DATA BRIEF
Indiana Youth Institute | April 2019

www.iyi.org

Child Maltreatment in Indiana

Indiana ranks 48th for child abuse and neglect which puts children's safety at risk and impacts future well-being across a lifetime.

Reporting

The Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline serves as the central reporting center for child maltreatment allegations.

- The total number of calls made to the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline in 2018 was 203,602, an increase of 30.6% since 2012.
- In 2018, the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline handled 242,994 reports; this has increased by 36.9% since 2012. [1]
- Every adult in the state of Indiana is a mandatory reporter of child abuse and neglect. Any adult who has reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected is required to call the Department of Child Services: 1-800-800-5556.[2]

Prevalence

The three types of maltreatment are physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Allegations of maltreatment are considered "substantiated" if evidence from an investigation reveals them to be true.

- In 2016, Indiana ranked 48th for child maltreatment (18 per 1,000 children) with the second highest child maltreatment rate among our neighboring states: Ohio (9 per 1,000), Illinois (10 per 1,000), Michigan (17 per 1,000), and Kentucky (20 per 1,000).[3]
- In 2017, there were 33,979 substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect in Indiana; this has increased by 80.6% since 2007.
- In 2017, there were 20.8 substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect per every 1,000 Hoosier children. This has increased since 2007, when the rate was 11.9 per every 1,000 children.
- The most common form of maltreatment is neglect (85.3% of cases), followed by sexual abuse (8.7%) and physical abuse (6.0%).[4]

The child abuse and neglect rate in Indiana's counties range from 3.0 to 66.5

Child Abuse and Neglect Rate per 1,000 Children Under Age 18, Indiana: 2017

Child Abuse and Neglect Rate

3.0 ▬▬▬▬▬ 66.5

Source: Indiana Department of Child Services

Child Abuse and Neglect Rate per 1,000 Children Under Age 18: 2017

10 Highest Counties		10 Lowest Counties	
Scott	66.5	Hamilton	3.0
Crawford	62.9	Hendricks	7.2
Spencer	59.2	LaGrange	10.1
Orange	52.2	Johnson	10.4
Fountain	51.8	Boone	10.9
Pike	49.3	Kosciusko	12.3
Perry	48.8	Porter	12.3
Vermillion	48.7	Allen	12.5
Pulaski	48.5	Warrick	12.7
Blackford	47.3	Elkhart	12.8

Source: Indiana Department of Child Services

Children in Need of Services (CHINS)

In Indiana, children are declared by the courts to be CHINS if they are seriously impaired or endangered by maltreatment. Each child designated as a CHINS is entitled to an advocate, including legal professionals called guardians ad litem (GAL) or trained volunteers called court appointed special advocates (CASA).[5]

- In 2017, 29,630 Hoosier children were designated as CHINS; this has grown by 125% since 2007.
- The rate of CHINS per 1,000 children in Indiana's counties ranges from 55.6 CHINS per 1,000 children to 2.5 CHINS per 1,000 children.[6]
- In 2017, Indiana had certified GAL/CASA volunteer programs in 81 of 92 counties. In 2017, 4,273 volunteers spoke for abused and neglected Hoosier children in 30,480 CHINS cases.[7]

Children in Need of Services (CHINS) per 1,000 Children Under Age 18: 2017			
10 Highest Counties		10 Lowest Counties	
Scott	55.6	Hamilton	2.5
Perry	51.5	Hendricks	4.5
Spencer	43.7	Washington	5.8
Decatur	39.9	Kosciusko	6.0
Tipton	39.5	Johnson	6.8
Jennings	39.1	Boone	7.1
Owen	39.0	Elkhart	7.6
Vermillion	38.0	LaGrange	7.7
Vanderburgh	37.0	Porter	8.8
Pike	37.0	Warrick	9.3

Source: Indiana Department of Child Services

Impact

Child maltreatment shapes health and well-being across a lifetime. Children are vulnerable to physical injury, negative emotional outcomes, trauma, and death in the most extreme cases.

- **Physical Injury**. Maltreatment can cause children to experience immediate wounds such as cuts, bruises, or broken bones. Injuries can also result in brain damage, blindness, and can lead to disability or death. The death of a child is a tragedy and in 2016, 59 Hoosier children died from child abuse and neglect.[8]
- **Negative Emotional Outcomes**. Children who are abused and/or neglected can experience emotional and psychological problems, such as weakened social-emotional skills or anxiety.[9] Research suggest that childhood adversities, such as maltreatment, double the risk of mental disorders and extends into adulthood.[10]

Prevention

Child maltreatment prevention requires collaboration across key sectors in health, government, education, social services, and justice. Early childhood programs and family participation can prevent child abuse and neglect.

- **Child maltreatment is preventable**. The CDC recommends strengthening economic supports to families to prevent maltreatment. This includes changing social norms to support parents, providing quality care and education early in life, and enhancing parenting skills to promote healthy child development.[11]
- **Early childhood programs**. Programs such as Early Head Start provides parent education. Family participation is associated with a greater likelihood of parenting emotional responsiveness, support, and stable environments. Research has shown positive short-term outcomes which lead to reductions in child maltreatment.[12]

SOURCES

[1] Indiana Department of Child Services (n.d.). DCS Hotline Statistics. Retrieved from https://www.in.gov/dcs/3165.htm

[2] Indiana Department of Child Services (n.d.). Lend a Hand: When, What and How to Report Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved from https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/FactsInfoBrochure.pdf

[3] KIDS COUNT Data Center (2016). Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment in Indiana. Retrieved from https://datacenter.kidscount.org/

[4] Indiana Department of Child Services (2017). Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Cases by Type. Data Request.

[5] Indiana State Court Administration, Office of Guardian Ad Litem / Court Appointed Special Advocate. (n.d.). About GAL/CASA. Retrieved from http://www.in.gov/judiciary/galcasa/2387.htm

[6] Indiana Department of Child Services (2018). Data Request.

[7] Indiana Division of State Court Administration (2018). Data Request.

[8] Indiana Department of Child Services (2018). 2016 Fatality Report. Retrieved from https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/2016_Fatality_Report.pdf

[9] Centers for Disease Control (2017). Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-factsheet.pdf

[10] Dunn, Erin. Childhood Adversity as a Plasticity Factor That Modifies the Association Between Subsequent Life Experience and Psychopathology. Retrieved from https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2716988?resultClick=1

[11] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf

[12] Child Trends (2018). How Early Head Start Prevents Child Maltreatment. Retrieved from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/EarlyHeadStartBrief_ChildTrends_October2018.pdf