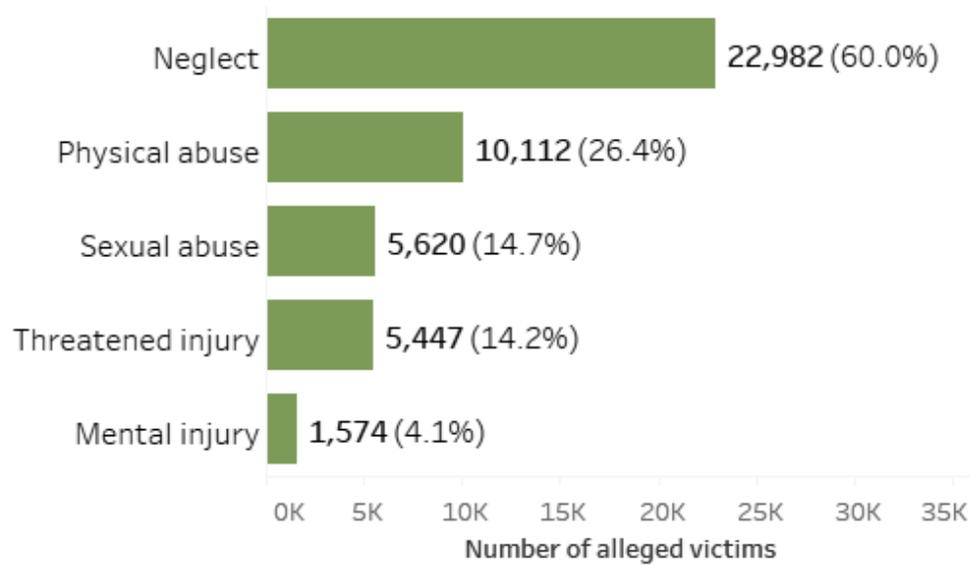




Figure 10. Number and percent of alleged victims by maltreatment type, 2019



- Alleged victims with allegations of neglect was the largest group in 2019, about **60%** of all children who experienced maltreatment (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 **14.2%** of all victims of maltreatment in 2019.

Threatened injury, a new category for maltreatment type introduced in 2016, was identified for 14.2% of all alleged victims of maltreatment in 2019.

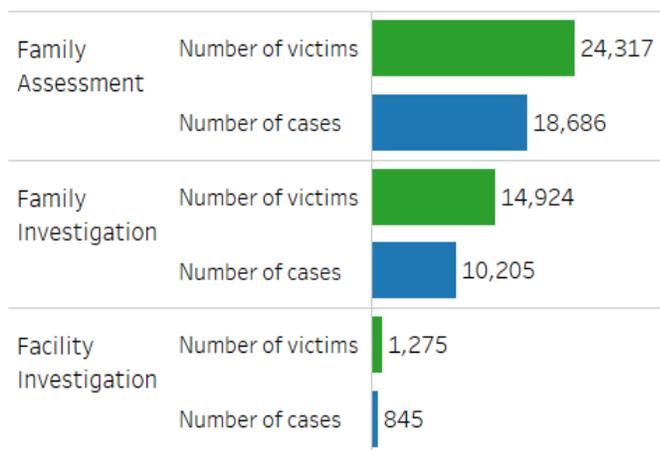
Child protection response path assignment

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; 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 **62%** 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 2019



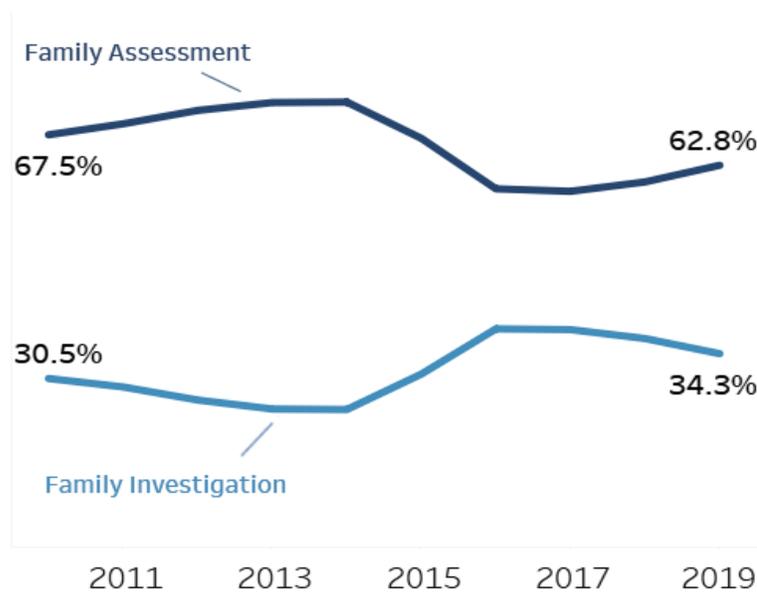
- In all types of child protection responses to maltreatment reports, the assessment or investigative phase has five shared goals, including:

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.

Figure 12. Trend of percent of cases assigned to FA and FI paths, 2010 – 2019



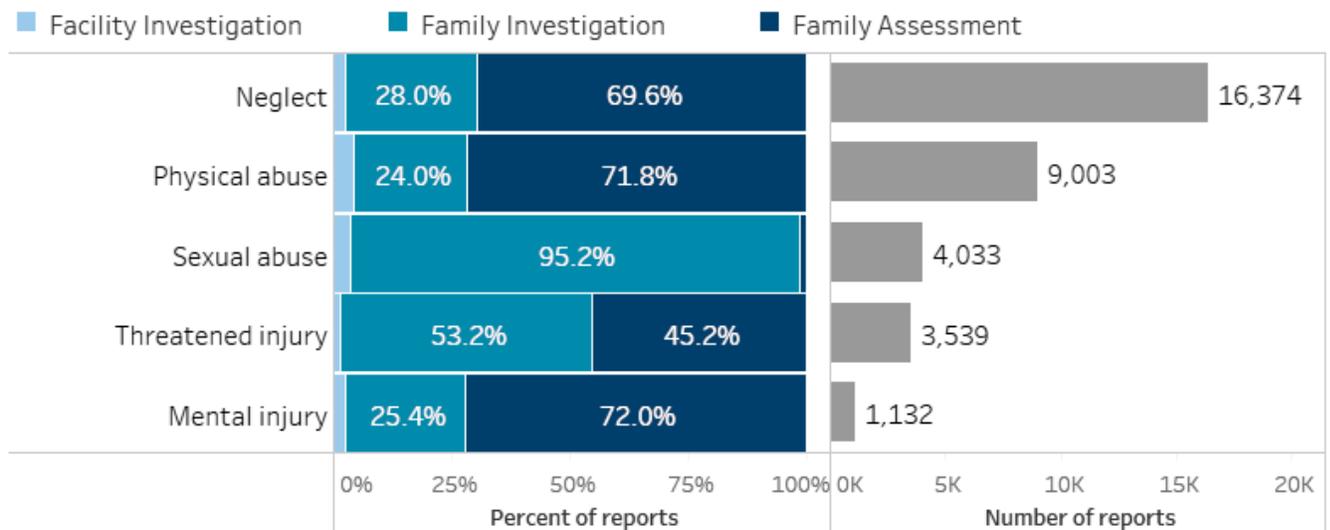
- After a long steady decline, there was a large increase in the percentage of reports being assigned to Family Investigation in 2015 and 2016. This has been followed by slight declines in 2018 and 2019.

Maltreatment type and child protection response paths

- Reports of neglect, physical abuse, and mental injury 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, **55 of 4,033** sexual abuse cases (**1.4%**) were closed as a Family Assessment response. However, **53** of those reports were assigned to a Family or Facility Investigation at some point **prior to case closure**, but were switched back to a Family Assessment once it was indicated an Investigation was not needed, which is permissible under Minnesota Statutes. That leaves **two** reports (two of 55 or about **3.6%**) that closed as a 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. Since September 2017, new cases that include an allegation of sexual abuse are forced by the electronic tracking system to an investigation track.



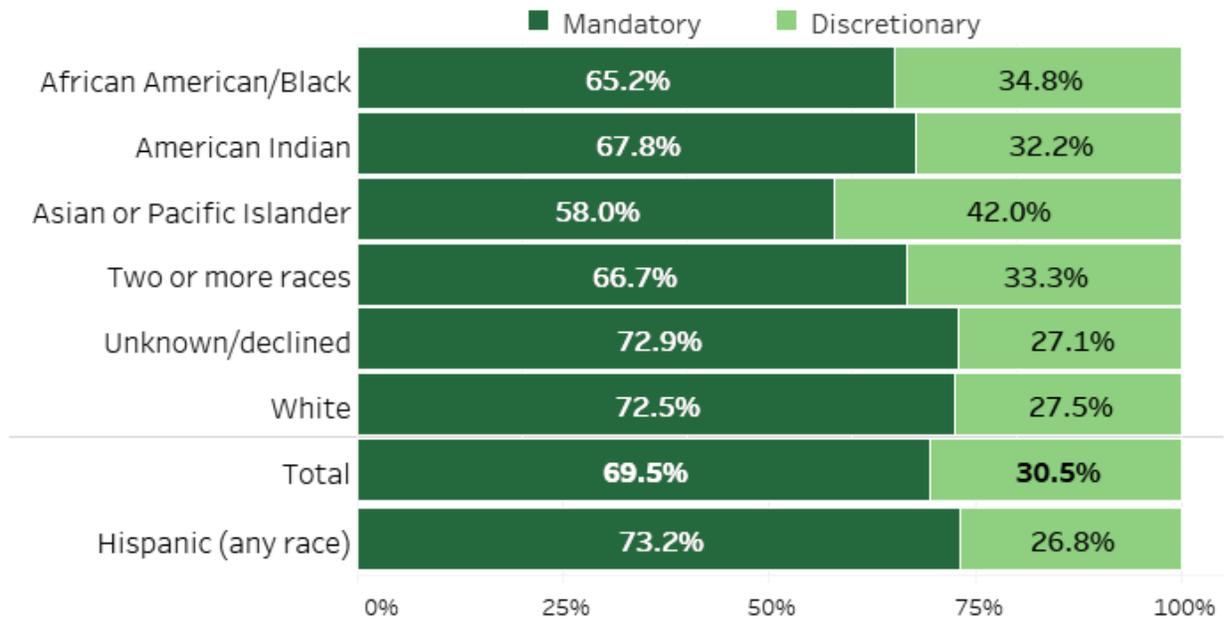
Figure 13. The percent and number of cases by child protection response path and maltreatment type in 2019



- As stated 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 was frequency, similarity, or recentness of past reports (40.3%).

Figure 14. The percent of alleged victims by race/ethnicity assigned to Family Investigation by discretionary versus mandatory reasons in 2019



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 their immediate safety. 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, 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 families 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 of substantial child endangerment or sexual abuse (**75.9%**), requiring 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 2019, **88.1%** of victims were seen within time frames established in statute for face-to-face contact with alleged victims (see Figure 15), a decrease of almost **0.3%** since 2018. Continued efforts for improvement are underway.

Figure 15. Timeliness of face-to-face contact with alleged victims, 2019

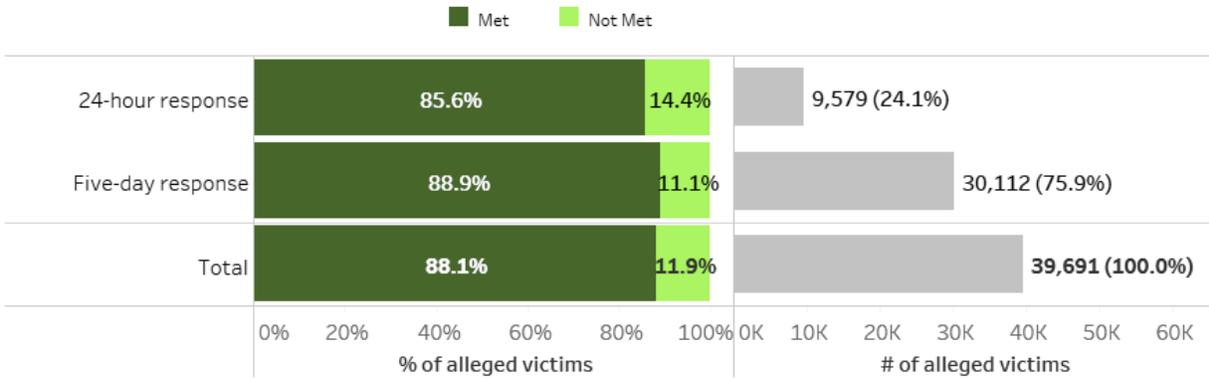
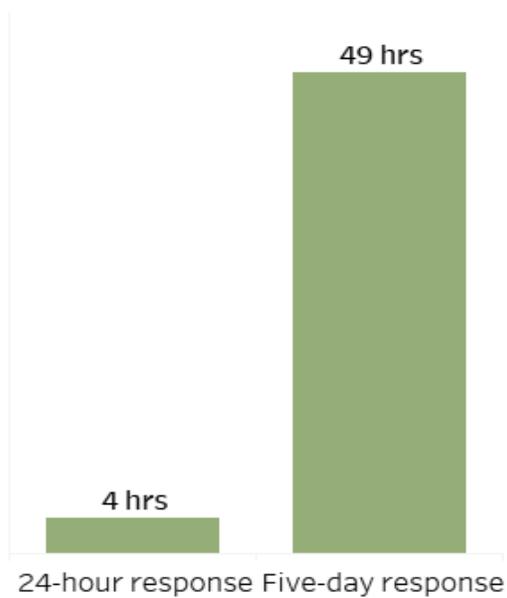


Figure 16. Median time of face-to-face contact by response type



- Despite not meeting the performance standard, the median time for 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 their family, child protection caseworkers utilize a formal assessment tool regarding safety.
- A higher percentage of maltreatment cases assigned to Family Investigation compared to Family Assessment are rated as unsafe (**15.7%** vs **3.1%**; 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

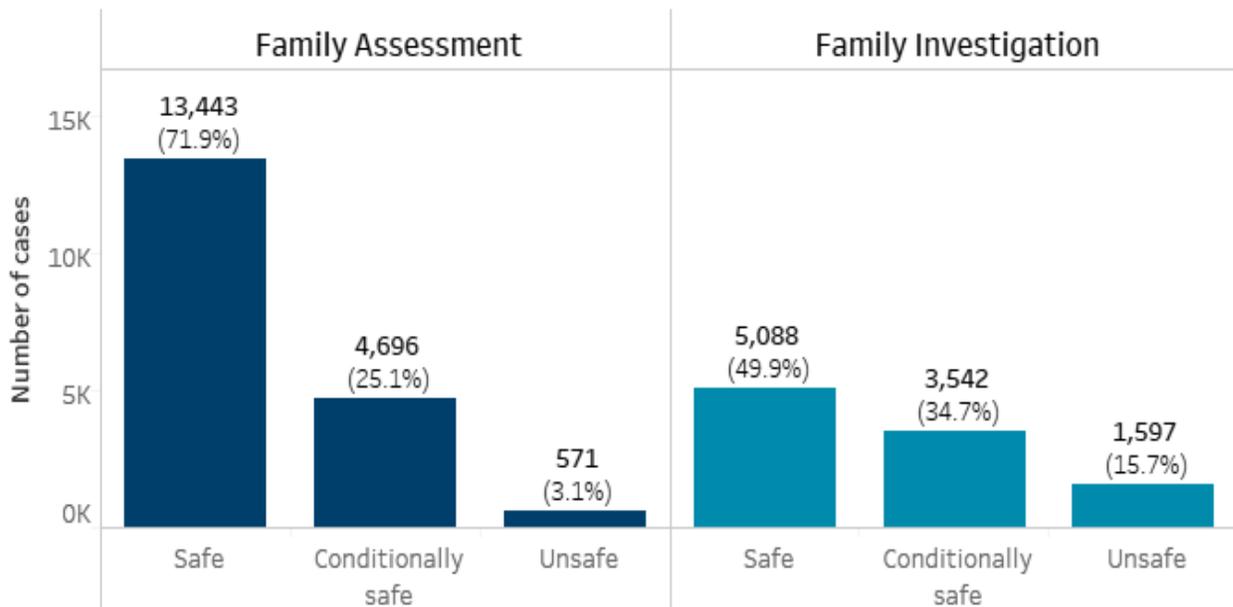
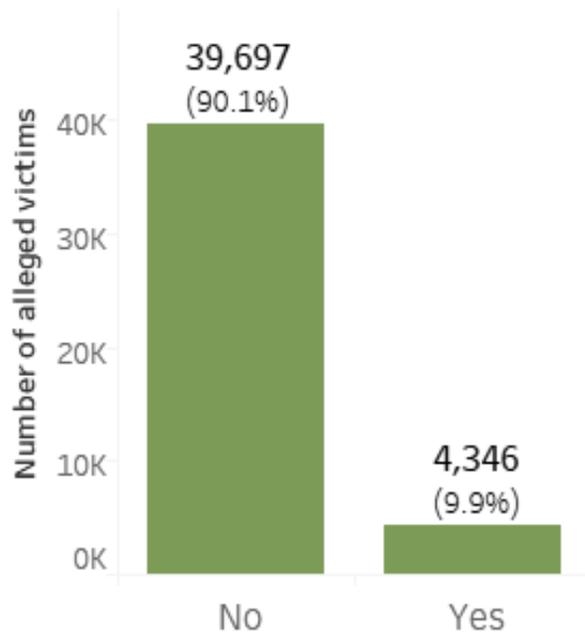


Figure 18. The number and percent of alleged victims who have an out-of-home placement during the assessment or investigation phase

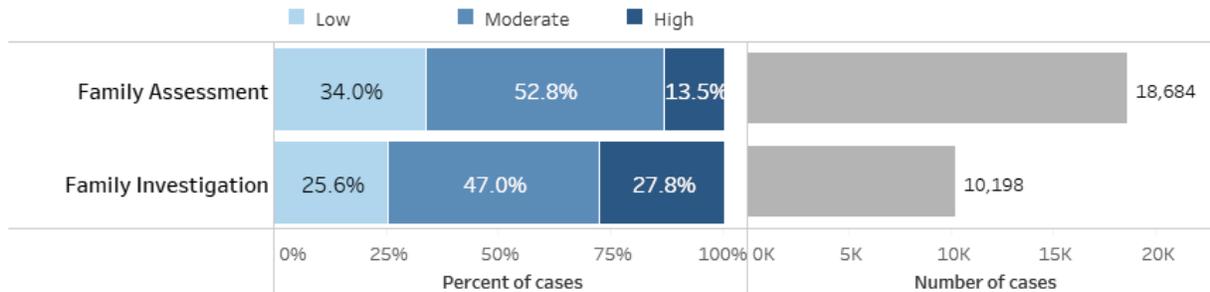


- When a child is found to be in an unsafe situation in which adult/s responsible for their care are unable or unwilling to make necessary changes to ensure their safety, a child can be removed by law enforcement or court order and placed in foster care.
- Sometimes a child's removal lasts only a few days, but they can be in care for many months while their families work to ensure they are able to provide for their child's safety and well-being.
- Figure 18 shows a small proportion of all children who were involved in screened in child maltreatment reports in 2019 were placed in out-of-home care during an assessment or investigation (9.9%). 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 information on children in out-of-home care, see **Minnesota's 2019 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 a current situation of alleged victims is at low, moderate or high risk of future maltreatment by response path.
- As expected, a higher percentage of child maltreatment cases assigned to Family Investigations were high risk (27.8%) than reports that were Family Assessments (13.5%).



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

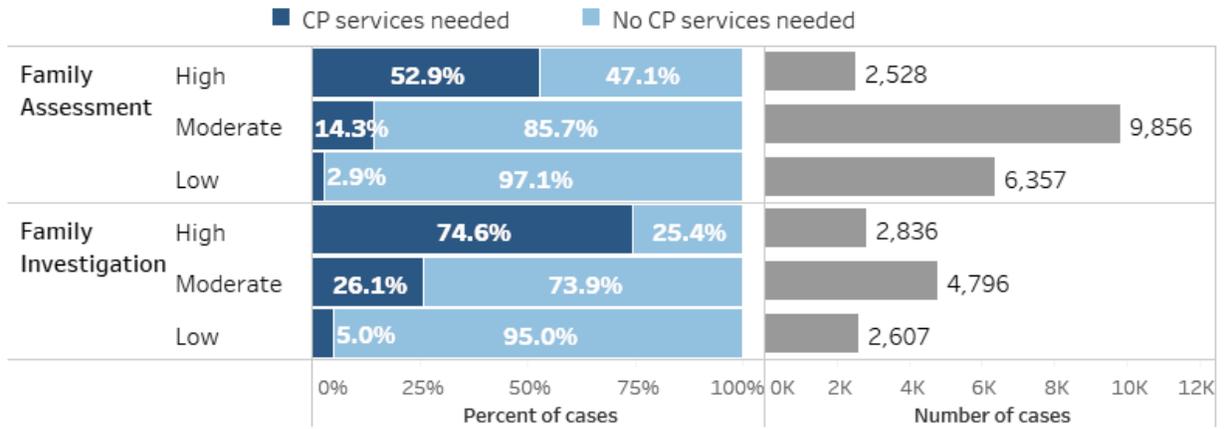


Assessing the need for ongoing child protection services post-assessment or investigation phase

- At the conclusion of a Family Assessment or Family Investigation, child protection caseworkers indicate whether an alleged victim and/or family needs ongoing 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 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 item scores used to generate 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



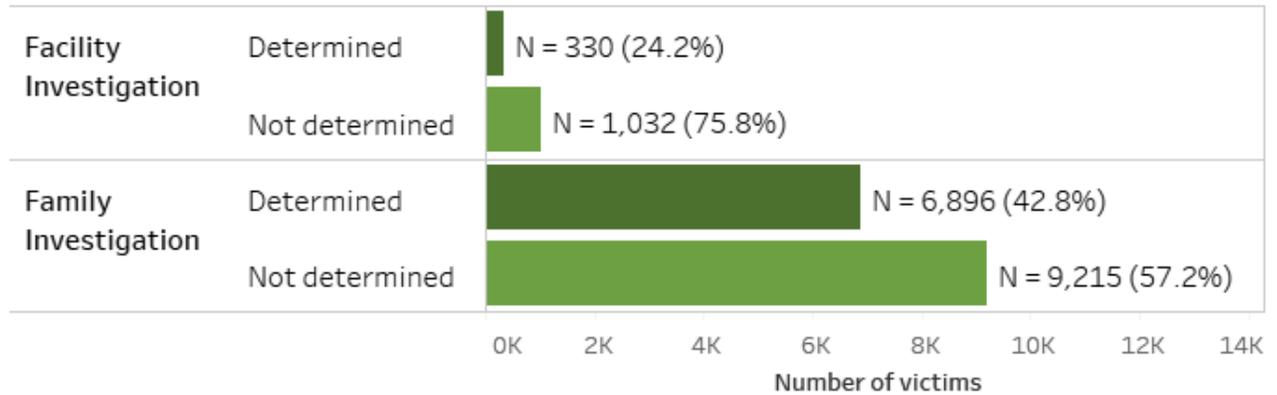
Determining maltreatment

- 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 **6,896** children in Family Investigations and **330** in Facility Investigations who had a maltreatment determination in 2019.

- For less than half of all victims in reports that were in either type of investigation, there was a determination that maltreatment occurred (**41.4%**). However, the pattern is different for Facility and Family Investigations, with a maltreatment determination being made for about **42.8%** of victims in Family Investigations, and **24.2%** 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.
- Non-relative foster parents had the lowest determination rate, at **13.7%**.
- **Fifteen** alleged offenders had a relationship status entered in the data system indicating they should have had an investigation but appeared to have a Family Assessment response. Upon review, this was explained by data entry errors in documentation of relationships, rather than inappropriate assignment of these cases to a Family Assessment response. There were fewer data entry errors in 2019 than in previous years. Department staff reviews cases monthly, consulting with local agency staff regarding concerns about data entry.

Table 2. Number of alleged offenders by relationship to alleged victims, and percent of child protection response and determination status in 2019

Alleged offender relationship	Family Assessment	Investigations	Investigations determined	Percent determined
Non-caregiver sex trafficker	2	7	4	57.1%
Group home or residential facility staff	0	40	20	50.0%
Unmarried partner of parent	1,108	1,095	540	49.3%
Adoptive parent	272	177	84	47.5%
Biological parent	16,983	8,451	4,008	47.4%
Step-parent	805	526	242	46.0%
Friends or neighbors	30	114	51	44.7%
Legal guardian	329	192	85	44.3%
Other	173	434	187	43.1%
Unknown or missing	40	71	29	40.8%
Other relative (non-foster parent)	458	778	314	40.4%
Sibling	158	650	220	33.8%
Child daycare provider	8	178	55	30.9%
Other professionals	2	13	4	30.8%
Relative foster parent	4	200	51	25.5%
Non-relative foster parent	3	227	31	13.7%

Child fatalities and near fatalities due to maltreatment

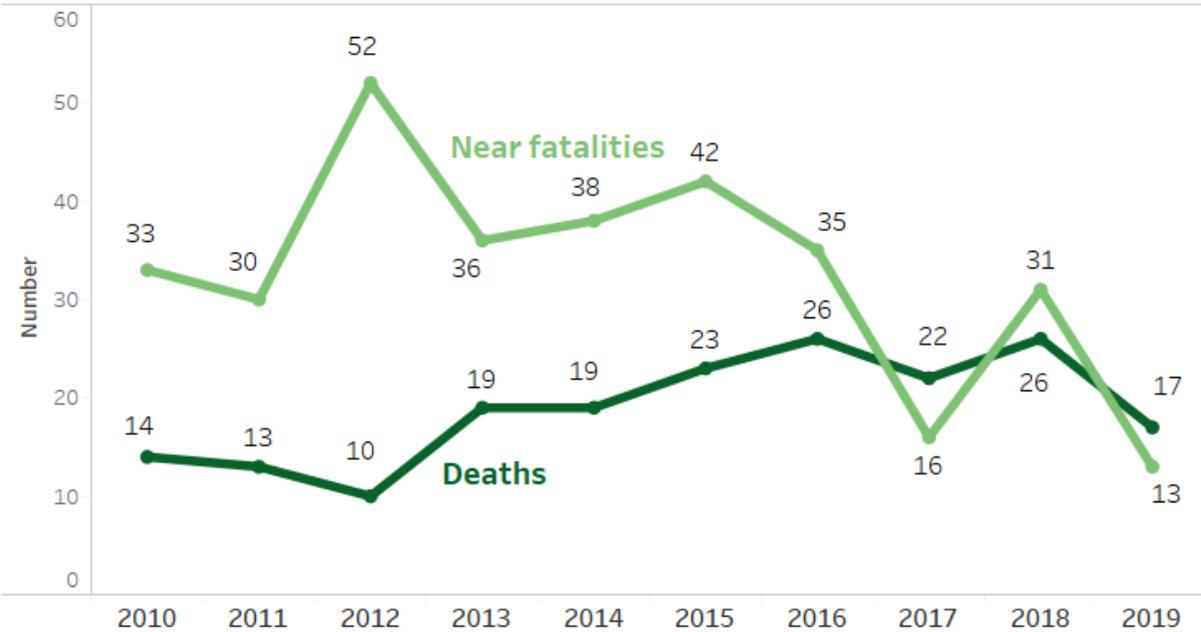
Local social service agencies and department staff take the work of protecting children very seriously. In 2016, in response to recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children and the [final report from the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities](#), 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 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 determined to be a result of maltreatment from 2010 to 2019.
- There were **17** deaths and **13** near fatalities determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2019.

Figure 22. Victims who died or had a near fatality as a result of maltreatment, 2010 – 2019



- Tables 3 and 4 provide detailed information about victims who died as a result of maltreatment in 2019. 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 **17** children whose deaths were determined to be a result of maltreatment, **eight children** had been involved in prior screened in child protection reports, and **nine** 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 2019, which is why it is included in this 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 2019, with a prior child protection history

Year of death	Age and gender	Type of maltreatment
2018	2 years old, female	Neglect, physical abuse
2018	1 year old, female	Neglect, physical abuse
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2019	4 years old, male	Neglect
2019	Less than 1 year old, male	Physical abuse

Table 4. Details regarding deaths determined to be a result of maltreatment in 2019, with no prior child protection history

Year of death	Age and gender	Type of maltreatment
2018	1 year old, female	Physical abuse
2018	Less than 1 year old, male	Physical abuse
2018	Less than 1 year old, male	Neglect
2018	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect
2019	2 years old, male	Physical abuse
2019	3 years old, male	Neglect, physical abuse
2019	1 year old, female	Physical abuse
2019	Less than 1 year old, male	Physical abuse
2019	Less than 1 year old, female	Neglect

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 2019 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 2019

Response path	Total number of victims	Victims who had a re-report	Percent of victims with a re-report
Family Assessment	23,129	4,721	20.4%
Family Investigation	14,613	2,711	18.6%
Facility Investigation	1,258	178	14.1%
Total across response paths	39,000	7,610	19.5%

Recurrence of maltreatment determinations

- Table 6 provides information on how many children, by race, who were determined victims of maltreatment in 2019 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 2019, with **6.2%** 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 2019

Race/ethnicity	Determined victims	Determined victims with maltreatment recurrence within 12 months	Percent with maltreatment recurrence
African American/Black	1,455	108	7.4%
American Indian	796	51	6.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	291	11	3.8%
Unknown/declined	241	8	3.3%
Two or more races	1,237	107	8.6%
White	3,536	185	5.2%
Total	7,556	470	6.2%
Hispanic (any race)	918	65	7.1%

Child maltreatment appendix

Table 7. Number and percent of child maltreatment reports by screening status and agency, 2019

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2019	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Aitkin	315	116	199	36.8	63.2
Anoka	3,929	1,399	2,530	35.6	64.4
Becker	715	244	471	34.1	65.9
Beltrami	844	372	472	44.1	55.9
Benton	788	218	570	27.7	72.3
Big Stone	51	15	36	29.4	70.6
Blue Earth	1,176	400	776	34.0	66.0
Brown	479	189	290	39.5	60.5
Carlton	955	476	479	49.8	50.2
Carver	906	458	448	50.6	49.4
Cass	479	227	252	47.4	52.6
Chippewa	237	129	108	54.4	45.6
Chisago	815	333	482	40.9	59.1
Clay	1,898	465	1,433	24.5	75.5
Clearwater	256	130	126	50.8	49.2
Cook	70	35	35	50.0	50.0
Crow Wing	1,416	304	1,112	21.5	78.5
Dakota	5,045	1,929	3,116	38.2	61.8
Des Moines Valley HHS	536	162	374	30.2	69.8
Douglas	786	342	444	43.5	56.5
Faribault-Martin	645	332	313	51.5	48.5
Fillmore	197	56	141	28.4	71.6

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2019

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2019	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Freeborn	611	264	347	43.2	56.8
Goodhue	674	281	393	41.7	58.3
Grant	221	117	104	52.9	47.1
Hennepin	15,468	8,719	6,749	56.4	43.6
Houston	295	113	182	38.3	61.7
Hubbard	516	354	162	68.6	31.4
Isanti	909	189	720	20.8	79.2
Itasca	813	484	329	59.5	40.5
Kanabec	433	130	303	30.0	70.0
Kandiyohi	940	316	624	33.6	66.4
Kittson	35	12	23	34.3	65.7
Koochiching	306	115	191	37.6	62.4
Lac qui Parle	110	47	63	42.7	57.3
Lake	110	55	55	50.0	50.0
Lake of the Woods	40	25	15	62.5	37.5
Le Sueur	630	190	440	30.2	69.8
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	568	196	372	34.5	65.5
Mahnomen	96	43	53	44.8	55.2
Marshall	120	51	69	42.5	57.5
McLeod	613	249	364	40.6	59.4
Meeker	447	167	280	37.4	62.6
Mille Lacs	1,140	269	871	23.6	76.4
MN Prairie	1,408	517	891	36.7	63.3
Morrison	798	165	633	20.7	79.3

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2019

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2019	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Mower	840	395	445	47.0	53.0
Nicollet	559	167	392	29.9	70.1
Nobles	340	166	174	48.8	51.2
Norman	165	84	81	50.9	49.1
Olmsted	1,669	713	956	42.7	57.3
Otter Tail	1,003	435	568	43.4	56.6
Pennington	143	62	81	43.4	56.6
Pine	1,030	241	789	23.4	76.6
Polk	714	240	474	33.6	66.4
Pope	240	115	125	47.9	52.1
Ramsey	6,361	3,446	2,915	54.2	45.8
Red Lake	39	20	19	51.3	48.7
Renville	361	238	123	65.9	34.1
Rice	937	406	531	43.3	56.7
Roseau	173	64	109	37.0	63.0
Scott	1,738	768	970	44.2	55.8
Sherburne	1,631	583	1,048	35.7	64.3
Sibley	279	190	89	68.1	31.9
Southwest HHS	1,778	660	1,118	37.1	62.9
St. Louis	5,233	3,170	2,063	60.6	39.4
Stearns	2,338	1,026	1,312	43.9	56.1
Stevens	235	123	112	52.3	47.7
Swift	233	76	157	32.6	67.4
Todd	535	156	379	29.2	70.8

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2019

Agency	Total child maltreatment reports received in 2019	Number of screened in reports	Number of screened out reports	Percent of reports screened in	Percent of reports screened out
Traverse	152	88	64	57.9	42.1
Wabasha	313	98	215	31.3	68.7
Wadena	525	187	338	35.6	64.4
Washington	2,214	892	1,322	40.3	59.7
Watonwan	234	90	144	38.5	61.5
White Earth Nation	379	166	213	43.8	56.2
Wilkin	185	74	111	40.0	60.0
Winona	812	294	518	36.2	63.8
Wright	2,451	705	1,746	28.8	71.2
Yellow Medicine	240	110	130	45.8	54.2
Minnesota	85,918	37,647	48,271	43.8	56.2

Table 8. Number of completed maltreatment assessments/investigations by response path and agency, 2019

Agency	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total reports
Aitkin	71	29	3	103
Anoka	681	458	28	1,167
Becker	78	94	3	175
Beltrami	173	122	16	311
Benton	123	61	5	189
Big Stone	10	2	0	12
Blue Earth	283	69	10	362
Brown	127	38	5	170
Carlton	128	133	24	285
Carver	262	80	4	346
Cass	101	72	5	178
Chippewa	59	36	1	96
Chisago	209	82	8	299
Clay	211	76	11	298
Clearwater	57	37	4	98
Cook	23	8	0	31
Crow Wing	184	70	8	262
Dakota	995	639	23	1,657
Des Moines Valley HHS	107	34	4	145
Douglas	167	91	2	260
Faribault-Martin	222	56	3	281
Fillmore	52	7	0	59

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2019

Agency	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total reports
Freeborn	151	60	3	214
Goodhue	138	45	8	191
Grant	40	54	2	96
Hennepin	3,871	2,152	172	6,195
Houston	60	12	6	78
Hubbard	205	122	9	336
Isanti	119	43	6	168
Itasca	164	122	26	312
Kanabec	63	58	3	124
Kandiyohi	115	81	2	198
Kittson	5	8	0	13
Koochiching	95	17	0	112
Lac qui Parle	32	12	1	45
Lake	28	7	1	36
Lake of the Woods	24	2	0	26
Le Sueur	81	29	0	110
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	152	10	5	167
Mahnomen	20	8	0	28
Marshall	31	13	1	45
McLeod	103	130	0	233
Meeker	90	42	2	134
Mille Lacs	113	103	3	219
MN Prairie	322	80	9	411
Morrison	80	17	1	98
Mower	273	62	0	335

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2019

Agency	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total reports
Nicollet	105	24	5	134
Nobles	114	34	8	156
Norman	34	17	2	53
Olmsted	512	102	15	629
Otter Tail	204	154	8	366
Pennington	22	11	1	34
Pine	108	60	12	180
Polk	145	49	2	196
Pope	36	51	2	89
Ramsey	1,623	1,158	60	2,841
Red Lake	14	3	0	17
Renville	112	92	6	210
Rice	206	115	11	332
Roseau	42	16	0	58
Scott	530	147	25	702
Sherburne	306	150	18	474
Sibley	108	40	2	150
Southwest HHS	304	158	10	472
St. Louis	1,264	1,067	111	2,442
Stearns	624	348	30	1,002
Stevens	66	33	2	101
Swift	35	29	0	64
Todd	91	45	6	142
Traverse	40	31	1	72
Wabasha	71	23	1	95

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2019

Agency	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation	Total reports
Wadena	103	36	7	146
Washington	437	250	31	718
Watonwan	62	23	0	85
White Earth Nation	120	23	18	161
Wilkin	47	17	3	67
Winona	122	63	4	189
Wright	322	223	14	559
Yellow Medicine	59	30	3	92
Minnesota	18,686	10,205	845	29,736

Table 9. Number of alleged victims in completed assessments/investigations by maltreatment type and rate per 1,000 children by agency, 2019

Agency	Threatened injury	Neglect	Sexual abuse	Mental injury	Physical abuse	Total alleged victims*	Child pop. est. (2018)	Rate per 1,000
Aitkin	12	102	22	9	45	149	2,658	56.1
Anoka	45	906	199	21	467	1,480	84,396	17.5
Becker	18	158	52	0	54	237	8,391	28.2
Beltrami	43	275	40	22	105	428	11,769	36.4
Benton	40	154	27	7	65	263	10,255	25.6
Big Stone	1	9	1	1	2	14	1,052	13.3
Blue Earth	18	330	37	1	87	443	13,246	33.4
Brown	5	139	39	14	49	215	5,494	39.1
Carlton	36	178	81	72	98	328	8,042	40.8
Carver	118	218	68	20	110	460	27,701	16.6
Cass	42	156	29	56	53	239	6,243	38.3
Chippewa	14	100	16	2	34	142	2,808	50.6
Chisago	17	216	38	9	125	364	12,729	28.6
Clay	54	271	67	18	86	426	15,804	27.0
Clearwater	24	80	12	15	31	122	2,185	55.8
Cook	4	35	11	10	9	55	851	64.6
Crow Wing	18	162	60	10	168	352	14,053	25.0
Dakota	22	1,321	238	10	519	1,961	103,669	18.9
Des Moines Valley HHS	9	131	35	0	39	193	4,896	39.4
Douglas	39	220	51	75	83	346	8,182	42.3
Faribault-Martin	9	266	46	4	89	372	7,355	50.6
Fillmore	5	39	8	0	27	74	5,191	14.3

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Agency	Threatened injury	Neglect	Sexual abuse	Mental injury	Physical abuse	Total alleged victims*	Child pop. est. (2018)	Rate per 1,000
Freeborn	19	202	32	16	132	313	6,677	46.9
Goodhue	12	149	35	1	67	235	10,293	22.8
Grant	29	93	6	27	30	121	1,364	88.7
Hennepin	2,005	4,090	1,383	145	2,167	7,891	276,541	28.5
Houston	16	70	11	2	21	104	4,035	25.8
Hubbard	108	299	57	92	154	501	4,513	111.0
Isanti	14	136	27	3	73	221	9,395	23.5
Itasca	75	338	94	21	85	508	9,370	54.2
Kanabec	15	96	17	12	38	143	3,490	41.0
Kandiyohi	22	229	36	15	74	299	10,514	28.4
Kittson	0	19	1	1	1	20	909	22.0
Koochiching	2	90	9	10	22	121	2,265	53.4
Lac qui Parle	12	51	9	5	7	74	1,342	55.1
Lake	3	28	1	10	12	45	2,005	22.4
Lake of the Woods	3	21	0	0	13	34	715	47.6
Le Sueur	11	104	11	7	47	163	6,808	23.9
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	20	190	4	0	57	238	1,975	120.5
Mahnomen	0	26	6	3	7	40	1,748	22.9
Marshall	12	43	8	2	8	67	2,158	31.0
McLeod	65	195	70	17	79	339	8,254	41.1
Meeker	24	103	23	5	45	158	5,594	28.2
Mille Lacs	50	189	57	8	72	303	6,292	48.2
MN Prairie	43	369	95	28	145	586	18,864	31.1
Morrison	5	96	9	3	32	131	7,761	16.9
Mower	11	260	57	8	131	411	10,093	40.7

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Agency	Threatened injury	Neglect	Sexual abuse	Mental injury	Physical abuse	Total alleged victims*	Child pop. est. (2018)	Rate per 1,000
Nicollet	22	100	28	13	51	176	7,585	23.2
Nobles	31	112	31	2	61	220	6,004	36.6
Norman	1	47	14	4	20	70	1,559	44.9
Olmsted	15	624	108	10	181	876	38,258	22.9
Otter Tail	19	291	66	23	104	455	12,881	35.3
Pennington	2	30	3	1	16	48	3,225	14.9
Pine	31	134	31	3	81	245	5,775	42.4
Polk	20	197	19	25	55	280	7,629	36.7
Pope	24	81	11	13	22	113	2,305	49.0
Ramsey	756	2,143	447	121	866	3,704	128,232	28.9
Red Lake	1	16	2	0	5	24	966	24.8
Renville	30	193	49	66	68	291	3,385	86.0
Rice	24	288	44	18	194	490	14,537	33.7
Roseau	0	63	8	1	16	81	3,651	22.2
Scott	110	387	114	26	252	804	40,458	19.9
Sherburne	40	348	85	35	206	611	25,433	24.0
Sibley	29	115	14	12	49	177	3,542	50.0
Southwest HHS	59	358	113	22	137	587	18,280	32.1
St. Louis	609	1,837	515	109	684	2,849	38,011	75.0
Stearns	231	676	239	46	310	1,251	36,701	34.1
Stevens	6	78	31	28	16	124	2,050	60.5
Swift	2	73	6	3	13	88	2,162	40.7
Todd	7	131	34	3	39	190	5,852	32.5
Traverse	14	69	9	22	23	89	693	128.4
Wabasha	3	81	19	9	29	122	4,712	25.9

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Agency	Threatened injury	Neglect	Sexual abuse	Mental injury	Physical abuse	Total alleged victims*	Child pop. est. (2018)	Rate per 1,000
Wadena	34	126	15	40	49	188	3,532	53.2
Washington	39	516	145	25	332	937	63,678	14.7
Watonwan	2	45	10	0	38	90	2,683	33.5
White Earth Nation	2	193	8	3	40	219	1,981	110.6
Wilkin	4	56	7	1	22	80	1,402	57.1
Winona	31	167	19	30	58	252	9,158	27.5
Wright	69	383	123	33	181	724	38,003	19.1
Yellow Medicine	11	72	18	10	30	114	2,303	49.5
Minnesota	5,447	22,982	5,620	1,574	10,112	38,298	1,302,615	29.4

† 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 Mahnommen, 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, 2019

Agency	Birth – 2	3 – 5	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Aitkin	30	29	27	32	21	13	0
Anoka	342	253	302	262	187	145	0
Becker	61	49	46	35	30	19	1
Beltrami	113	84	90	71	44	34	0
Benton	66	47	61	49	20	20	0
Big Stone	1	3	6	3	1	0	0
Blue Earth	125	87	76	69	57	31	0
Brown	55	51	35	30	28	22	0
Carlton	53	55	67	71	48	39	0
Carver	74	81	78	91	80	59	0
Cass	41	31	47	49	50	25	0
Chippewa	28	33	30	21	16	14	0
Chisago	70	55	71	70	59	49	0
Clay	108	79	83	56	60	44	0
Clearwater	32	25	15	25	9	16	0
Cook	9	7	9	9	14	8	0
Crow Wing	81	59	62	70	56	27	0
Dakota	357	303	409	418	265	227	0
Des Moines Valley HHS	49	39	41	30	21	18	0
Douglas	55	62	69	61	64	43	0
Faribault-Martin	79	70	61	59	68	42	0
Fillmore	11	21	13	12	10	8	0
Freeborn	59	64	69	63	28	32	0
Goodhue	49	45	45	46	30	23	0

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Agency	Birth – 2	3 – 5	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Grant	13	30	29	32	10	9	0
Hennepin	1,620	1,346	1,558	1,444	1,116	917	0
Houston	26	20	19	16	13	11	0
Hubbard	85	103	82	85	93	67	0
Isanti	60	33	40	29	35	25	0
Itasca	103	98	88	104	71	48	0
Kanabec	34	26	25	22	26	14	0
Kandiyohi	76	65	60	46	30	24	0
Kittson	3	6	3	4	3	1	0
Koochiching	25	22	24	23	17	12	0
Lac qui Parle	15	15	17	11	9	9	0
Lake	5	5	7	10	9	9	0
Lake of the Woods	7	8	6	6	4	4	0
Le Sueur	36	26	27	21	29	28	0
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	39	34	83	58	20	7	0
Mahnomen	13	5	5	6	6	6	0
Marshall	18	10	11	13	9	7	0
McLeod	63	72	64	64	42	35	0
Meeker	37	27	31	33	18	14	0
Mille Lacs	80	51	54	44	46	29	0
MN Prairie	112	120	103	114	100	48	0
Morrison	27	26	30	22	18	9	0
Mower	79	77	77	90	43	50	0
Nicollet	35	26	49	27	20	22	0
Nobles	40	49	39	38	34	21	0
Norman	15	5	17	14	13	7	0

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Agency	Birth – 2	3 – 5	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Olmsted	220	142	171	156	120	72	0
Otter Tail	91	91	83	77	61	55	0
Pennington	10	12	5	11	10	0	0
Pine	56	31	41	42	46	31	0
Polk	61	56	40	60	37	28	0
Pope	19	28	19	23	14	12	0
Ramsey	883	579	695	669	492	422	0
Red Lake	5	6	9	4	0	0	0
Renville	49	53	56	62	50	31	0
Rice	100	91	105	85	70	40	0
Roseau	17	17	18	12	11	6	0
Scott	138	127	149	148	146	106	1
Sherburne	125	102	109	118	79	84	0
Sibley	24	38	35	26	33	23	0
Southwest HHS	123	110	129	103	72	57	0
St. Louis	623	542	553	531	403	297	2
Stearns	241	224	243	248	174	150	0
Stevens	32	21	23	19	23	11	0
Swift	22	23	14	14	9	7	0
Todd	37	32	34	30	30	27	0
Traverse	11	26	20	15	14	7	0
Wabasha	27	22	22	25	16	11	0
Wadena	32	29	35	33	28	32	0
Washington	198	162	188	160	124	112	0
Watonwan	19	13	22	21	11	5	0
White Earth Nation	53	48	39	40	29	16	0

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Agency	Birth – 2	3 – 5	6 – 8	9 – 11	12 – 14	15 – 17	18 and older
Wilkin	13	16	20	15	14	4	0
Winona	65	47	47	50	23	24	0
Wright	128	120	136	136	112	98	0
Yellow Medicine	18	18	29	23	17	12	0
Minnesota	8,054	6,763	7,449	7,034	5,368	4,171	4

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, 2019

Agency	African American/ Black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Aitkin	*	31	*	20	*	90	149	*
Anoka	293	37	40	170	92	848	1,480	109
Becker	*	41	*	49	*	134	237	17
Beltrami	8	222	*	56	*	137	428	25
Benton	68	*	*	46	*	146	263	19
Big Stone	*	*	*	*	*	13	14	*
Blue Earth	90	16	*	61	24	250	443	47
Brown	*	*	*	19	10	183	215	29
Carlton	*	80	*	57	*	188	328	*
Carver	42	8	12	72	22	304	460	63
Cass	*	39	*	31	7	160	239	*
Chippewa	8	9	*	22	7	95	142	23
Chisago	*	15	16	42	32	253	364	17
Clay	71	53	*	89	*	210	426	61
Clearwater	*	28	*	21	*	67	122	*
Cook	*	20	*	7	*	27	55	*
Crow Wing	12	12	*	21	*	303	352	9
Dakota	382	25	30	313	344	867	1,961	320
Des Moines Valley HHS	10	*	*	16	9	151	193	29
Douglas	13	*	*	81	18	229	346	24
Faribault-Martin	*	*	*	47	12	303	372	55
Fillmore	*	*	*	8	*	64	74	*
Freeborn	30	*	18	33	14	215	313	62

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Agency	African American/ Black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Goodhue	29	11	*	29	9	155	235	27
Grant	*	*	*	8	7	106	121	9
Hennepin	3,290	454	238	1,656	177	2,076	7,891	1,163
Houston	*	*	*	12	13	75	104	*
Hubbard	*	67	*	33	*	392	501	25
Isanti	8	*	*	12	19	177	221	*
Itasca	7	44	*	83	*	368	508	10
Kanabec	*	*	*	10	*	125	143	*
Kandiyohi	31	13	*	32	8	214	299	108
Kittson	*	*	*	*	*	18	20	*
Koochiching	*	*	*	*	*	103	121	*
Lac qui Parle	*	*	*	*	*	63	74	11
Lake	*	*	*	*	*	35	45	*
Lake of the Woods	*	*	*	*	*	29	34	*
Le Sueur	*	*	*	12	18	130	163	41
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	*	227	*	11	*	*	238	10
Mahnomen	*	15	*	19	*	*	40	*
Marshall	*	*	*	12	*	53	67	*
McLeod	*	*	*	36	*	291	339	55
Meeker	*	*	*	11	9	134	158	*
Mille Lacs	*	109	*	38	*	152	303	*
MN Prairie	65	*	*	44	8	462	586	106
Morrison	*	*	*	21	*	102	131	10
Mower	49	*	18	41	7	293	411	81
Nicollet	17	*	*	39	*	118	176	32

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Agency	African American/ Black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Nobles	12	*	21	16	37	132	220	102
Norman	*	8	*	21	*	40	70	9
Olmsted	149	11	34	193	7	482	876	84
Otter Tail	19	7	*	56	24	345	455	23
Pennington	7	*	*	7	*	34	48	*
Pine	*	49	*	15	*	172	245	*
Polk	8	34	*	47	*	185	280	63
Pope	*	*	*	11	7	91	113	9
Ramsey	1,396	107	438	555	107	1,101	3,704	424
Red Lake	*	*	*	*	*	17	24	*
Renville	8	*	*	20	*	249	291	51
Rice	43	*	*	57	69	315	490	92
Roseau	*	7	*	8	*	59	81	*
Scott	96	36	27	110	62	473	804	107
Sherburne	50	10	*	89	91	370	611	44
Sibley	*	*	*	19	7	148	177	56
Southwest HHS	40	50	7	99	41	350	587	78
St. Louis	257	339	10	529	88	1,626	2,849	89
Stearns	229	27	*	122	35	832	1,251	94
Stevens	10	15	*	17	*	80	124	13
Swift	*	*	11	15	*	59	88	16
Todd	*	*	*	13	*	168	190	17
Traverse	*	45	*	7	*	32	89	13
Wabasha	*	*	*	*	*	106	122	19
Wadena	7	*	*	21	20	135	188	10

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Agency	African American/ Black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown/ declined	White	Total alleged victims	Hispanic (any race)
Washington	104	11	29	127	240	426	937	77
Watonwan	*	*	*	*	*	79	90	50
White Earth Nation	*	203	*	15	*	*	219	*
Wilkin	*	8	*	14	*	53	80	*
Winona	33	*	*	27	8	183	252	15
Wright	31	7	*	56	113	513	724	31
Yellow Medicine	*	28	*	24	*	52	114	14
Minnesota	7,116	2,648	1,012	5,778	1,923	19,821	38,298	4,266

* 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, 2019

Agency	Unique alleged victims	Unique determined victims	Child pop. est. (2018)	Determined victims per 1,000
Aitkin	149	27	2,658	10.2
Anoka	1,480	312	84,396	3.7
Becker	237	76	8,391	9.1
Beltrami	428	101	11,769	8.6
Benton	263	49	10,255	4.8
Big Stone	14	0	1,052	0
Blue Earth	443	43	13,246	3.2
Brown	215	25	5,494	4.6
Carlton	328	89	8,042	11.1
Carver	460	38	27,701	1.4
Cass	239	25	6,243	4
Chippewa	142	26	2,808	9.3
Chisago	364	34	12,729	2.7
Clay	426	51	15,804	3.2
Clearwater	122	21	2,185	9.6
Cook	55	4	851	4.7
Crow Wing	352	22	14,053	1.6
Dakota	1,961	274	103,669	2.6
Des Moines Valley HHS	193	28	4,896	5.7
Douglas	346	98	8,182	12
Faribault-Martin	372	35	7,355	4.8
Fillmore	74	2	5,191	0.4
Freeborn	313	77	6,677	11.5
Goodhue	235	43	10,293	4.2
Grant	121	35	1,364	25.7
Hennepin	7,891	1,635	276,541	5.9
Houston	104	11	4,035	2.7
Hubbard	501	40	4,513	8.9
Isanti	221	54	9,395	5.7
Itasca	508	32	9,370	3.4
Kanabec	143	35	3,490	10
Kandiyohi	299	104	10,514	9.9
Kittson	20	16	909	17.6
Koochiching	121	8	2,265	3.5

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Agency	Unique alleged victims	Unique determined victims	Child pop. est. (2018)	Determined victims per 1,000
Lac qui Parle	74	11	1,342	8.2
Lake	45	5	2,005	2.5
Lake of the Woods	34	4	715	5.6
Le Sueur	163	10	6,808	1.5
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	238	1	1,975	0.5
Mahnomen	40	1	1,748	0.6
Marshall	67	14	2,158	6.5
McLeod	339	76	8,254	9.2
Meeker	158	29	5,594	5.2
Mille Lacs	303	89	6,292	14.1
MN Prairie	586	57	18,864	3
Morrison	131	19	7,761	2.4
Mower	411	39	10,093	3.9
Nicollet	176	15	7,585	2
Nobles	220	26	6,004	4.3
Norman	70	19	1,559	12.2
Olmsted	876	72	38,258	1.9
Otter Tail	455	96	12,881	7.5
Pennington	48	2	3,225	0.6
Pine	245	53	5,775	9.2
Polk	280	54	7,629	7.1
Pope	113	39	2,305	16.9
Ramsey	3,704	706	128,232	5.5
Red Lake	24	1	966	1
Renville	291	79	3,385	23.3
Rice	490	114	14,537	7.8
Roseau	81	8	3,651	2.2
Scott	804	76	40,458	1.9
Sherburne	611	123	25,433	4.8
Sibley	177	27	3,542	7.6
Southwest HHS	587	144	18,280	7.9
St. Louis	2,849	595	38,011	15.7
Stearns	1,251	312	36,701	8.5
Stevens	124	20	2,050	9.8
Swift	88	26	2,162	12
Todd	190	13	5,852	2.2
Traverse	89	30	693	43.3

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Agency	Unique alleged victims	Unique determined victims	Child pop. est. (2018)	Determined victims per 1,000
Wabasha	122	21	4,712	4.5
Wadena	188	7	3,532	2
Washington	937	179	63,678	2.8
Watonwan	90	14	2,683	5.2
White Earth Nation	219	12	1,981	6.1
Wilkin	80	16	1,402	11.4
Winona	252	66	9,158	7.2
Wright	724	141	38,003	3.7
Yellow Medicine	114	22	2,303	9.6
Minnesota	38,298	6,953	1,302,615	5.3

† 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, 2019

Agency	Children with a referral	Children required to be referred	Referral rate
Aitkin	4	7	57.1
Anoka	78	80	97.5
Becker	16	21	76.2
Beltrami	30	35	85.7
Benton	17	19	89.5
Blue Earth	4	5	80
Brown	2	3	66.7
Carlton	16	22	72.7
Carver	7	11	63.6
Cass	1	2	50
Chippewa	4	6	66.7
Chisago	4	6	66.7
Clay	7	12	58.3
Clearwater	5	5	100
Crow Wing	3	4	75
Dakota	65	69	94.2
Des Moines Valley HHS	3	4	75
Douglas	18	20	90
Faribault-Martin	3	8	37.5
Freeborn	15	18	83.3
Goodhue	4	8	50
Grant	3	4	75
Hennepin	381	402	94.8
Houston	1	6	16.7
Hubbard	0	5	0
Isanti	16	18	88.9
Itasca	4	5	80
Kanabec	7	11	63.6
Kandiyohi	26	29	89.7
Kittson	0	1	0
Lac qui Parle	3	7	42.9
Le Sueur	1	1	100
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	0	1	0
Marshall	2	2	100
McLeod	10	12	83.3
Meeker	11	12	91.7
Mille Lacs	19	21	90.5
MN Prairie	4	8	50
Morrison	5	6	83.3

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Agency	Children with a referral	Children required to be referred	Referral rate
Mower	12	17	70.6
Nicollet	3	3	100
Nobles	1	5	20
Norman	1	3	33.3
Olmsted	7	13	53.8
Otter Tail	18	22	81.8
Pennington	0	1	0
Pine	17	17	100
Polk	9	14	64.3
Pope	8	9	88.9
Ramsey	202	214	94.4
Renville	6	14	42.9
Rice	19	24	79.2
Roseau	2	3	66.7
Scott	9	16	56.3
Sherburne	29	33	87.9
Sibley	3	4	75
Southwest HHS	28	31	90.3
St. Louis	97	119	81.5
Stearns	39	49	79.6
Stevens	3	6	50
Swift	7	10	70
Traverse	4	5	80
Wabasha	2	2	100
Wadena	3	4	75
Washington	31	45	68.9
Watonwan	2	2	100
Wilkin	1	1	100
Winona	2	11	18.2
Wright	19	21	90.5
Yellow Medicine	1	1	100
Minnesota	1,384	1,635	84.6

Table 14. Number of assessments/investigations by SDM risk assessment status and by agency, 2019

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	11	3	14	40	16	56	14	16	30
Anoka	397	9	406	471	80	551	99	85	184
Becker	30	1	31	59	18	77	8	59	67
Beltrami	60	3	63	120	31	151	37	44	81
Benton	39	2	41	72	13	85	5	55	60
Big Stone	3	4	7	5	0	5	0	0	0
Blue Earth	101	5	106	137	28	165	45	36	81
Brown	35	1	36	75	12	87	19	23	42
Carlton	65	1	66	124	16	140	24	31	55
Carver	153	3	156	108	23	131	7	48	55
Cass	41	2	43	73	10	83	21	26	47
Chippewa	22	3	25	28	28	56	2	14	16
Chisago	96	1	97	135	20	155	13	28	41
Clay	51	2	53	129	24	153	41	44	85
Clearwater	39	1	40	44	1	45	5	4	9
Cook	8	1	9	5	3	8	8	6	14
Crow Wing	87	3	90	96	20	116	16	32	48
Dakota	580	8	588	775	79	854	59	134	193
Des Moines Valley HHS	35	2	37	52	27	79	8	18	26
Douglas	69	6	75	134	10	144	13	32	45
Faribault-Martin	60	4	64	136	15	151	30	33	63
Fillmore	17	0	17	27	6	33	6	3	9
Freeborn	38	1	39	114	23	137	20	19	39
Goodhue	27	2	29	73	21	94	24	36	60
Grant	11	2	13	32	20	52	11	18	29
Hennepin	1,580	35	1,615	2,418	730	3,148	392	875	1,267
Houston	12	1	13	33	5	38	12	9	21
Hubbard	113	4	117	119	22	141	30	38	68
Isanti	47	0	47	69	7	76	6	37	43
Itasca	66	1	67	129	35	164	27	28	55
Kanabec	17	5	22	32	21	53	20	26	46
Kandiyohi	39	2	41	73	29	102	21	32	53
Kittson	1	0	1	5	4	9	1	2	3
Koochiching	23	3	26	36	8	44	24	18	42
Lac qui Parle	10	2	12	15	8	23	1	8	9

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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
Lake	5	0	5	13	6	19	5	6	11
Lake of the Woods	4	0	4	9	7	16	4	2	6
Le Sueur	23	0	23	37	15	52	15	20	35
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	65	9	74	64	7	71	13	4	17
Mahnomen	4	1	5	9	5	14	2	7	9
Marshall	8	0	8	23	2	25	5	7	12
McLeod	40	0	40	111	23	134	23	36	59
Meeker	42	2	44	44	11	55	14	21	35
Mille Lacs	35	2	37	96	24	120	23	36	59
MN Prairie	99	5	104	210	21	231	28	48	76
Morrison	10	2	12	45	16	61	3	21	24
Mower	150	0	150	149	19	168	2	20	22
Nicollet	34	5	39	31	29	60	7	24	31
Nobles	54	2	56	47	21	68	6	18	24
Norman	18	1	19	24	5	29	0	4	4
Olmsted	132	2	134	283	93	376	36	74	110
Otter Tail	114	6	120	128	43	171	24	43	67
Pennington	11	0	11	14	2	16	3	3	6
Pine	35	4	39	73	22	95	16	18	34
Polk	50	0	50	88	14	102	9	42	51
Pope	23	0	23	22	11	33	11	20	31
Ramsey	1,095	37	1,132	1,210	234	1,444	53	152	205
Red Lake	8	1	9	3	4	7	0	1	1
Renville	44	5	49	88	21	109	21	26	47
Rice	100	3	103	127	33	160	10	48	58
Roseau	12	1	13	18	13	31	4	10	14
Scott	297	8	305	251	65	316	13	45	58
Sherburne	178	4	182	202	27	229	12	33	45
Sibley	39	1	40	58	28	86	1	22	23
Southwest HHS	157	4	161	163	41	204	28	70	98
St. Louis	705	18	723	986	103	1,089	266	261	527
Stearns	288	4	292	444	67	511	80	88	168
Stevens	14	2	16	33	13	46	7	30	37
Swift	7	1	8	21	6	27	6	23	29
Todd	42	2	44	45	8	53	12	27	39
Traverse	10	4	14	26	18	44	1	12	13
Wabasha	39	1	40	35	9	44	4	6	10
Wadena	34	9	43	44	29	73	1	23	24
Washington	235	11	246	309	47	356	32	60	92
Watonwan	14	1	15	42	9	51	3	16	19

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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
White Earth Nation	52	11	63	37	26	63	2	15	17
Wilkin	14	3	17	31	3	34	0	13	13
Winona	44	3	47	90	11	101	11	28	39
Wright	254	16	270	186	28	214	26	34	60
Yellow Medicine	29	1	30	27	12	39	1	19	20
Minnesota	8,650	315	8,965	11,989	2,664	14,653	1,912	3,453	5,365

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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