

**Maine Department of Health Human Services  
Office of Child and Family Services  
Child Protective Services  
Annual Report on CPS Referrals  
2011**

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Title 22 MRSA, Chapter 1071, Subsection 4002 defines abuse or neglect as "a threat to a child's health or welfare by physical, mental or emotional injury or impairment, sexual abuse or exploitation, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these by a person responsible for the child."

The following report provides a summary of the number of referrals to Child Protective Services, the number of inappropriate referrals that were screened out and a series of detailed reports on the characteristics of the referrals that were assigned to caseworkers for assessment.

A Referral is any written or verbal request for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation on behalf of a child in order to assess or resolve problems being presented.

During calendar year 2011 the Department of Human Services received **17,648** referrals for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation. **9,423** referrals presented situations with evidence of serious family problems or dysfunction but did not contain allegations of child abuse or neglect.

### **Inappropriate Referrals Received:**

**Parent/child conflict:** Children and parents in conflict over family, school, friends, behaviors with no allegations of abuse or neglect. Includes adolescents who are runaways or who are exhibiting acting out behaviors that parents have been unable to control.

**Non Specific allegations** or allegations of marginal physical or emotional care which may be poor parenting practice but is not considered abuse or neglect under Maine Law.

**Conflicts over Custody** and or visitation of children which may include allegations of marginal/poor care.

**Families in Crisis** due to financial, physical, mental health, or interpersonal problems but there are no allegations of abuse or neglect.

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The Department's ability to respond to reports of child abuse or neglect is based on factors such as the number of caseworkers, the seriousness or complexity of the cases receiving services and the availability of resources. Current staff resources are not sufficient for the Department to assign all of the reports of Child abuse and neglect that it receives to CPS Casework staff.

The Department of Human Services has contracts with private agencies to provide an alternative response to reports of child abuse and neglect when the allegations are considered to be low to moderate severity. **There were 1456 Appropriate reports involving 3031 children which were assigned to a Contract Agency for Alternative Response.**

**There were 6769 reports involving 13,709 children assigned to a caseworker for a Child Protective Assessment.**

**New Reports Assigned for Assessment**

<b>Families</b>		<b>Children involved by age group</b>				
<b>Office</b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>0-4</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>9-12</b>	<b>13-15</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>Portland</b>	1069	807	572	389	263	132
<b>Sanford</b>	241	178	119	96	66	34
<b>Biddeford</b>	698	528	299	259	175	100
<b>Lewiston</b>	1258	1105	636	474	287	153
<b>Augusta</b>	792	689	381	303	163	87
<b>Rockland</b>	613	531	310	267	141	57
<b>Skowhegan</b>	401	324	196	162	108	54
<b>Bangor</b>	897	768	414	285	188	79
<b>Ellsworth</b>	218	150	88	67	41	21
<b>Machias</b>	151	115	65	54	26	17
<b>Houlton/ Caribou/FK</b>	413	332	214	148	112	45
<b>Central</b>	18	16	7	5	4	3
<b>Statewide</b>	6769	5543	3301	2509	1574	782

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**Source of Reports Assigned for Assessment**

School Personnel	1220
Social Services Personnel	688
Law Enforcement Personnel	1083
Medical Personnel	901
Anonymous	693
Neighbor/Friend	381
Relative	520
Other	133
Mental Health Personnel	575
Self/Family	517
Child Care Personnel	58

**Household Type/Living Arrangement of Reports Assigned for Assessment**

Two Parent Married	1354
Two Parent Unmarried	2014
One Parent Female	2656
One Parent Male	406
Adoptive Home	54
Relative	177
Non Relative	21
Other	87

**Family Stress Factors Identified During Assessment**

Family Violence	1433
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Parent/Caretaker	2176
Mental/Physical Health Problem	4336
Severe Parent/Child Conflict	831
Severe Acting Out Behavior of Child	766
School Problems	1009
Divorce Conflict	600
Emotionally Disturbed Child	766
Runaway	60
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Child	215
Failure To Thrive Child	27

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**Completed Assessments**

Office	Completed	Child Abuse/Neglect Found	Unsubstantiated	Findings Rate
<b>Portland</b>	1084	331	753	31%
<b>Sanford</b>	322	139	183	43%
<b>Biddeford</b>	654	238	416	36%
<b>Lewiston</b>	1280	433	847	34%
<b>Augusta</b>	806	217	589	27%
<b>Rockland</b>	620	137	483	22%
<b>Skowhegan</b>	404	150	254	37%
<b>Bangor</b>	936	346	590	37%
<b>Ellsworth</b>	223	97	126	43%
<b>Machias</b>	162	58	104	36%
<b>Caribou</b>	435	111	324	26%
<b>Fort Kent/Houlton</b>				
<b>CPS Total</b>	6926	2257	4669	33%
<b>Institutional Abuse</b>	170	12	158	7%

Data compiled on Assessments begun during calendar year.

**Child Abuse & Neglect Victims by Age and Sex**

Male	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
<b>0-4</b>	17	122	673	154
<b>5-8</b>	11	69	253	172
<b>9-12</b>	13	58	189	181
<b>13-15</b>	8	38	105	89
<b>16-17</b>	5	14	34	31
<b>Total</b>	54	301	1254	627

Female	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
<b>0-4</b>	30	116	553	119
<b>5-8</b>	23	52	265	183
<b>9-12</b>	40	36	171	174
<b>13-15</b>	41	39	139	108
<b>16-17</b>	19	12	34	51
<b>Total</b>	153	255	1162	635