

NOTE TO THE READER

Text in two sentences was dropped inadvertently. The sentences should read as follows:

Page 3-8, 3-9
Race/Ethnicity of Victims

The rate for Native American victims was 20 victims per 1,000 Native American children younger than 18 years of age in the general population.

Page 4-43
Virginia, Item 15

For example, an abuser could be mother to one victim, grandmother to a second victim, and aunt to a third victim. This abuser would be counted three times.

In addition, corrected column totals for the table on page 4-12 are provided on the following errata sheet.

ERRATA SHEET

State	SECTION V - PERPETRATOR DATA									
	15. Relationship of Perpetrator to Victim									
	Incident/ Victim	Parents	Other Relatives	Foster Parents	Facility Staff	Child Day Care Providers	Non- caretakers	Unknown	TOTAL	Unduplicated TOTAL
Alabama										
Alaska	V	5,519	769	38		34	113	2,278	8,751	
Arizona										
Arkansas	I	1,110	1,753		206	345	105	310	3,829	
California										
Colorado	V	4,989	585	4	31	134	315	557	6,615	
Connecticut	V	22,624	1,406	3			2,392	1,193	27,618	
Delaware	I	1,726	275	2		2	75	27	2,107	
District of Columbia										
Florida	V	16,669	2,515		334	392	1,221	639	21,770	11,175
Georgia	I	31,844	2,682	233		244	1,083	3,926	40,012	
Hawaii	V	2,574	218	46		11		277	3,126	1,988
Idaho	V	1,525	121	10	3	37	301	121	2,118	1,349
Illinois	V	26,404	4,889	182	72	1,043	2,082		34,672	34,672
Indiana	V	24,253	2,802	35	8	253	4,355	549	32,255	
Iowa	I	7,047	1,176	21	29	477		1,679	10,429	
Kansas	I	2,074	244	36	3	67	431	789	3,644	
Kentucky	I	23,985	3,000	135		256	971	337	28,684	18,466
Louisiana	V	10,685		56	47	20			10,808	
Maine										
Maryland										
Massachusetts	V	59,631	6,039	1,086	273	1,476		1,891	70,396	
Michigan	I	13,170	441	52	1	9	1,522		15,195	
Minnesota	I	9,084	1,033	22	31	39	93	137	10,439	
Mississippi	I	3,940	446	6	4	24	413	104	4,937	
Missouri	V	20,391	3,104	96	125	321	784	1,051	25,872	
Montana	I	3,474	158	137			371		4,140	
Nebraska	V	5,404	493	8	4	137	332	88	6,466	4,026
Nevada	I	9,851	398	21	42	28	537	10	10,887	
New Hampshire	I	460	67			140	150	818	1,635	
New Jersey	V	7,740	1,154	71	72	161	66	112	9,376	
New Mexico	V	8,906	1,205	41	342	82	369	3,919	14,864	
New York	I	39,097	6,235	393	190	83	1,020	5	47,023	
North Carolina	V	31,807	1,536	110	94	354	1,510		35,411	
North Dakota										
Ohio										
Oklahoma	I	12,732	961	83		96	289	82	14,243	
Oregon	I	5,218	473	204	4	65	1,138	95	7,197	
Pennsylvania	I	4,214	1,980	37	58	757	583		7,629	
Rhode Island	I	4,071	529	121	74	232		296	5,323	3,244
South Carolina	I	6,206	795	36	12	47	141	96	7,333	
South Dakota	V	1,537	228	4	1	2	1	25	1,798	
Tennessee	V	9,661	1,348	63	34	75	1,635	192	13,008	
Texas	I	33,313	5,823	80	19	112	3,279	97	42,723	
Utah	I	5,911	731	24		59	496	1,039	8,260	
Vermont	I	755	297	2	9	47	310	60	1,480	1,138
Virginia	V	9,592	1,325	40	31	406	328	151	11,873	
Washington	I	36,468	5,303	448	72	452	425	3	43,171	35,890
West Virginia										
Wisconsin	V	11,612	2,749	193	175	403	2,745	3,098	20,975	
Wyoming										
Total		537,273	67,286	4,179	2,400	8,922	31,981	26,051	678,092	111,948
Number Reporting		41	40	38	31	39	36	35	41	9

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

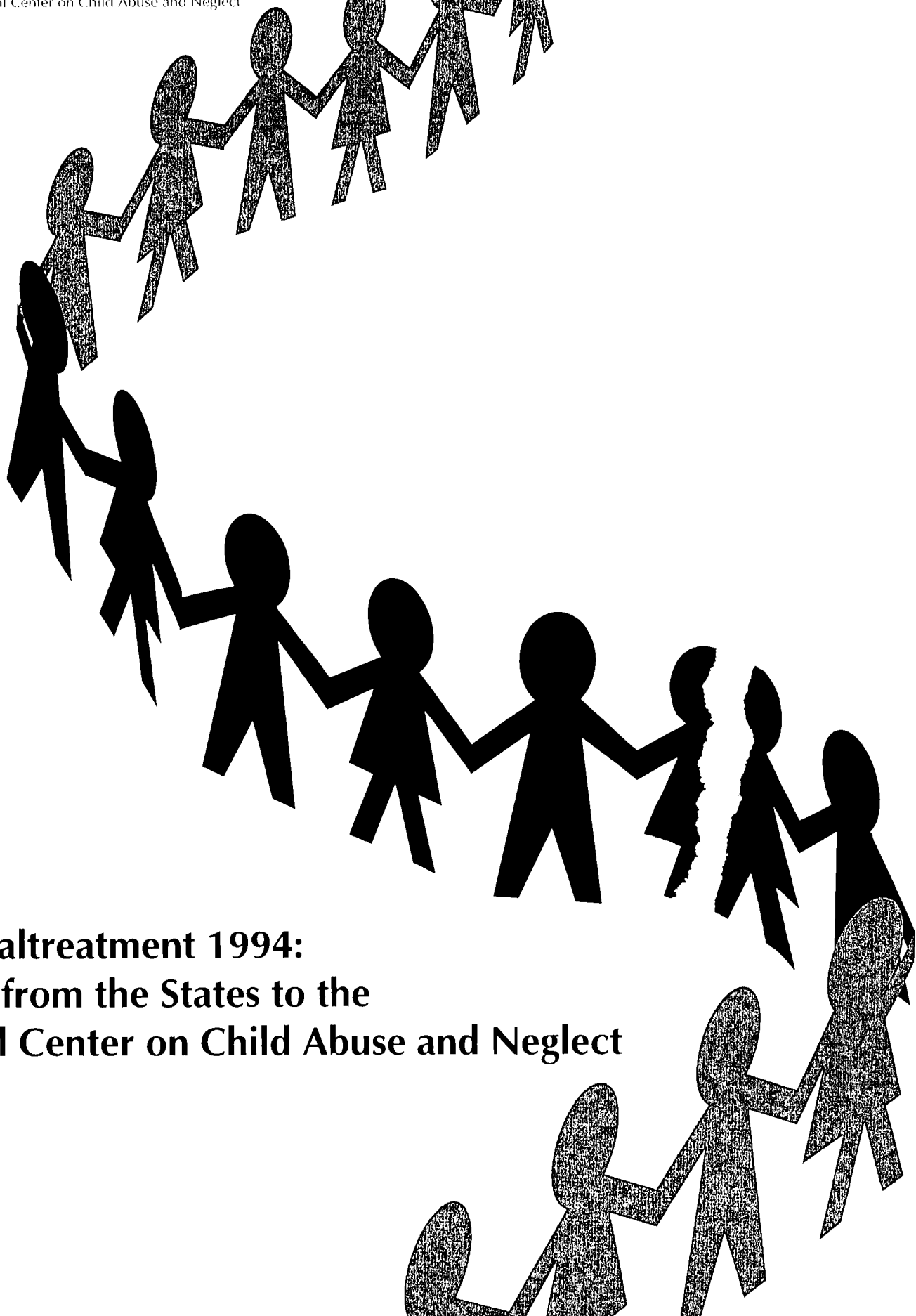
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect



Child Maltreatment 1994: Reports from the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

This document has been prepared for the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect by Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., and its subcontractors, Bowers & Associates and the American Humane Association, under contract number ACF-105-95-1849.

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Additional copies of this document, updated State data tables for previous years, and other information regarding child maltreatment can be obtained by writing to the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, P.O. Box 1182, Washington, D.C. 20013-1182 or by calling 1-800-FYI-3366.

In addition to compiling and analyzing annual statistics from the States, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Technical Assistance Program provides assistance to the States to help improve their child protective services information systems, address their problems with submitting data to the NCANDS, and/or increase their capacity to analyze child abuse and neglect data. For further information regarding technical assistance contact:

**National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)
Technical Assistance Program
Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc.
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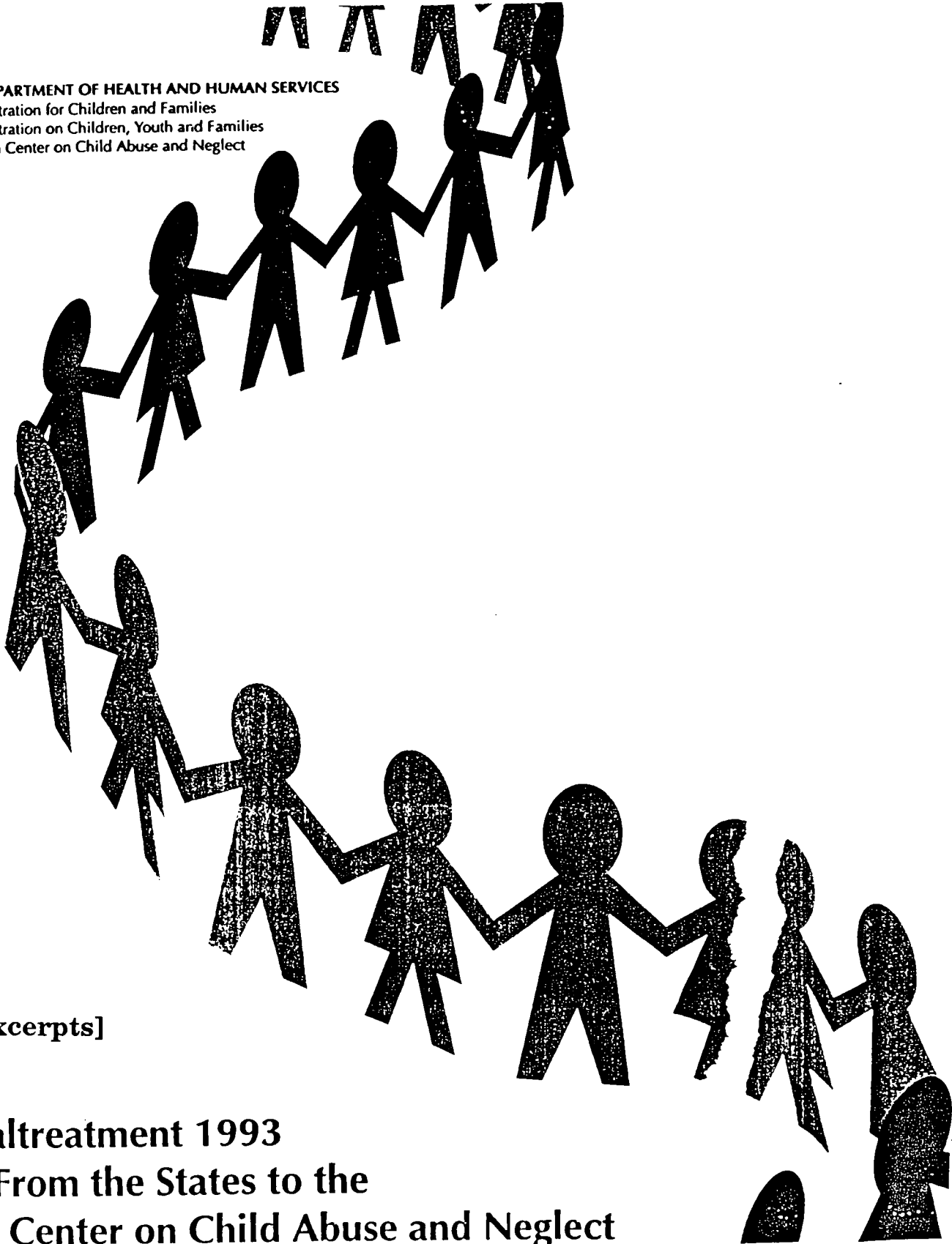
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect



[Excerpts]

Child Maltreatment 1993 Reports From the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

Introduction



In 1993, 51 jurisdictions reported that 1,018,692 children were substantiated or indicated victims of maltreatment. Children who were the victims of maltreatment represent about 15 victims per 1,000 children in the general population under 18 years of age in the reporting States.

Included among the types of maltreatment that children suffered were neglect (49 percent), physical abuse (24 percent), sexual abuse (14 percent), and other types of maltreatment such as medical neglect, emotional maltreatment, other, and unknown maltreatment (23 percent).

State child protective services agencies received and referred for investigation almost 2 million reports of alleged abuse or neglect in 1993. An estimated 2.3 million children were the subject of one or more reports during the year.

Most reports of alleged maltreatment (53 percent) were from professionals, including educators, law enforcement and justice officials, medical professionals, social service professionals, and child care providers. Almost one in five reports was from either the victim or family members of the victim.

The above highlights from “Child Maltreatment 1993” are based on aggregate data submitted to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. Data were received from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, territories, and the Armed Services.

The data represent cases of child maltreatment that are *known* to child protective services agencies through their reporting and investigating mechanisms. In most jurisdictions, the data have been obtained from either State automated child abuse registries or State automated child welfare information systems.

This document is divided into three major sections:

- **Background**—This section presents the developments that led to the design of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The NCANDS is composed of two components: the Summary Data Component (SDC), which consists of aggregate data submitted by the States, and the Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC), which collects automated case-level data from participating States. In addition, this section describes the data collection process and key issues in the SDC data analysis.

- **National Findings**—This section presents the major findings of the analyses of data submitted by the States. The discussion of findings is organized by the four main data areas of the SDC: report data, investigation data, victim data, and perpetrator data. Other research findings and examples of State activities are cited to help illuminate the SDC findings.
- **1993 SDC Data**—The third section of this document consists of the 1993 SDC data tables, which contain State data for the 15 data items of the SDC, as well as census data for the population of children under the age of 18 in each State. This section includes a summary of State responses to the data items and technical notes on the data tables and text.

In addition to these sections, this report contains several appendices including: State Advisory Group Representatives (A), Glossary of the Summary Data Component (B), and Comments on 1993 State Data (C).

Additional copies of this report and updated data tables for earlier years of the SDC (1990–1992) can be obtained from:

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information
P.O. Box 1182
Washington, DC 20013–1182
1–800–FYI–3366

Section 1 Background



This section discusses the development of the NCANDS and the design of its two components. Also, some of the key issues involved in the SDC data collection methods and data analysis processes are discussed.

1.1 Legislative History

“Child Maltreatment 1993” is NCCAN’s fourth-consecutive annual report of aggregate State data on child abuse and neglect collected through the NCANDS.

The NCANDS was created in response to a requirement in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93-247), as amended. Specifically, Section 105 (b) (1) of the law requires NCCAN to “establish a national data collection and analysis program—

- A. which, to the extent practicable, coordinates existing State child abuse and neglect reports and which shall include—
 - i. standardized data on false, unfounded, or unsubstantiated reports; and
 - ii. information on the number of deaths due to child abuse and neglect; and
- B. which shall collect, compile, analyze, and make available State child abuse and neglect reporting information which, to the extent practical, is universal and case specific, and integrated with other case-based foster care and adoption data collected by the Secretary.”

1.2 Design of the NCANDS

The NCANDS design consists of two components:

- **Summary Data Component (SDC)**—a compilation of key aggregate indicators of State child abuse and neglect statistics, including data on reports, investigations, victims, and perpetrators.
- **Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC)**—a compilation of automated, case-level data that will allow for detailed analyses of State child abuse and neglect data. Pilot testing of the DCDC data collection instrument has been completed, and the DCDC is beginning to be phased in nationally. An analysis of the data from the first 10 participating States will be available in late 1995.

The two components of the NCANDS, the SDC and the DCDC, were designed through the active participation of State representatives and national experts in the field of child welfare information systems. The State representatives were instrumental in providing guidance about the status of child abuse and neglect information needs and capabilities, in participating in pilot testing the original SDC and DCDC instruments, and in supplying data in the operational phase of each component. A State Advisory Group (appendix A) was developed at the beginning of the design phase and continues to be a source of important ideas and recommendations as the NCANDS data collection process is refined for the SDC and as the DCDC moves from pilot testing to full implementation.

In the early stages of the design process, a review was conducted of State data systems and State child abuse and neglect policies, programs, and procedures related to the capabilities of States to collect and report child maltreatment data. During this process, and in subsequent discussions with representatives of the State Advisory Group, several factors have been identified that shape the collection of data in the NCANDS. These include the following:

- Child abuse and neglect data elements and data element definitions vary from State to State. These variations affect the collection and interpretation of national data. Working with State representatives, efforts were made to identify a core set of compatible data elements.
- Different State child abuse and neglect policies and programs, administrative structures, and designs of information systems influence the capacities of States to provide data in a standard format, whether in aggregate or at the case-level. Throughout the past 4 years, there have been several forums in which States have discussed these variations and shared plans for improving their data collection and reporting abilities. It is anticipated that improved child welfare information systems will lead to greater interstate consistency in reporting.
- The participation in national data reporting, either at the aggregate or case-level, is limited by resources in many States. State and Federal reporting requirements related to the provision of services to children and their families and limitations of staff to respond to these requirements constrain the ability of States to provide data within the necessary timeframes. The turnover of key staff in many departments also affects the States' capacities to provide data and affects the continuity of reporting from one year to the next.

Four years of data collection experience by the NCANDS technical team and the consultation of representatives of the State Advisory Group have led to improvements in data consistency, data collection methods, and data analysis. Many States have revised their data from earlier years in order to improve data consistency across the years.

1.3 SDC Data Collection Methods

In July 1994, SDC Data Collection Forms and a Glossary of the Summary Data Component (appendix B) were sent to the States. Technical assistance was provided at the request of the States. As the completed forms were received, they were reviewed for internal consistency, compatibility with prior year submissions, and substantive issues.

Written responses and data profiles for 1993 data were sent to the States, detailing areas that needed further clarification. In addition, multiyear data profiles were sent to the States. States were able to review and modify their 1993 data as well as their data for previous years. Clarifications of data element definitions or data collection processes were received from the States and are included in appendix C.

1.4 Data Analysis Process

After receiving the final data submissions by the States, data were entered into Microsoft Excel tables; descriptive statistics were used to analyze the aggregate data. In some instances, rates per unit of the population were calculated. To determine national figures for some important data items, estimates were computed for States that did not provide data for those data items. The procedures used in developing the rates and estimates are described in “Technical Notes to SDC Data Tables and Text” in section 3.

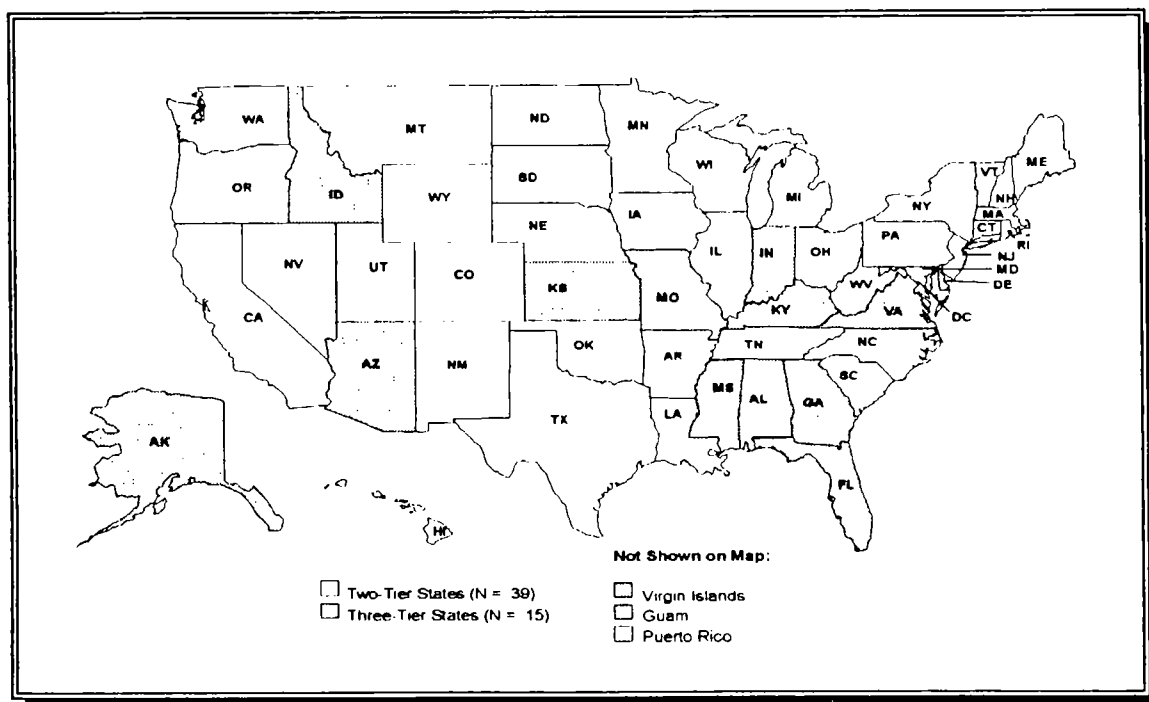
The following three issues affect data analysis and interpretation. Comparisons between States should be informed by these and other factors, including variations in States’ child abuse and neglect laws and other policies that define how maltreatment is handled.

- **Duplicated and Unduplicated Counts of Children**—Many States have difficulty in counting a discrete, or unduplicated, number of children who are the alleged victims of more than one instance of abuse or neglect during the reporting year. Where feasible, estimating procedures were used to determine unduplicated counts of children who were the subjects of a report of alleged maltreatment.
- **Levels of Disposition of Child Maltreatment**—States vary according to whether a two-tier or three-tier level of disposition practice is used to confirm an allegation of child maltreatment. Thirty-nine States use a two-tier system, meaning that only the highest level of confirmation is used to make a disposition of child maltreatment. For purposes of this report, the highest level for these States is termed “substantiated,” regardless of the terms that may be used within those States. The other level of disposition used in a two-tier State is “not substantiated.”

Fifteen States use a three-tier system that, in addition to including the highest level of confirmation, "substantiated," also includes a category for instances in which the highest level could not be confirmed but for which there was sufficient reason to suspect that the child may have been maltreated or was at risk of maltreatment. For these States, the term used in this report is "indicated," regardless of the terms that may be used within those States. Thus, dispositions in three-tier States are categorized as "substantiated," "indicated," or "not substantiated or indicated." The map in figure 1-1 displays States that were classified as two-tier States and three-tier States.

- **Lack of Integration of Information Systems**—It is widely acknowledged that there is a lack of integration between child abuse and neglect data systems and other information systems, including foster care data systems, judicial data systems, and vital statistics data systems. The resulting gap in information inhibits the ability of the States to provide accurate, comprehensive data, especially with regard to services provided to victims and to child fatalities. Current initiatives by Federal and State governments regarding comprehensive child welfare information systems have the potential to greatly improve the quality and consistency of child maltreatment data.

Figure 1-1 Map of Two-Tier and Three-Tier States



Section 2 National Findings



This section of “Child Maltreatment 1993” presents the findings on the main data categories of the SDC: report data, investigation data, victim data, and perpetrator data. Also, a brief analysis of data from the Armed Services is provided.

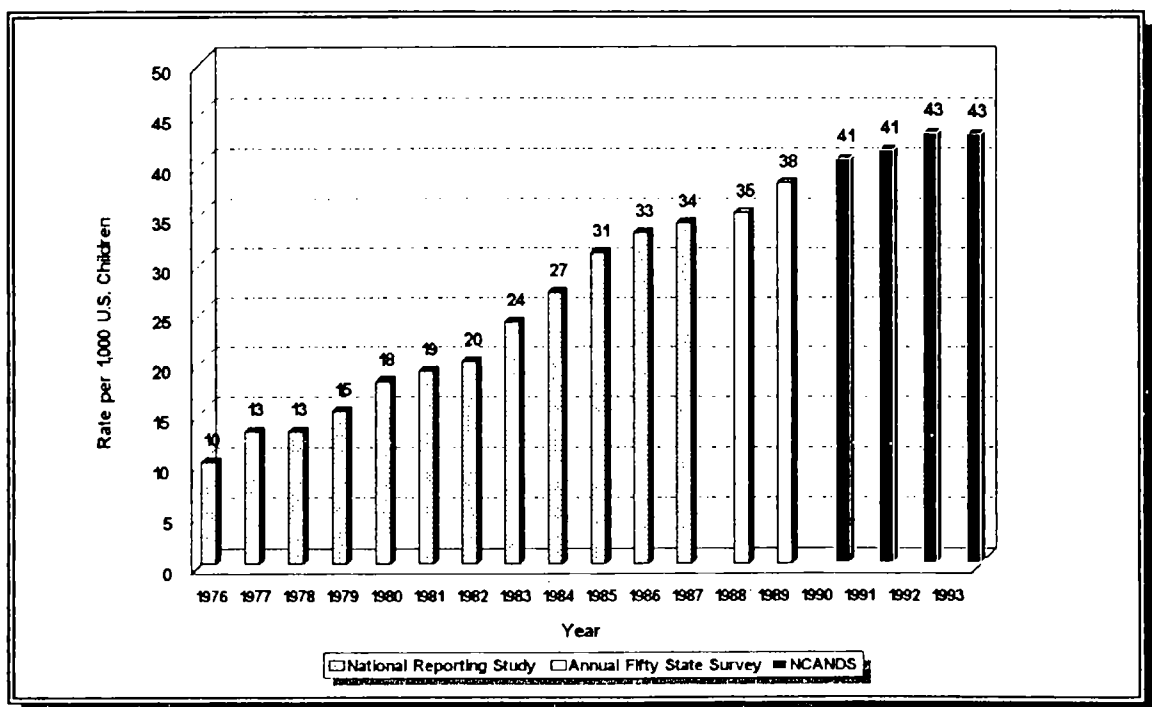
2.1 Report Data

Reports of Abuse and Neglect

Nationally, almost 2 million reports of child abuse and neglect were received by child protective service agencies and referred for investigation in 1993. States reported a duplicated count of 2.9 million children who were the subject of alleged maltreatment, meaning that children were counted each time there was a report of alleged abuse or neglect during the reporting year.

The trend in child reporting rates from 1976 to 1992 was one of steady growth. The reporting rate for 1993 is just under 43 per 1,000 children in the under-18 population, representing the first time since 1976 that the reporting rate has not increased. As seen in figure 2-1, there was

Figure 2-1 Trend in Child Reporting Rates



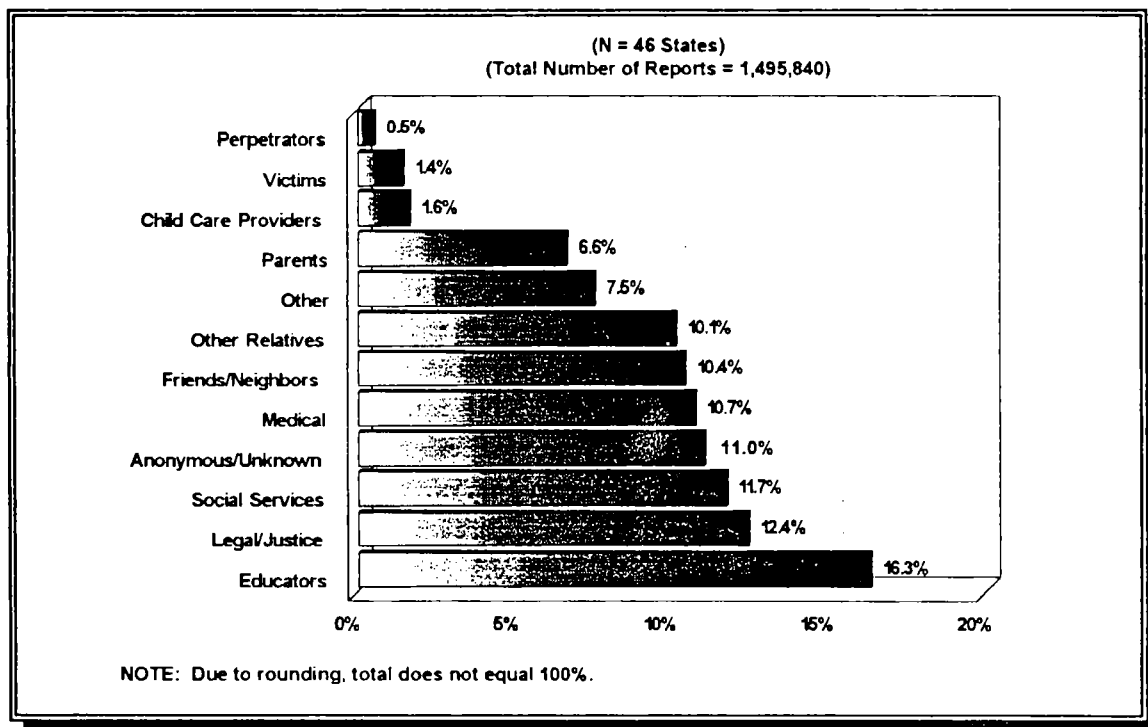
just over a 331-percent overall increase in the rate of reporting from 1976 to 1993. On average, there has been a 9-percent annual growth rate since 1976. However, the average annual rate of increase has declined over the past 5 years (1989–1993) to about 3 percent. By comparison, the average annual rate of increase for the prior 5-year period (1984–1988) was 7 percent.^{1, 2, 3, 4}

Several States provided both duplicated counts and unduplicated counts of children who were the subject of a report. It is estimated that an unduplicated count of 2.3 million children were the subject of one or more reports of alleged abuse or neglect in 1993.

Sources of Reports

As seen in figure 2-2, more than half (53 percent) of all reports come from professionals including educators, law enforcement and justice officials, medical professionals, social service professionals, and child care providers. Persons within the family of the victim (victims, parents, and other relatives) account for nearly one of every five (18 percent) reports. These percentages have remained consistent over the 4 years of collecting SDC data.

Figure 2-2 Sources of Reports



There has been remarkable consistency in the relative ranking of the various sources of reports over the 4 years of the SDC. No source of report changed its ranking relative to other sources more than one place between any 2-year span.

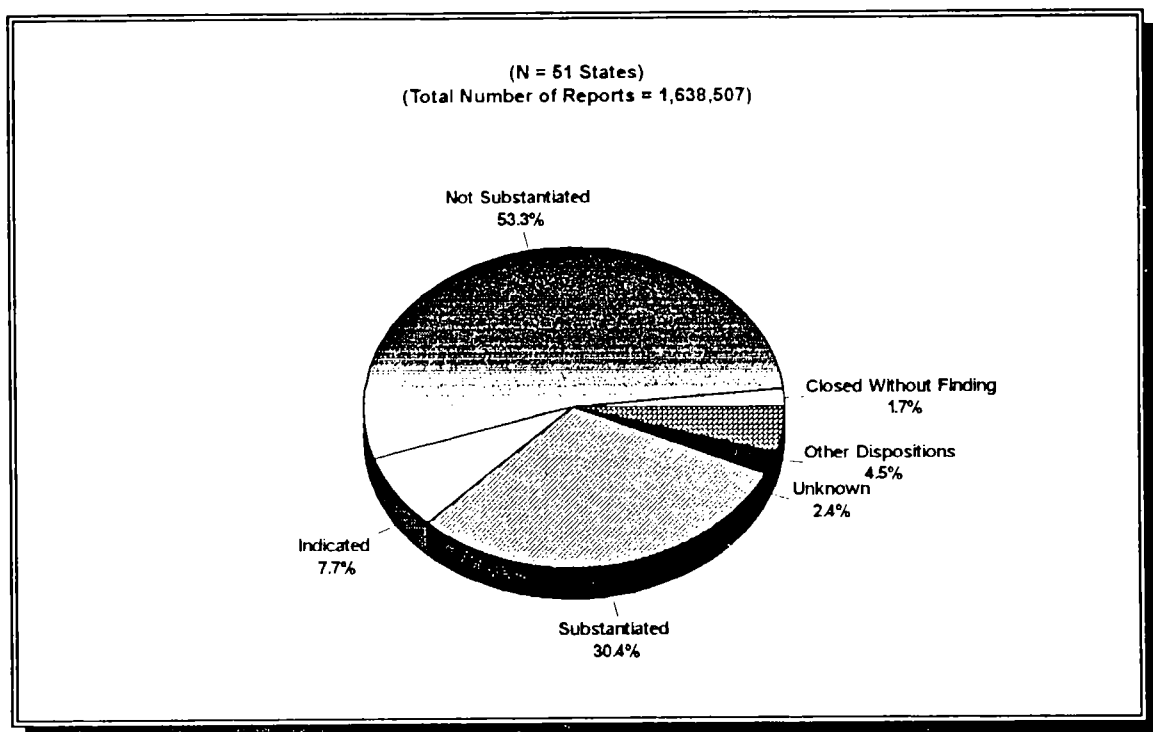
Nationally, educators have been the most frequent source in each of the 4 years of SDC collection. In 1993, educators were the most frequent source of reports in 20 States and the second most frequent source in 14 other States.

2.2 Investigation Data

Investigations of Reports

About 1.6 million investigations of alleged abuse or neglect were conducted in 1993. Figure 2-3 shows that about 38 percent of the investigations resulted in a disposition of either substantiated or indicated, a slightly smaller percentage than in 1992. Similar to previous years, just over half of all reported dispositions resulted in a finding of not substantiated or indicated. Intentionally false reports comprised about 6 percent of unsubstantiated dispositions in States able to collect these data.

Figure 2-3 Investigation Dispositions



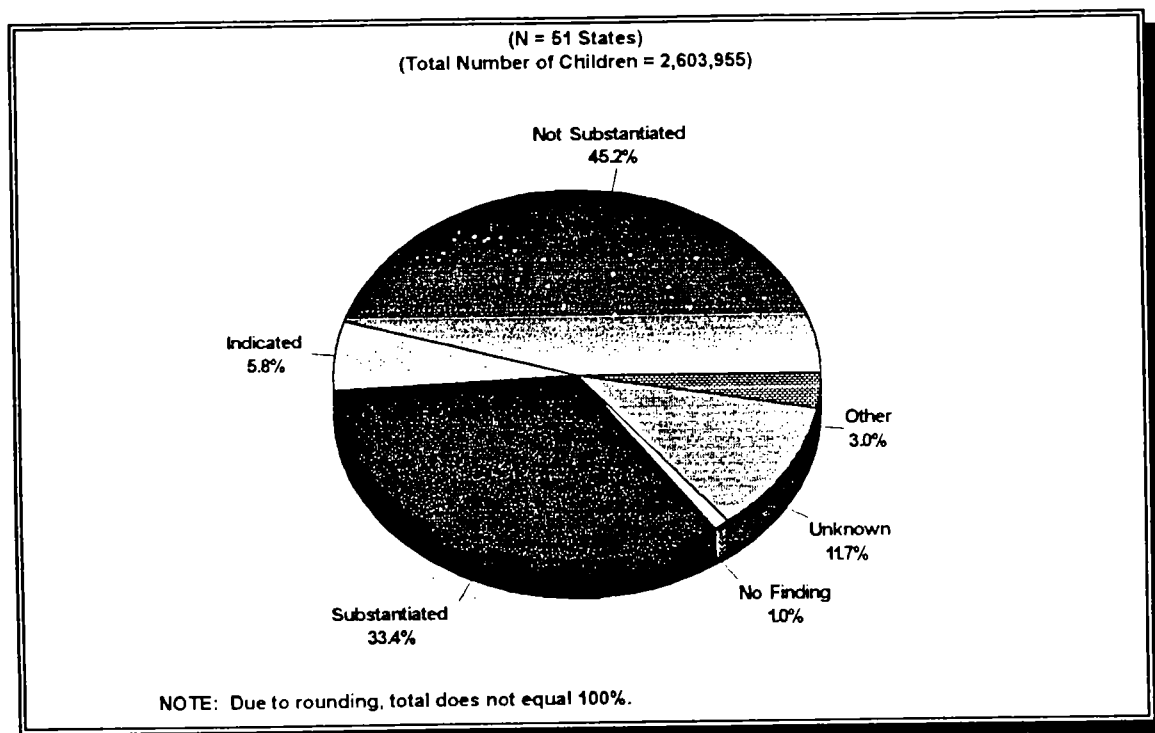
Investigations were reported as either closed without a finding or of unknown disposition for about 4 percent of all dispositions. These categories include situations in which families may have moved prior to the investigation being completed.

Almost 5 percent of investigation dispositions were classified as "other." Included in this category are investigations which States could not report in one of the above dispositions.

Child Victims of Maltreatment

For 1993, 1,018,692 children were determined to be victims of maltreatment. Figure 2-4 shows that about 39 percent of the children for whom a disposition was made were determined to be either substantiated or indicated victims of maltreatment, with 45 percent of the children not substantiated or indicated. Approximately 13 percent of the children had an investigation disposition resulting in either no finding or an unknown finding.

Figure 2-4 Children by Dispositions



For 3 percent of the children, a disposition of "other" was made. For some States, this category may include children for whom an assessment revealed that there was a risk of maltreatment or a need for voluntary services.

The determination of whether or not a child has been found to be maltreated is influenced by several factors, including State laws, policies, and definitions. To examine the implications of one distinction in State policies, an analysis was conducted comparing maltreatment dispositions and rates in States that use two tiers of dispositions (substantiated or unsubstantiated) and three tiers of dispositions (substantiated, indicated, or unsubstantiated).

Figure 2-5 shows that approximately 31 percent of children in two-tier States had an investigation that resulted in a finding of maltreatment, compared to 47 percent of children in three-tier States. Within three-tier States, child victims were rather evenly divided between substantiated and indicated dispositions.

Figure 2-5 Children by Major Dispositions

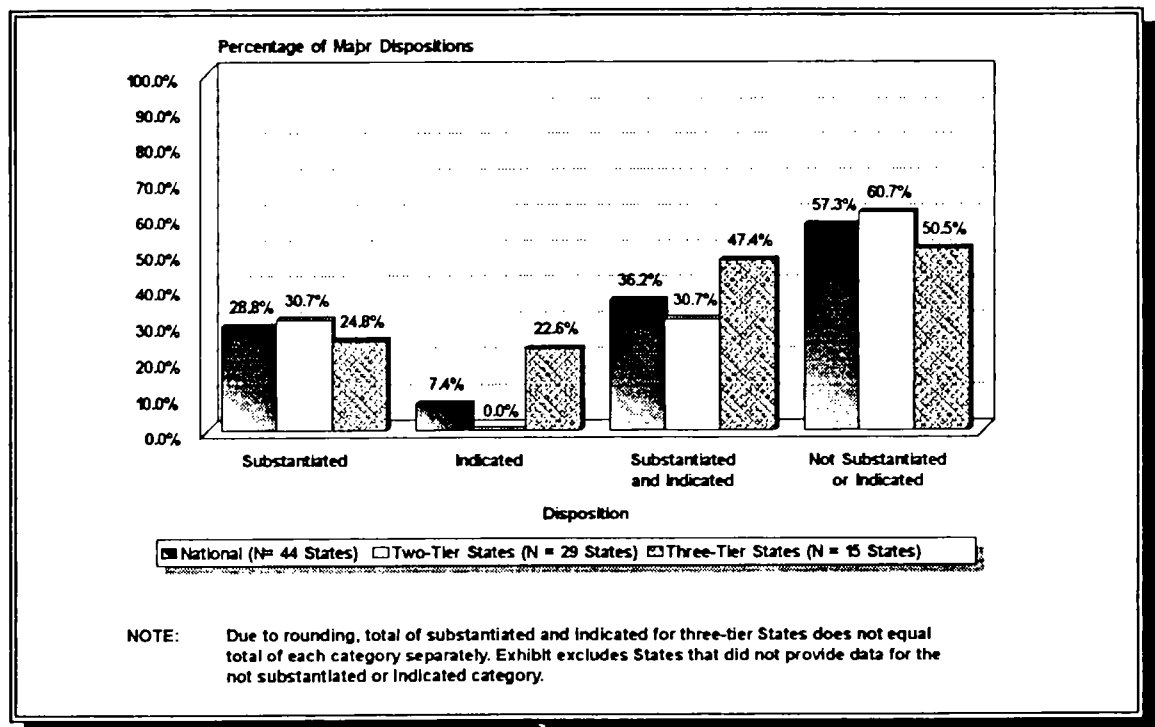
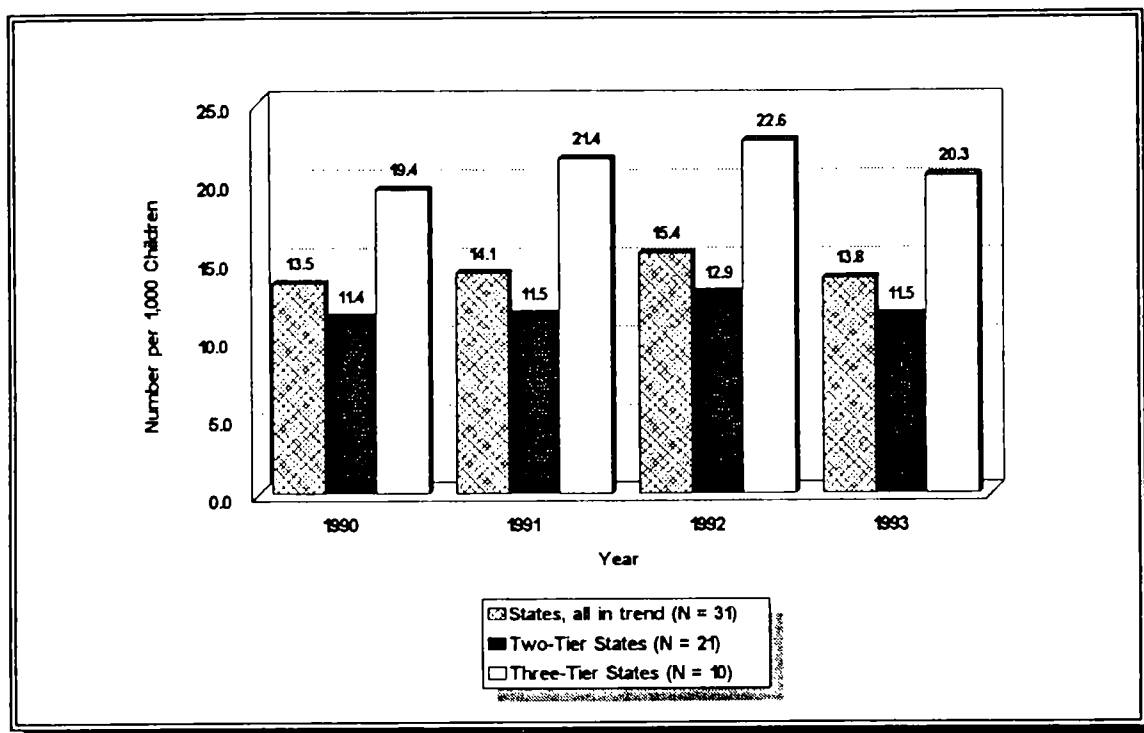


Figure 2-6 presents the combined rate of maltreatment, both substantiated and indicated, in the general population under 18 years of age in two-tier and three-tier States for the past 4 years. The rate of maltreatment in two-tier States has been just over half the rate for three-tier States over the 4 years. The general pattern of trends is similar for both two-tier and three-tier States. That is, the rate of maltreatment increased for both two-tier and three-tier States from 1990 through 1992 and then declined in roughly proportional percentages from 1992 to 1993. From the 1992 peak, there has been a drop of approximately 1.6 children per 1,000.

Figure 2-6 Rate of Maltreatment in Two-Tier and Three-Tier States

The rates of substantiated dispositions for children in two-tier States and rates of substantiated or indicated dispositions for children in three-tier States for the past 4 years are shown in figure 2-7. All rates declined slightly from 1992 to 1993. This finding may reflect a greater use of the “other” disposition, especially in two-tier States. Six States reported first-time data for “other” dispositions for children in 1993, all of which were two-tier States. Compared to 1992, more than three times as many children were reported by the States in 1993 with an “other” disposition. This may reflect a trend of States to reassess their roles with regard to families in certain cases of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment.

Types of Maltreatment

As seen in figure 2-8, nearly half of the victims of maltreatment suffered from neglect. This is more than double the percentage of victims who were physically abused (24 percent). About 14 percent of the victims were sexually abused. Medical neglect and emotional maltreatment were reported for about 7 percent of the victims. About 15 percent of victims were reported with other types of maltreatment, such as abandonment, congenital drug addiction, and threats to harm the child. These data are similar to those of the previous years of the SDC.

Figure 2-7 Rate of Dispositions in Two-Tier and Three-Tier States

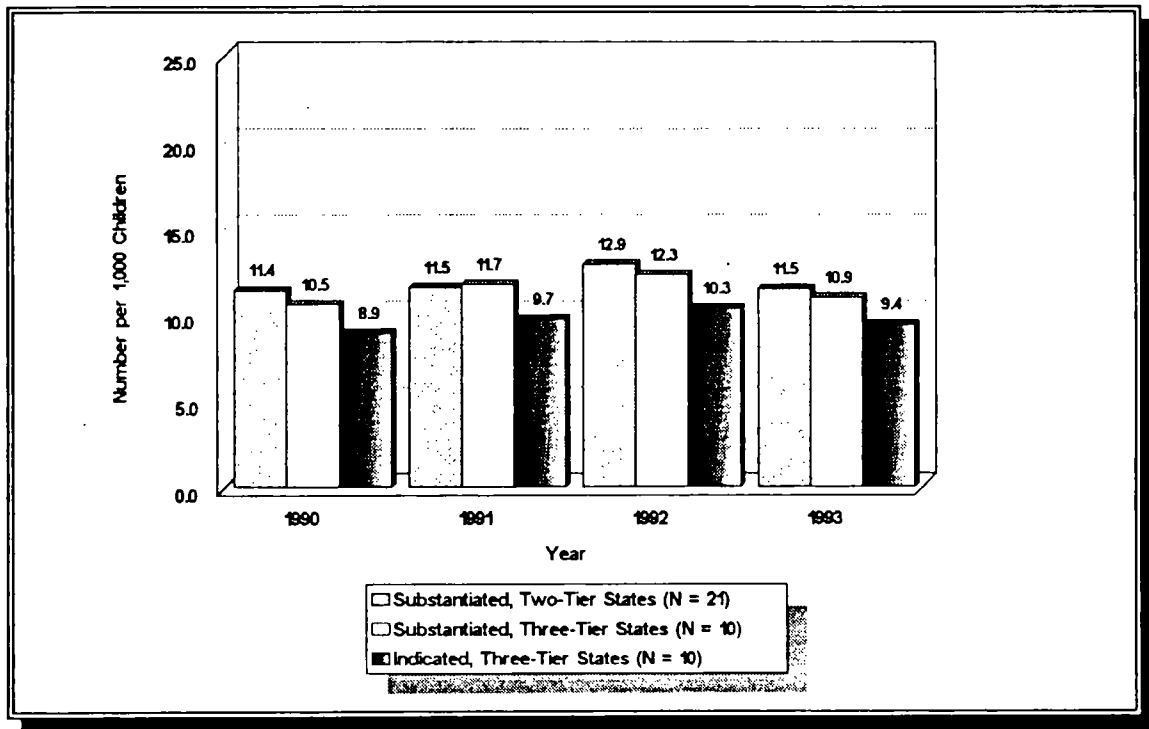


Figure 2-8 Victims by Type of Maltreatment

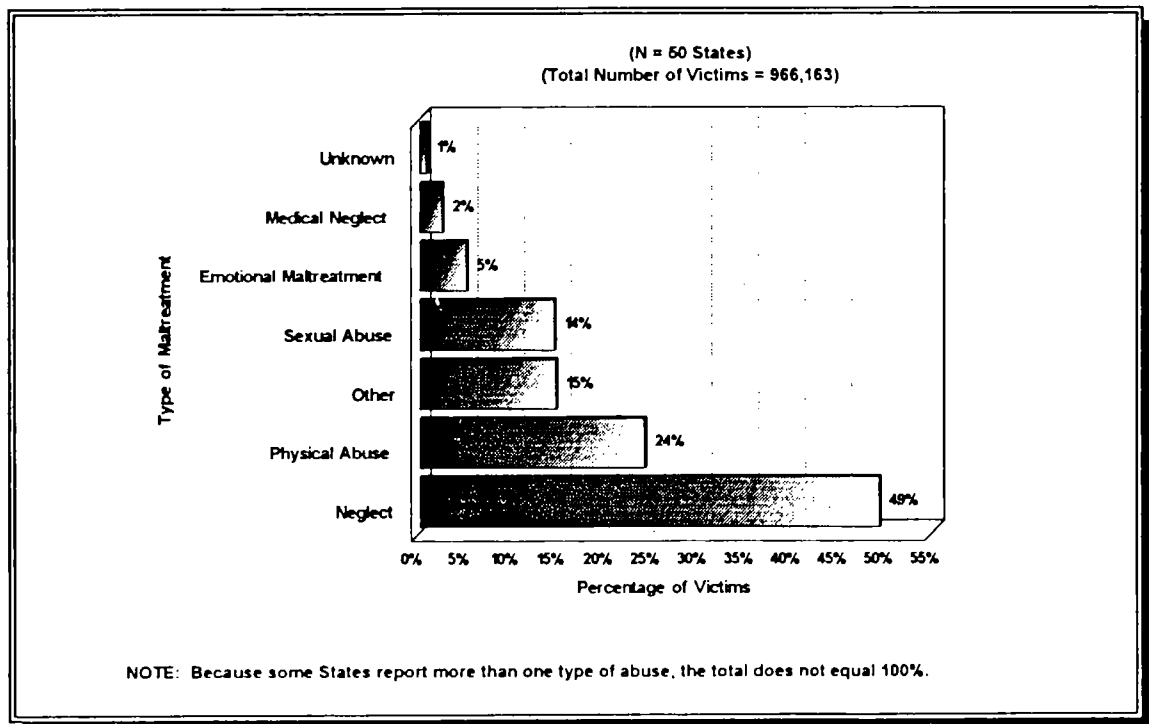
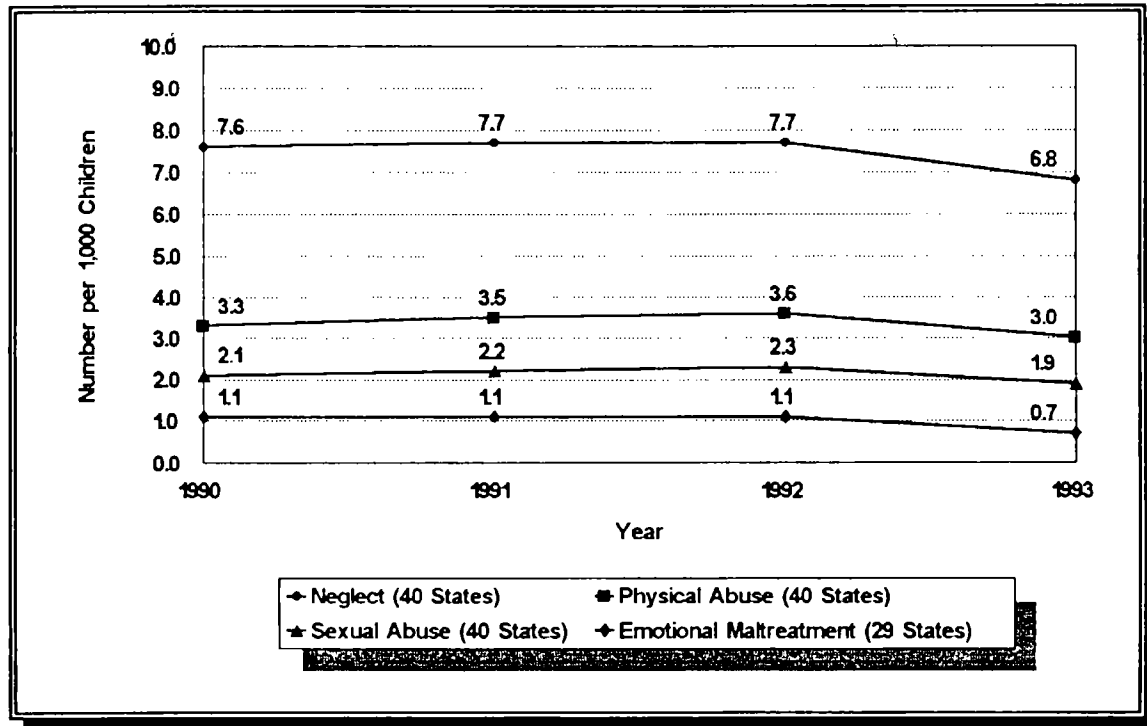


Figure 2-9 presents the 4-year trend in the rate of victims for four major types of maltreatment—neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment. The 1993 rate is lower for each type of maltreatment than for any of the preceding 3 years. The difference in rates between types of maltreatment has remained relatively consistent over the 4 years of data collection in the SDC.

Figure 2-9 Victim Rates by Type of Maltreatment



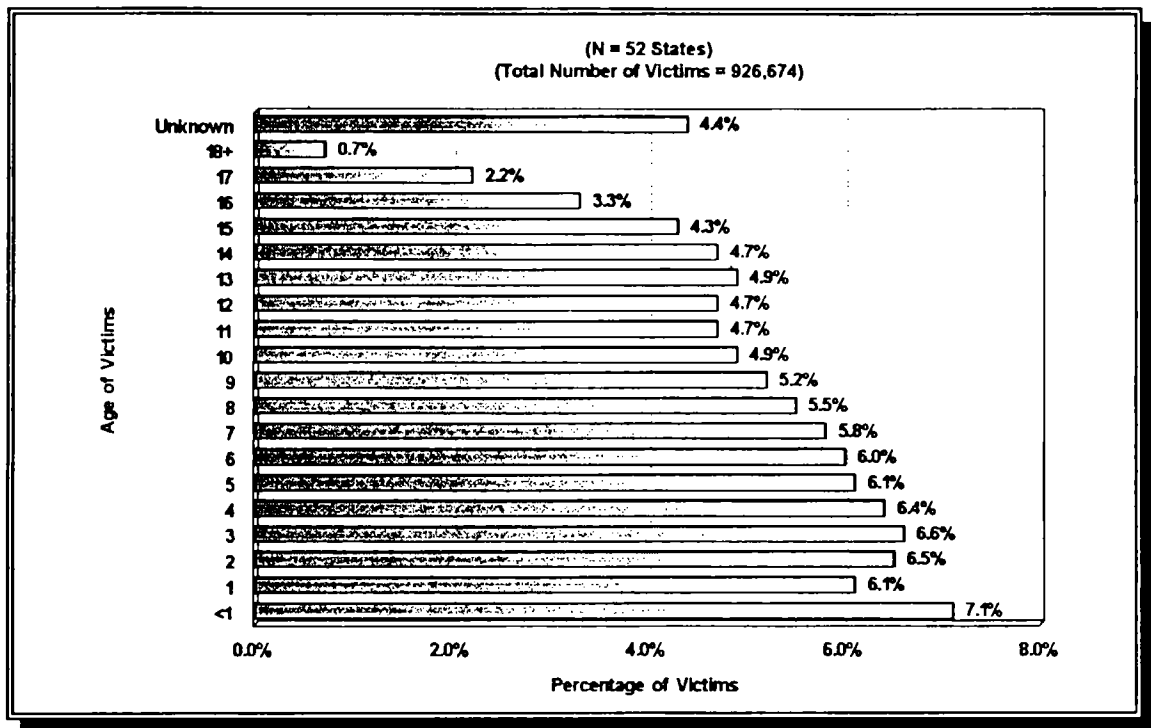
2.3 Victim Data

The SDC collects data on the characteristics of victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment. These data items include age, sex, race/ethnicity, service actions, and deaths due to maltreatment.

Age of Victims

Figure 2-10 shows that, in general, the percentage of victims decreases as age increases. About 51 percent of victims were 7 years of age or younger, with just over 26 percent 3 years of age or younger. About one in five victims was a teenager (13–18 years old). Similar age profiles have been found for all 4 years of the SDC data collection.

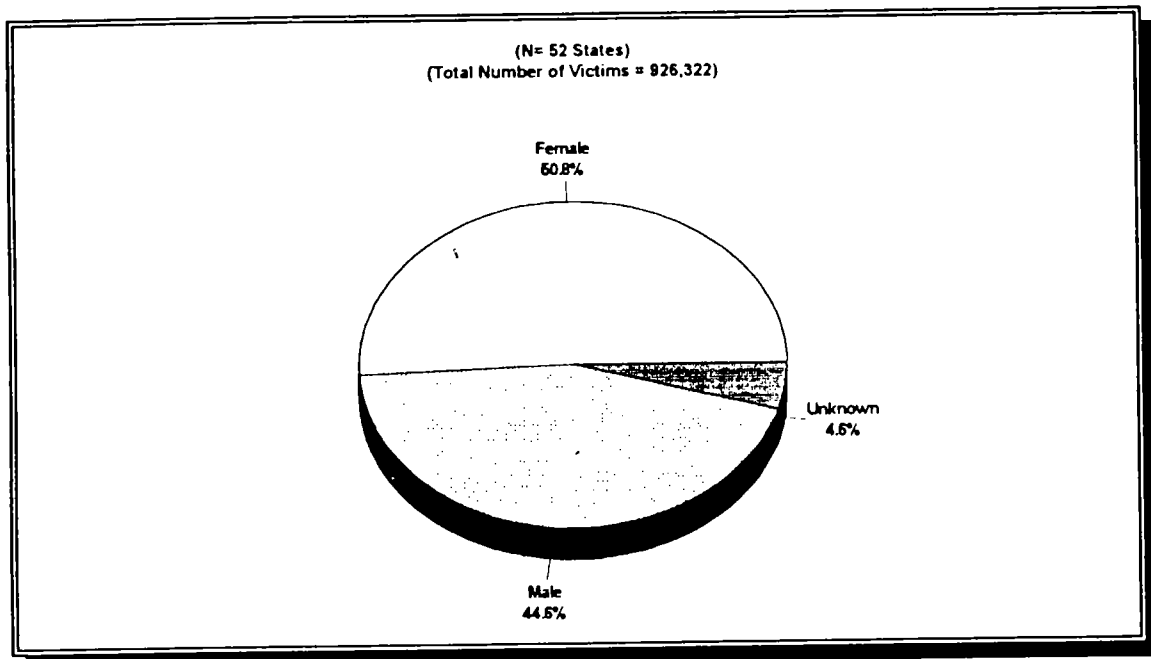
Figure 2-10 Age of Victims



Sex of Victims

As seen in figure 2-11, 51 percent of the victims were female, and 45 percent were male. The sex of 5 percent of the victims was not reported. The difference in percentage of female and male victims is similar to those in the previous 3 years of the SDC.

Because the SDC data are not case specific, it is not possible to determine if the sex and age of victims account for differences in other important maltreatment data items, such as types of maltreatment. However, such an analysis was presented in "Child Maltreatment 1992," using DCDC pilot test data.⁵ For cases involving neglect, it appears that age, not sex, is the important variable. Neglect decreases as age increases for both males and females. In cases of sexual abuse, the sex of the victim appears to be the important variable, with females twice as likely as males to be victims. For other types of maltreatment, both sex and age appear to be important factors. For example, for victims younger than 12, males are more likely than females to be physically abused, while for victims 12 and older, females are more likely than males to be physically abused.

Figure 2-11 Sex of Victims

Race/Ethnicity of Victims

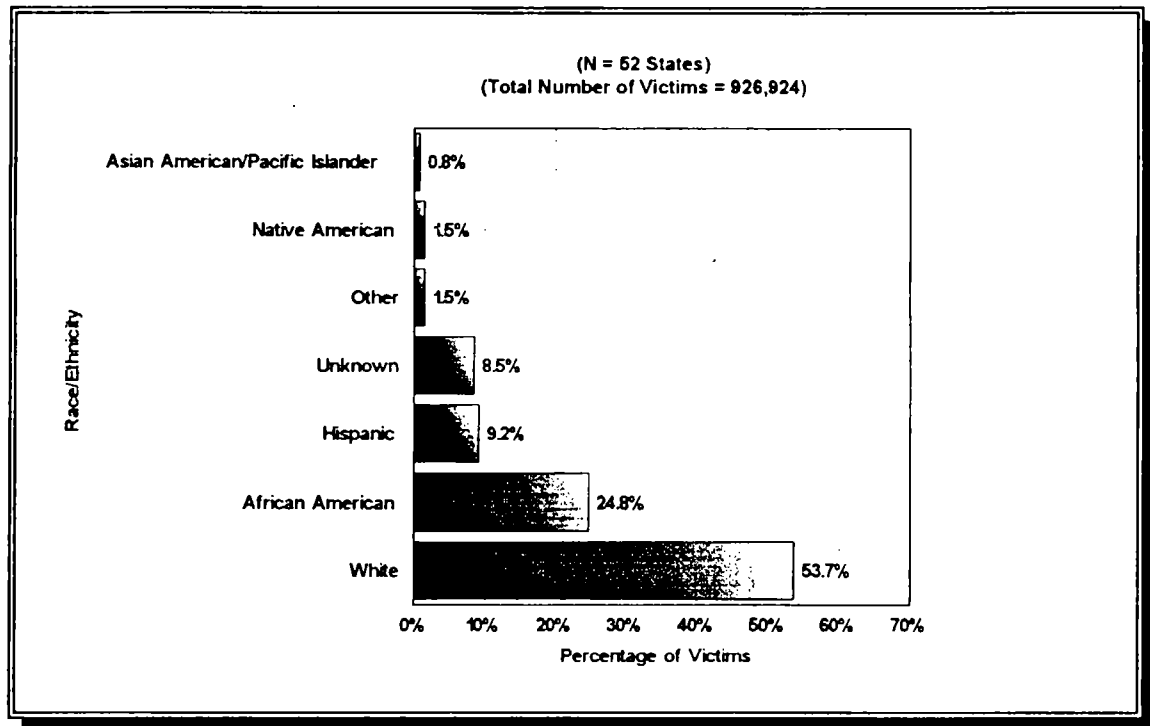
Following a pattern similar to that of previous years of collection of SDC data, figure 2-12 shows that 54 percent of the victims were White, 25 percent were African American, and about 9 percent were Hispanic. Native Americans comprised about 2 percent of victims, and about 2 percent of the victims were of other racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Victims Removed From the Home

Child protective services agencies reported that 120,843 victims were removed from their homes in 1993. This figure represents about 15 percent of all victims of maltreatment in the 36 states that reported. The number of children removed from their homes appears to be down somewhat from last year, when 131,250 children were removed from their homes. About half of the States reported increases, and half reported decreases in the number of victims removed from their homes. Most of the change appears to be attributable to a few States that had large decreases.

Court Actions

Twenty-eight States reported that approximately 85,000 court actions were initiated in 1993. About 17 percent of victims whose maltreatment had been substantiated or indicated were referred for court action, a percentage equal to that of 1992.

Figure 2-12 Race/Ethnicity of Victims

For many States, tracking and determining a count of various court actions for victims remains difficult. Often, information systems that cover judicial actions are not integrated with the information system of the child protective services agency.

Victims and Families Receiving Additional Services

As reported by 23 jurisdictions, 272,398 families and 455,791 child victims received additional services in 1993. The number of victims receiving additional services is up from 364,568 in 1992, with most of this increase attributable to first-time reporting of data about additional services by the largest State, California. About 74 percent of all child victims of maltreatment in the reporting States received additional services.

The collection of data about the number of children and families who receive additional services continues to be difficult for most States. More than half of the States did not provide these data, and only 13 States were able to provide data for both victims and families. Often, data about reports of maltreatment and data about the provision of services are contained in different and unlinked information systems. However, it is likely that data collection about families and victims who receive services will improve as States implement new child welfare information systems.

Child Fatalities

In general, data reported by the States reflect the deaths of children or their siblings who were known to the child protective service agency as active or past clients of the agency at the time of the death. Forty-six States reported that 1,028 child victims died due to maltreatment in 1993, compared to 1,046 child deaths reported by 43 States in 1992. The rate of child fatalities in the reporting States in 1993 was 1.62 per 100,000 in the general population under 18 years of age.

The aggregate data collected by the SDC do not permit a breakdown of the ages of children who died as a result of maltreatment. However, a study conducted in Illinois of child death victims, from 1989 through 1993, found that half were younger than 1 year old. Over 70 percent were children younger than 2.⁶

Some States have undertaken new initiatives to improve their ability to determine child maltreatment deaths. For example, Idaho recently completed a study of child fatalities that led to the targeting of services to families with young children considered to be at high risk.⁷ West Virginia recently passed legislation that requires members of county-based teams to review cases of accidental child death and death of children in State custody. Further legislation has been recommended that will establish a State-level child fatality review team.⁸

Although many States have established child death review committees, collecting and reporting comprehensive, accurate data about child fatalities remains difficult. Coordination among various systems, including medical, judicial, and social service systems, will be required to achieve improved data collection and reporting about child fatalities.

2.4 Perpetrator Data

Based on data from 40 reporting States, nearly 9 out of every 10 perpetrators of child maltreatment investigated by a child protective services agency are either a parent or other relative of the victim. Parents account for 77 percent of perpetrators, and other relatives account for 12 percent of perpetrators. People who are in a noncaretaking relationship to child victims comprise only 5 percent of perpetrators. These percentages have remained relatively stable over the 4 years of SDC data collection.

Currently, most State information systems count perpetrator relationships by the occurrence of maltreatment. However, 11 States are able to provide additional data on the unduplicated number of perpetrators. For these States, the unduplicated number of perpetrators was 55 percent of the duplicated number of perpetrators, suggesting that there may be a significant number of perpetrators who are involved in multiple acts of child maltreatment.

2.5 Armed Services Data

The Armed Services provided data on the same SDC Data Collection Form as did the States. Reports for the major branches of the Armed Services, the Air Force, the Army, the Marines and the Navy, were combined in the data tables. The data are identified as applying to reports of maltreatment that occurred within the 50 States (CONUS) or overseas (OCONUS). Personnel in the Family Advocacy Program are required by instruction to report all cases of child maltreatment to the State child abuse registry in the States where they reside. Therefore, the data from the Armed Services have not been added to the national totals.

There were 19,237 child-based reports of abuse and neglect during 1993 that occurred within the United States (CONUS) or overseas (OCONUS). More than 50 percent of the sources of reports were either social services personnel (18 percent), medical personnel (17 percent), or legal/justice personnel (17 percent). No data were provided about reports from educational personnel, friends, or other relatives.

Approximately 54 percent of the alleged victims were found to have been maltreated. The most frequent type of maltreatment was physical abuse (36 percent), followed by neglect (32 percent). About 17 percent of the child victims were determined to have been sexually abused. Nearly all perpetrators of maltreatment were parents or other relatives (97 percent).

More than 55 percent of the victims were 7 years of age or younger, with 28 percent being 3 years of age or younger. Just over half of the victims were female. Almost two-thirds of the victims were White, and more than one-fourth were African American. There were 38 deaths due to abuse or neglect reported for 1993.