

**Maine Department of Health Human Services
Office of Child and Family Services
Child Protective Services
Annual Report on CPS Referrals
2012**

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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 unassigned referrals 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 2012 the Department of Human Services received **18,091** referrals for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation. **9,315** referrals presented situations with evidence of serious family problems or dysfunction but did not contain allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Unassigned 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 responds to all reports of child abuse or neglect that allege abuse and neglect to children and also meet standard criteria for intervention within the law and Child Protective Policy.

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 863 Appropriate reports involving 1,835 children which were assigned to a Contract Agency for Alternative Response.**

There were 8,210 reports involving 16,872 children assigned to a caseworker for a Child Protective Assessment.

New Reports Assigned for Assessment

Families		Children involved by age group				
OFFICE	Reports	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-15	16-17
Portland	1111	853	591	402	247	147
Sanford	384	301	190	165	94	39
Biddeford	697	497	371	286	205	94
Lewiston	1605	1310	920	687	400	180
Augusta	1030	843	486	391	259	113
Rockland	751	633	413	273	188	67
Skowhegan	450	342	218	180	118	65
Bangor	1158	955	578	357	216	124
Ellsworth	301	232	130	121	78	17
Machias	154	134	79	45	29	16
Caribou/Houlton/Fort Kent	556	470	314	221	212	47
Central Office	15	13	6	2	1	
Grand Total	8212	6583	4296	3130	1956	909

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Source of Reports Assigned for Assessment

ANONYMOUS	899
CHILD CARE PERSONNEL	68
LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL	1310
MEDICAL PERSONNEL	1185
MENTAL HEALTH PERSONNEL	818
NEIGHBOR/FRIEND	435
OTHER	106
RELATIVE	650
SCHOOL PERSONNEL	1362
SELF/FAMILY	661
SOCIAL SERVICE PERSONNEL	711

Household Type/Living Arrangement of Reports Assigned for Assessment

Two Parent Married	1730
Two Parent Unmarried	2473
One Parent Female	3173
One Parent Male	540
Adoptive Home	90
Relative	260
Non Relative	18
Other	86

Family Stress Factors Identified During Assessment

Family Violence	1731
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Parent/Caretaker	2630
Mental/Physical Health Problem	5114
Severe Parent/Child Conflict	940
Severe Acting Out Behavior of Child	884
School Problems	1071
Divorce Conflict	801
Emotionally Disturbed Child	863
Runaway	78
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Child	250
Failure To Thrive Child	32

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Completed Assessments

District / Office	Completed	Child Abuse/Neglect Found	Unsubstantiated	Findings Rate
1 Sanford	346	157	189	45%
1 Biddeford	774	309	465	40%
2 Portland	1146	328	818	29%
3 Lewiston	1638	494	1144	30%
4 Rockland	754	201	553	27%
5 Augusta	1072	299	773	28%
5 Skowhegan	460	160	300	35%
6 Bangor	1192	387	805	32%
7 Ellsworth	286	121	165	42%
7 Machias	175	63	112	36%
8 Caribou			436	
8 Fort Kent	577	141		24%
8 Houlton				
Institutional Abuse	205	9	181	5%
CPS Total	8625	2669	5905	31%

Data compiled on Assessments begun during calendar year.

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Child Abuse & Neglect Victims by Age and Sex

Male	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	25	181	775	168
5-8	31	101	364	192
9-12	20	79	257	185
13-15	5	53	144	114
16-17	2	15	42	24
Total	83	429	1582	683

Female	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	50	171	646	164
5-8	53	80	340	235
9-12	40	54	234	204
13-15	36	43	144	137
16-17	10	13	40	40
Total	189	361	1404	780