

**PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON CHILD DEATHS
DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT
IN VIRGINIA
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2012**

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a preliminary report on child deaths that were reported to local departments of social services (LDSS) during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012. This report illustrates changes or trends from previous years. This report also includes a synopsis of data for all child abuse and/or neglect fatalities for SFY 2012, including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators and households impacted by these fatalities. This data is used to evaluate, review, and modify Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) policy, guidance, practice and procedures where warranted.

The purpose of this report is to provide demographic information on all child fatalities that were investigated, with an emphasis on those deaths that occurred as a result of substantiated abuse and/or neglect.

In SFY 2010, there were a significant number of child fatalities in Virginia which prompted the State Board of Social Services to direct VDSS to implement child fatality review teams in each of the five regions of the state. The Eastern Regional Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) has existed for a number of years. VDSS has worked collaboratively with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in establishing Child Fatality Review Teams in all five regions. The teams have completed their review of all child fatality investigations for SFY 2011 and submitted their findings and recommendations to VDSS. VDSS will review the findings, identify trends, and make recommendations for the prevention of future child deaths in a special report to be published by June 2013. In addition, all child deaths investigated by local departments of social services in SFY 2012 will be reviewed by the Regional CFRT.

Preliminary Findings

- Local departments of social services investigated **107** reports (involving 110 children) of child deaths suspected to be caused by child maltreatment for SFY 2012. This is an increase of 21 reports from SFY 2011.
- There were **37** children who died as a direct result of child abuse or neglect. This is 8 more founded child abuse fatalities than reported for SFY 2011. There were 70 reports that were unfounded. Two reports are still pending; one is on appeal.
- The children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect ranged in age from birth through 17 years. Of the 37 children who died from maltreatment, 19 (51.4%) were less than one year of age. National data finds younger children are the most vulnerable population. However, this year in Virginia, seven (18.9%) children were older than eight years old. This is an increase from previous years.

- Nineteen (51.4) children who died as a result of abuse or neglect were White; twelve (32.4%) were African-American; one (2.7%) was Asian; five (13.5%) children were multi-racial. African-American children continue to be over represented when compared to the percentage of African Americans in Virginia's general population (20.6%).
- Nineteen (51.4%) females and eighteen (48.6%) male children were abused or neglected and died. National data finds males to have a higher rate of child maltreatment fatalities than females. This is the first time Virginia has seen a higher rate of female fatalities.
- Physical abuse caused the death for 19 (51.4%) children and included six incidents of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT). Physical neglect caused the death of 14 (37.8%) children and included three children who died as a result of unsafe sleep practices. Medical neglect was cited in five child deaths. Some children died as a result of more than one type of abuse or neglect.
- Forty-seven caretakers were responsible for the death of 37 children in SFY2012. Three cases involved multiple child deaths caused by one caretaker. Out of the 47 caretakers, 29 (61.7%) were biological parents. This is comparable to the percentage in SFY 2011 which found approximately 63% of caretakers to be parents of the child victim.
- Three (6.4%) of the 47 caretakers were out of family child care providers. All three were babysitters in non-regulated settings. This is a slight decrease from SFY 2011 where four (10.0%) of 40 caretakers were in out of family settings.
- Of the 47 caretakers responsible for the 37 child deaths, 18 were women and 18 were men. National data usually reports more female than male perpetrators.
- Twenty-nine (61.7%) of the 47 perpetrators were less than 30 years old. This statistic is similar to national data and previous state data that confirm most perpetrators in child fatalities tend to be young adults in their mid-twenties. Eighteen (38.3%) of the 47 caretakers were greater than 30 years old. This is an increase of 6.7% from SFY2011.
- Eight (33.3%) of the 24 caretakers identified in families who had been known to child welfare were in foster care as a child. This information has not been highlighted in past reports, but could be indicative of the cyclic nature of child abuse and neglect.
- Thirteen (39.4%) of the 33 families children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect or their caretakers were known to the child welfare system in some capacity. This was the same number as SFY2011.

I. CHILD DEATHS

Local departments of social services investigated 107 reports of child deaths suspected to be caused by child maltreatment for SFY 2012. There were 37 children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect; 70 reports were unfounded; two reports are still pending and one is on administrative appeal.

The Eastern region continues to investigate the most reports (54) followed by Northern region (18), Piedmont region (14), Western (12) and Central region (9). Regional populations vary, with the Northern Region having the most children in the state. According to the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics, the Northern Region has 777,786 children, which is 42% of the total population of persons in Virginia less than 18 years of age (1,853,546).

**Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality
SFY 2012**

Local Department	Founded	Unfounded	Pending or Appealed	Total
Accomack	2*			2
Alexandria		1		1
Alleghany	1			1
Brunswick		1		1
Chesapeake		1		1
Chesterfield	1	2		3
Danville	1			1
Fairfax Co.	3	1		4
Floyd	1			1
Frederick		1		1
Halifax		1		1
Hampton	1	3		4
Henrico	1			1
Highland	1			1
Hopewell		1		1
Isle of Wight	1			1
King George	1			1
Lee	1			1
Loudon		2		2
Louisa		1		1
Mecklenburg		1		1
Montgomery	3*			3
Newport News	3*	10		13
Norfolk	3	6	1	10
Northumberland		1		1
Orange		1		1
Pittsylvania		1		1
Portsmouth		4		4
Prince William	1	4		5
Radford		1		1
Richmond City	2	1		3
Roanoke City		8		8
Rockingham			1	1
Smyth	1			1
Stafford		1		1
Suffolk	1	6		7
Surry	1			1
Sussex		1		1
Tazewell		1		1
Virginia Beach	4	5		9
Washington	2		1	3
Wise		1		1

Wythe	1			1
York-Poquoson		2		2
Total	37	70	3	110

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

*One caretaker was responsible for more than one child's death.

The number of children who were abused or neglected and died in SFY 2012 did increase from the previous year however, it is still lower than two years ago (SFY2010) This increase in the number of children who were abused and/or neglected and died is also reflected in the death rate for Virginia's total population. (See Table 3)

**Table 2: Dispositions of Child Death Investigations
2010- 2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Founded	44	56.4	30	34.9	37	33.6
Unfounded	32	41.0	52	60.4	70	63.6
Pending/Appealed	2	2.6	4	4.7	2	1.8
Total	78	100.0	86	100.0	110	99.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments

The number of unfounded reports did increase, however the percentage of unfounded rates remains consistent with previous years.

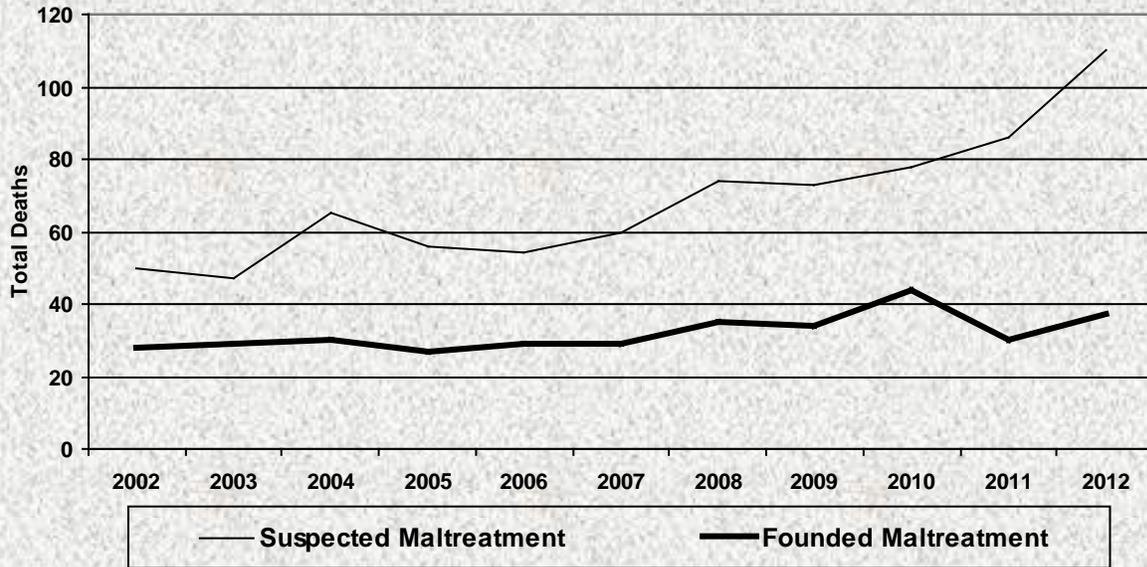
**Table 3: Death Rate of Children Due to Abuse or Neglect
2002 – 2012**

	Number of Death Reports Investigated	Number of Deaths Due to Abuse/Neglect	Death Rate (per 100,000 children) ¹
2002	50	28	1.41
2003	47	29	1.45
2004	65	30	1.49
2005	56	27	1.33
2006	54	29	1.42
2007	60	29	1.42
2008	74	35	1.71
2009	72	34	1.66
2010	78	44	2.38
2011	86	30	1.62
2012	107	37	1.99

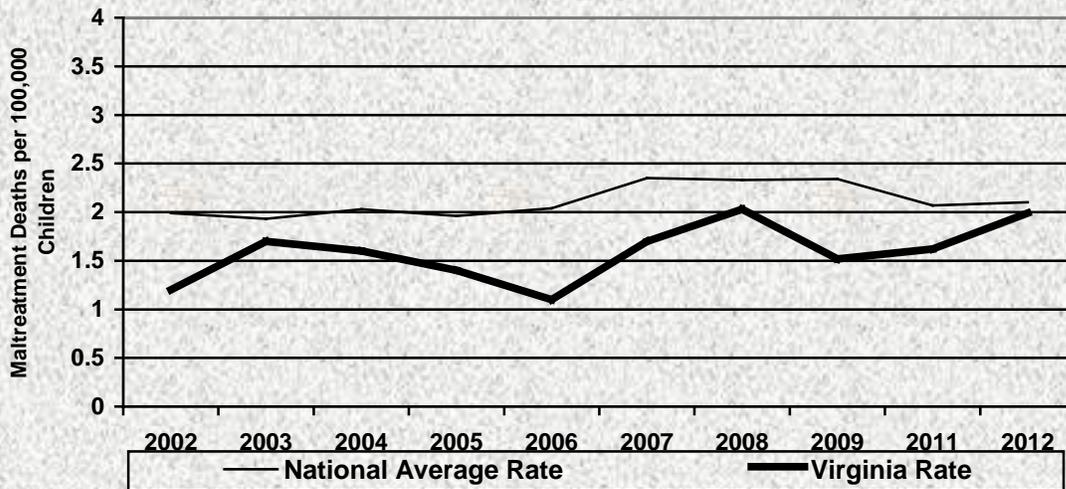
¹Death rate is calculated as number of deaths due to abuse/neglect divided by the state child population (1,853,546)

Sources: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments, and Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

**Chart 1: Child Deaths in Virginia,
by Suspected and Founded Maltreatment
2002-2012**



**Chart 2: Rates of Child Deaths Due to Abuse and Neglect
2002-2012**



Source: Administration for Children and Families Statistics and Research
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10/index.htm>

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) 2011 data (based on FFY2011) documents that Virginia's rate of founded child maltreatment deaths has been slightly lower than the national average over the past 10 years. In SYF2012, the Virginia rate was 1.99 compared to a national rate of 2.10 per 100,000 children.

**Table 4: Child Deaths Due to Abuse and/or Neglect and Rates by Region
2010-2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Deaths	Per 100,000	Deaths	Per 100,000	Deaths	Per 100,000
Eastern	16	3.64	9	2.05	16	3.77
Central	6	1.99	4	1.33	4	1.33
Piedmont	9	3.77	7	2.93	3	1.25
Northern	10	1.33	4	.53	5	.64
Western	3	2.64	6	5.28	9	7.96

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments and Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

In SFY 2012, there was an *increase* statewide in child deaths due to abuse or neglect in all regions except Piedmont, which had 4 fewer child deaths than in SFY2011. The Piedmont region has seen a steady decline in the rate of child deaths in the past few years. The Western region had a total of nine child deaths in SFY2012, an increase of three from SFY2011. While the Eastern region had the most fatalities in the state, the ratio of deaths per 100,000 children is almost half that of the Western region.

The review of all child fatalities at the regional level is critical to identify and assess the differences, patterns and trend by region. The special report, to be published in June 2013, will begin to examine child fatalities at the regional level.

**Table 5: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region
SFY 2012**

	Accepted Investigation	Founded	Unfounded	Pending	Appealed
Eastern	56	16	39	0	1
Central	9	4	5	0	0
Piedmont	14	3	11	0	0
Northern	18	5	12	1	0
Western	13	9	3	1	0
Totals	110	37	70	2	1

**Table 6: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age
2010 – 2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Birth to 12 months	26	59.1	18	60.0	19	51.4
13 months to 3 years	13	29.5	8	26.7	10	27.0
4 to 7 years	4	9.1	1	3.3	1	2.7
8 to 12 years	0	0.0	2	6.7	5	13.5
13 years and over	1	2.3	1	3.3	2	5.4
Total	44	100.0	30	100.0	37	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

Children who died from child maltreatment in SFY 2012 ranged in age from birth through 17 years. Of the 37 children who died from child maltreatment, 19 (51.4%) were less than one year of age. This is consistent with national data that finds young children to be the most vulnerable. The oldest victim was a 17 year old who was not being properly supervised and committed suicide. SFY 2012 has seen a dramatic increase in the number of older children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect. The regional CFRT will be asked for possible explanations for this increase.

**Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race
2010 – 2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	22	50.0	10	33.3	12	32.4
White	19	43.2	17	56.7	19	51.4
Multi-racial	2	4.5	1	3.3	5	13.5
Asian	1	2.3	2	6.7	1	2.7
Total	44	100.0	30	100.0	37	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

Nineteen (51.4%) children who were abused or neglected and died were White; Twelve (32.4%) were African-American; one (2.7%) was Asian; and five (13.5%) children were multi-racial. This is consistent with previous years where there has been an over-representation of African-American children both nationally and in Virginia compared to the overall population.

**Table 8: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender
2010 – 2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	16	36.4	12	40.0	19	51.4
Male	28	63.6	18	60.0	18	48.6
Total	44	100.0	30	100.0	37	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

In SFY 2012, the number of male and female children was almost equal. This is contrary to National data which indicates males typically have a higher rate of child maltreatment fatalities than females. (NCANDS) This is the first time Virginia has seen a higher rate of female fatalities.

II. CARETAKERS

Local departments of social services found 47 caretakers to be responsible for the deaths of 37 children due to child abuse/neglect in SFY 2012. Some victims were abused by more than one caretaker and there were three caretakers who were responsible for the death of more than one child.

**Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
2010 – 2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mother	22	34.9	16	40.0	15	31.9
Father	17	27.0	8	20.0	14	29.8
Stepparent	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	2.1
Grandparent	1	1.6	5	12.5	2	4.3
Aunt	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Uncle	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.3
Paramour	8	12.7	5	12.5	9	19.1
Babysitter	0	0.0	3	7.5	3	6.4
Group Home Staff	0	0.0	1	2.5	0	0.0
Daycare Provider	8	12.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	6	9.5	1	2.5	1*	2.1
Unknown	-	-	1	2.5	0	0.0
Total Caretakers	63	100.0	40	100.0	47	100.0

* other was paramour to a grandparent; one caretaker was the uncle of one victim and the sibling of the 2nd victim (counted as the uncle); two fathers responsible for deaths of five children.

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

Most caretakers were related to the victim or resided with the victim. Twenty- nine (61.7%) of the caretakers were biological parents. This is comparable to the percentage in the past two years which also saw approximately 60% of caretakers to be biological parents of the child victim. SFY 2012 had an increase in the number of parents' paramours as perpetrators compared to the past two years. The regional CFRT will be asked to examine this increase of parents' paramours as caretakers responsible for the child's death.

Only three caretakers were considered out of the family caretakers, not residing in the home. All three (6.4%) were non-regulated babysitters. This number is the same for SFY 2011.

**Table 10: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Race
2010-2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Black	31	49.2	11	27.5	16	34.1
White	26	41.3	24	60.0	27	57.4
Asian	1	1.6	1	2.5	2	4.3
Unknown	5	7.9	3	7.5	0	0.0
Multi-racial	-	-	1	2.5	1	2.1
Other	-	-	-	-	1	2.1
Total Caretakers	63	100.0	40	100.0	47	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

In SFY 2012, the majority of caretakers (57.4%) were White. The number of African- American caretakers is slightly higher than SFY2011 and remains higher than Virginia's general population (20.6%).

**Table 11: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Gender
2010 – 2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	33	52.4	23	57.5	20	42.6
Male	26	41.3	16	40.0	27	57.4
Unknown	4	6.3	1	2.5	0	0.0
Total Caretakers	63	100.0	40	100.0	47	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

In SFY 2012, of the 47 caretakers found to be responsible for child deaths there were 20 (42.6%) females and 27 (57.4%) males. These numbers are not aligned with the national data (NCANDS) which reports more females than males as caretakers responsible for child maltreatment.

**Table 12: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Age
2010-2012**

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 20 years	7	11.1	4	10.0	1	2.1
20 to 29 years	34	54.0	18	45.0	28	59.7
30 to 39 years	8	12.7	8	20.0	15	31.9
40 to 49 years	5	7.9	4	10.0	1	2.1
50 or older	5	7.9	4	10.0	2	4.3
Unknown	4	6.3	2	5.0	0	0.0
Total	63	100.00	40	100.0	47	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

Twenty nine (61.7%) of the 47 perpetrators were less than 30 years old. These data are similar to national data and previous state data that confirm most caretakers to be young adults in their mid-twenties. The number of caretakers over 30 years old (38.3%) increased by 6.7% from SFY2011. Regional CFRT will be asked to examine this shift in ages of caretakers.

III. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In SFY 2012, 37 children died as a result of at least one type of abuse or neglect. Some children were neglected or abused in more than one way and by more than one caretaker. Of the children who died, 14 (37.8%) were neglected and 19 (51.4%) were physically abused. Four children were both physically abused and neglected. National data taken from NCANDS for FFY2011 suggests that almost three quarters of child fatalities are associated either exclusively with neglect or in combination with another type of maltreatment. Virginia data is not aligned with the national data.

The type of abuse or neglect is not necessarily the *cause of death* for the child. For example, one child was being inadequately supervised and shot himself. His cause of death was ruled a suicide.

**Table 13: Type of Neglect in Child Deaths
2010-2012**

	2010	2011	2012
Abandonment	0	0	1
Inadequate Supervision	14	15	16
Inadequate Shelter	0	0	1
Malnutrition	1	0	0
Medical Neglect	9	6	5
Other/Unspecified sub-type	9	2	0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

Fourteen (37.8%) children suffered from some type of physical neglect. The most prevalent type of neglect is lack of supervision. This is a broad term and included lack of supervision that resulted in five children drowning, one child shooting himself and three found to be in unsafe sleep environments. Medical neglect contributed to the death of five children.

**Table 14: Type of Abuse in Child Deaths
2010-2012**

	2010	2011	2012
Asphyxiation	1	1	1
Bone Fracture	0	0	6
Bruises	2	4	8
Gunshot	1	1	2
Poisoning	0	2	2
Abusive Head Trauma ¹	16	6	6
Stabbing	1	0	3
Internal Injuries	-	4	3
Head Injury	-	4	2
Battered Child Syndrome	-	-	3
Sexual Abuse	-	-	1
Bizarre Discipline	-	-	1
Other or Unspecified Type	2	2	3

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

¹Abusive Head Trauma, also known as Traumatic Inflicted Brain Injury or Shaken Baby Syndrome

In SFY 2012, the main cause of death for nineteen (51.4%) children was physical abuse. Some children died from more than one type of abuse. There was no change from SFY 2011 in deaths attributed to Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), previously referred to as Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS). Three physical abuse deaths were diagnosed as *Battered Child Syndrome*. One caretaker

was responsible for the two gunshot victims and one caretaker was responsible for the three stabbing victims.

IV. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

When initiating a response to a child fatality report, CPS will initiate an assessment of immediate harm or threats of harm for any siblings or other children in the home. Based on this safety assessment, a safety plan may be initiated with the family for a course of action to mitigate danger/threats of harm and to protect a child from abuse/neglect.

Table 15: Initial Safety Outcomes for Other Children in Home SFY 2011-2012

	2011	2012
	# Families (not children)	# Families (not children)
Emergency Removal/Foster Care	4	3
Relative Placement w/ Safety Plan	11	12
Remain in the Home w/ Safety Plan	7	7
Total Families	22	22

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

Of the 33 founded CPS fatality reports which involved 37 children for SFY 2012, twenty- two families had other children for whom initial safety was assessed. Three families had siblings who were removed from the home and placed into foster care, 12 families placed siblings with relatives and seven families had siblings who remained in the home with a safety plan.

As a result of CPS involvement, families were either referred to or provided services to include mental health services, substance abuse assessment and treatment, parent education, foster care services, domestic violence services, extended forensic evaluation, Family Partnership Meetings, Protective Orders and grief counseling.

Table 16: Prior Abuse and/or Neglect in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect 2010-2012

	2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	14	31.8	13	43.3	13	39.4
No	30	68.2	17	56.7	20	60.6
Total	44	100.0	30	100.0	33	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, February 2013. Information obtained from local departments.

Of the 37 victims in founded CPS fatality investigations, there were 13 families (39.4%) with prior child welfare involvement or open child welfare cases compared to 13 (43.3%) families in

SFY 2011. While the actual number of child deaths increased from the previous year, the percentage of cases with prior history decreased slightly.

Prior involvement may mean that the abuser, victim, or siblings were previously or currently the subject of a family assessment, an investigation, or an ongoing service or foster care case. It may also mean that the caretaker had prior involvement as a victim when they were a child.

The following summarizes the prior or current child welfare involvement of the 13 families with founded fatality victims:

- A five month old child drowned in a bathroom sink while his mother slept on the side of the bathtub. The mother had not been involved with CPS before but the father of this child had been found to have abused a three week old child by a different mother in 2004.
- A seven month old child died from severe physical abuse by the mother's boyfriend. CPS had previously responded to a report when this child was two weeks old and had been left in a car unattended. No services were recommended.
- A four month old child died while in the care of his father who was under court order to have no contact with a sibling due to a previous incident of abusive head trauma. The mother neglected to protect her child. The father had been in foster care as a child.
- A two and half year old child died from severe physical abuse by the mother's boyfriend. They had been previously involved with CPS due a domestic violence incident and CPS had recommended services provided through the military. The mother had aged out of foster care.
- A one month old child died while her parents were incapacitated due to use of drugs and alcohol. They failed to follow up with necessary medical treatment. The father had two previous cases with CPS involving another child and a different mother. The mother had been abused and neglected as a child and had been in foster care.
- A four month old twin child died from blunt force trauma. The home was unsafe and a hazard for children. The surviving twin was malnourished. Both parents had been involved with CPS in the past. The father had been in foster care as a youth. The mother had another child who had been the subject of an unfounded investigation involving another family member.
- A three month old child died after being inadequately supervised and given cough medication not recommended for an infant. CPS had previously conducted an assessment two years before this incident while the mother was in foster care. Services were provided at that time. The father had also been in foster care as a youth. Both parents had been abused or neglected as children.
- A three month old child died after being abandoned by the mother. The child had been addicted to morphine at birth. The mother had been in foster care and adopted as a child.
- A ten month old child suffocated in the care of a non-regulated babysitter. CPS had addressed supervision concerns with the babysitter four months earlier.
- An eleven month old child died in the care of the mother's boyfriend. The mother had been abused as a child and had been in foster care until age 18.
- A seventeen year old child committed suicide and the mother, grandmother and mother's boyfriend's failure to supervise him contributed to his death. There had been a report of neglect six months earlier and no services were recommended.

- A three year old child died from a drug overdose while in the care of the paternal grandmother's fiancé. CPS had previous involvement with the father for physical abuse of his step-daughter three months earlier.
- A two and half year old child died from blunt force trauma caused by the mother as well as failure to seek necessary medical treatment. CPS was actively investigating the mother for medical neglect at the time of his death. CPS had found the mother to be neglectful of her children a little over a year prior to the child's death. She had left the children unattended in a car. No services were recommended.

Eight (33.3%) of the 24 caretakers identified in families who had been known to child welfare were in foster care as a child. This is concerning and seems indicative of the cyclic nature of child abuse and neglect and also supports current theories of childhood trauma adversely affecting adult functioning. Regional CFRT will be asked to look closer at this trend.

V. UNFOUNDED REPORTS

There were 70 (65.4%) unfounded child fatality investigations. An unfounded investigation does not mean the abuse or neglect did not occur. Unfounded means that a review of the facts does not support a finding that abuse or neglect occurred.

- Fifty-four (77.1%) of the 70 unfounded reports involved a child under one year of age.
- Forty-two (60.0%) of the 70 deaths were related to the sleep environment. This means the actual surface the child slept on, with whom the child was sleeping with, or how the child was sleeping. This includes children who suffocated or accidentally asphyxiated due to their sleep environment.
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) was listed as cause of death for twenty-two (31.4%) children.
- Three children accidentally drowned.
- Two children died in a house fire, one child committed suicide and one child was accidentally shot with a firearm.

VI. APPENDIX

Table of Cases

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2012

Appendix A: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary
Highland	4/24/11*	1/7/94	17.7	M	W	Mother Paramour Grandmother	36 36 55	W W W	F M F	Physical Neglect	Yes	All 3 caretakers provided alcohol to teenager. The teenager subsequently gained access to an unsecured firearm and committed suicide. (reported 9/20/11)
Montgomery	6/21/11*	9/1/01	9.8	F	W	Brother	30	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child was killed in an automobile accident. The driver, her brother, tested positive for methamphetamine. (*reported 9/11)
Montgomery	6/21/11*	7/27/00	10.9	M	W	Uncle	30	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child was killed in an automobile accident. The driver, his uncle, tested positive for methamphetamine. (*reported 9/11)
Suffolk	7/17/11	8/21/08	2.9	F	AA	Grandmother Grandmother's paramour	38 50	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Caretakers left a bottle of medication within reach of child. The child ingested the medication and died from an overdose.
Smyth	8/11/11	1/23/09	2.5	M	W	Mother Paramour	33 29	W W	F M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head, diagnosed as Battered Child Syndrome. Older injuries were present that were never treated medically. Both caretakers charged with homicide.
Newport News	8/19/11	9/8/04	6.9	M	AA	Step-Father	36	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child, two siblings and their mother were stabbed to death by her husband and then the home was set on fire. He was charged criminally.
Newport News	8/19/11	1/16/96	11.7	M	AA	Step-Father	36	AA	M	Physical abuse	No	Child, two siblings and their mother were stabbed to death by her husband and then the home was set on fire. He was charged criminally.
Newport News	8/19/11	1/16/96	15.6	F	AA	Step-Father	36	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child, two siblings and their mother were stabbed to death by her husband and then the home was set on fire. He was charged criminally.
Surry	8/30/11	4/24/10	1.3	F	W	Mother	22	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Toddler was not being properly supervised and drowned in the family pool.
King George	9/16/11	1/11/11	0.7	F	W	Father	36	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child was left unattended in a bathtub and drowned while the father took a phone call.
Fairfax	9/18/11	9/10/10	1.0	M	A	Mother Father	21 27	A A	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child and sibling were left alone in hotel room while parents were in the lobby. The child drowned in the bathtub.
Allegany	9/26/11	8/30/11	0.1	M	W	Father	25	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child was died from Abusive Head Trauma. The father was found guilty of murder.
Virginia Beach	10/1/11	11/19/10	0.9	F	multi	Paramour	33	AA	M	Medical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died while in the care of the mother's boyfriend. He disposed of the body in a parking garage and never sought medical treatment for the child. Cause of death was never determined.
Richmond City	10/20/11	10/6/09	2.0	F	W	Babysitters- unregulated	24 24	W W	M F	Physical Abuse	No	Child had injuries consistent with Abusive Head Trauma. The caretakers were charged criminally.

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Appendix A: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary
Washington	11/7/11	4/21/11	0.5	M	W	Mother Uncle	25 20	PI W	F M	Physical Abuse/ Neglect	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head while in the care of his uncle, who has an intellectual disability. The mother was neglectful for leaving the infant with an inadequate caretaker.
Washington	11/15/11	3/26/09	2.6	F	W	Mother Father	24 32	W W	F M	Physical Abuse Medical Neglect	No	Child died from multiple injuries including blunt force trauma to her face and torso. The mother and father were charged with felony child abuse.
Montgomery	11/18/11	1/27/11	0.8	M	W	Babysitter- unregulated	30	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Infant died while in the care of babysitter. The babysitter admitted to being distracted by a phone call and the child died. She was charged criminally.
Virginia Beach	12/28/11	4/26/10	1.6	M	AA	Mother Paramour	22 30	AA AA	F M	Physical Abuse Medical Neglect	No	Child died from multiple blunt force injuries to various parts of his body, diagnosed as Battered Child Syndrome. The mother and boyfriend failed to seek timely medical attention. Both were charged with murder.
Floyd	11/23/11	8/19/09	2.3	F	W	Father	29	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from asphyxiation and other internal injuries. The father said he thought she was possessed by demons. He was charged with murder.
Fairfax	12/12/11	10/17/11	0.2	F	multi	Father	21	multi	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma. The father was watching the child while the mother worked. The father was charged criminally.
Accomack	12/17/11	10/16/02	9.2	F	W	Father	37	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Father shot child and sibling with a firearm then shot his wife and himself.
Accomack	12/17/11	4/14/01	10.7	M	W	Father	37	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	The father shot child and sibling with a firearm then shot his wife and himself.
Virginia Beach	1/11/12	8/16/11	0.4	F	W	Paramour	22	W	M	Physical/ Sexual Abuse	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The child had acute blunt force trauma injuries to her anus. The mother's boyfriend was the caretaker of the child when these injuries occurred. He was charged with murder and object sexual penetration.
Prince William	1/30/12	2/23/10	1.9	F	W	Mother	41	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died after being left unattended in a bathtub and drowned. The mother was the sole caretaker.
Henrico	2/9/12	11/13/11	0.2	M	AA	Mother	21	AA	F	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was left unsupervised and died, possible suffocation by sibling. Mother had also given the infant unprescribed cough medication. She was charged criminally.
Chesterfield	2/10/12	11/8/11	0.3	M	W	Mother Paramour	28 33	W W	F F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child abandoned by her mother and girlfriend and died while in the care of a stranger. Child had been born addicted to methadone.

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2012

Appendix A: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary
Isle of Wight	2/24/12	10/20/11	0.3	F	W	Mother Father	23 22	W W	F M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from multiple injuries including Abusive Head Trauma. Child and her surviving sibling were malnourished. The mother and father were charged with felony child abuse and the father was charged with murder.
Norfolk	2/22/12	12/29/11	0.2	F	multi	Father	21	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from asphyxiation and head trauma, diagnosed Battered Child Syndrome. The father was charged with murder.
Wythe	3/7/12	1/31/12	0.1	F	W	Mother Father	18 20	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Medical Neglect	Yes	Child died from asphyxiation in an unsafe sleep environment. The parents were under the influence of alcohol and drugs.
Danville	4/3/12	11/7/08	3.4	F	AA	Paramour	30	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from multiple injuries including blunt force trauma to the abdomen by mother's boyfriend. He was charged with murder.
Virginia Beach	4/6/12	8/20/09	2.6	M	AA	Paramour	23	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from extensive injury of internal organs including liver, stomach, bowels and pancreas. The mother's boyfriend was charged with murder.
Norfolk	4/12/12	12/1/11	0.4	M	AA	Mother	23	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died while in the care of his father. Even though the cause of death was ruled Sudden Unexplained Infant Death, the father was under court order to have no contact with a sibling due to a previous incident of abusive head trauma. The mother neglected to protect her child.
Norfolk	4/13/12	9/15/11	0.6	M	AA	Paramour	29	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The mother's boyfriend was charged with murder.
Hampton	4/18/12	2/1/11	0.2	F	AA	Father	38	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from laceration to her neck and was found after her father lit the home on fire. Also killed were her mother and grandmother. He was shot and killed by law enforcement.
Richmond City	5/10/12	12/29/11	0.4	M	AA	Mother Father	21 29	AA AA	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	Yes	Child drowned in a sink after his mother fell asleep. The home was found to be a safety hazard. The mother also gave the child cough medicine, which contributed to his death.
Fairfax	6/7/12	4/23/12	0.1	F	multi	Father	20	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The father was charged criminally.
Lee	6/12/12	4/20/12	0.1	M	multi	Mother Father	21 26	AA W	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child died while in the care of his parents who were involved in a domestic violence dispute. The exact cause of death was not determined.