

**PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS  
IN VIRGINIA  
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2015**

Prepared by:  
Child Protective Services Program

July 2016



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

## Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>I. CHILD DEATHS</b>	<b>3</b>
Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality	
Table 2: Dispositions of Child Death Investigations	
Table 3: Death Rate of Children in Virginia Due to Abuse or Neglect	
Table 4: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region	
Table 5: Child Deaths Due to Abuse and/or Neglect and Rates by Region	
<b>II. CHILDREN</b>	<b>7</b>
Table 6: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age	
Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race	
Table 8: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender	
<b>III. CARETAKERS</b>	<b>9</b>
Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect	
Table 10: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect by Race	
Table 11: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect by Gender	
Table 12: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect by Age	
<b>IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT</b>	<b>11</b>
Table 13: Type of Neglect in Child Deaths	
Table 14: Type of Abuse in Child Deaths	
<b>V. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM</b>	<b>13</b>
Table 15: Initial Safety Outcomes for Other Children in the Home	
Table 16: Prior Child Welfare Involvement in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect	
<b>VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>VII. APPENDIXES</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>A.</b> Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death	
<b>B.</b> Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death	

# **CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2015**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is a preliminary report on child deaths that were reported to local departments of social services (LDSS) and investigated during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015. This report illustrates changes or trends from previous years. This report also includes a synopsis of data for all child abuse or neglect fatalities for SFY 2015, including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators and households impacted by those fatalities. The information 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 information on all child fatalities that were investigated, with an emphasis on those deaths that occurred as a result of substantiated abuse or neglect. This report includes two appendixes. Appendix A provides details for investigations that resulted in a founded disposition and Appendix B provides details of investigations that resulted in unfounded dispositions. A founded disposition means that a preponderance of the evidence shows that child maltreatment has occurred. This determination is to be based primarily upon first source, or direct evidence. A disposition of unfounded means there was not a preponderance of the evidence to warrant a founded disposition.

In SFY 2015 the Regional Child Fatality Review Teams conducted reviews of all child deaths which occurred in SFY 2014. The results of those reviews and their recommendations are anticipated to be published by December 2016.

## **Preliminary Summary of Findings**

### **In SFY 2015:**

- LDSS investigated 131 child deaths suspected to be caused by child abuse or neglect.
- There were 52 children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect.
- There were 72 investigations that resulted in an unfounded disposition; seven investigations are either on administrative appeal or incomplete at the time of this report.
- Forty-nine (41%) LDSS conducted at least one child death investigation.
- The child death rate in Virginia increased from 2.5 deaths per 100,000 children in SFY 2014 to 2.8 deaths per 100,000 children in SFY 2015 and is slightly higher than the national death rate of 2.1 deaths per 100,000 children.
- The Eastern Region investigated the most child deaths (46); however, the Western Region had the highest rate of death (10.8 deaths per 100,000 children).

- Children who died as a result of abuse or neglect ranged in age from birth to 12 years of age with more than three quarters (81%) less than three years of age.
- The race of the children who died as a result of abuse or neglect was: 34 (65%) were White; 17 (33%) were African American; and one (2%) child was multi-racial.
- More female children (28 or 54%) died from abuse or neglect than male children (24 or 46%).
- Sixty caretakers were determined to be responsible for the death of 52 children.
- Three caretakers were responsible for more than one child death.
- Of the 60 caretakers who were responsible for 52 child deaths, 32 (62%) were female, 25 (48%) were male and three (5%) were unknown.
- Forty-one (68%) of the 60 caretakers were biological parents and 27 (45%) were less than 29 years of age.
- Thirty-eight (73%) of the 52 child deaths involved physical neglect, 18 (35%) child deaths involved physical abuse. Some children died from more than one type of physical abuse and/or in combination with physical neglect or medical neglect.
- Children were removed and placed into foster care in three households out of the 33 families who had other children in the home at the time of the child death.
- Of the 48 households where child deaths were found to be caused by abuse or neglect, 16 (33%) families had prior involvement with child welfare.

## I. CHILD DEATHS

Local departments of social services (LDSS) conducted 127 investigations involving 131 child deaths suspected to be caused by child maltreatment in SFY 2015. LDSS determined 52 children died as a result of child abuse or neglect; 72 children were in unfounded reports; four reports were pending and three reports were on administrative appeal at the time of this report.

The Eastern Region investigated the most reports (46) followed by Northern (27), Piedmont (25), Central (18), and Western (15).

**Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality  
SFY 2015**

LDSS	Founded	Unfounded	Pending or Appealed	Total
Accomack		1		1
Albemarle		1		1
Alexandria	1			1
Amherst		1		1
Botetourt		1		1
Campbell	1	1		2
Carroll	5*			5
Chesapeake		4		4
Chesterfield	1			1
Danville	3*	2		5

<b>LDSS</b>	<b>Founded</b>	<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>Pending or Appealed</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fairfax Co.	1	4	1	6
Fauquier		1		1
Fluvanna	1			1
Franklin City		1		1
Franklin County	1			1
Gloucester		1		1
Grayson	1	1		2
Halifax	1			1
Hanover	1			1
Hampton	1	4		5
Harrisonburg/Rockingham	1			1
Henrico	2	1		3
Henry/Martinsville		2		2
Isle of Wight	1			1
King William	1			1
Loudon		1	1	2
Lynchburg	2*	2		4
Lunenburg			1	1
Mecklenburg		1		1
Montgomery	3			3
Newport News		7		7
Norfolk	2	4		6
Northumberland		1		1
Orange		2		2
Patrick	1			1
Petersburg	1			1
Portsmouth	3	2		5
Prince George		1		1
Prince William	2	3		5
Pulaski	2			2
Richmond City	1	5	2	8
Roanoke City	2			2
Roanoke County	1			1
Rockbridge	1			1
Scott			1	1
Shenandoah Co.	1			1
Shenandoah Valley		2		2
Spotsylvania		3	1	4
Stafford	1			1
Suffolk	1	1		2
Wise		1		1
Virginia Beach	3	5		8

<b>LDSS</b>	<b>Founded</b>	<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>Pending or Appealed</b>	<b>Total</b>
Winchester	1	2		3
York/Poquoson	1	3		4
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>131</b>

\*One investigation involved more than one child by the same caretaker.

Sources: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

LDSS investigated 131 child deaths in 127 investigations in SFY 2015. This was an increase of three investigations conducted in SFY 2014 (124). Three investigations involved more than one child and the same caretaker. Carroll County investigated a sibling group of three children involving the same caretaker; Danville investigated two siblings involving the same caretaker; and Lynchburg investigated two non-related children involving the same caretaker. Unless noted, the number of investigations will equal the number of children (131).

Forty-nine (41%) of the 120 LDSS investigated at least one child death. Fairfax County, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond City and Virginia Beach had the highest number of investigations, not all of which were founded. These LDSS also represent some of the largest agencies and most populated areas in Virginia.

**Table 2: Dispositions of Child Death Investigations  
SFY 2013 - SFY 2015**

	<b>SFY 2013</b>		<b>SFY 2014</b>		<b>SFY 2015</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Founded</b>	33	31.1	47	37.9	52	39.7
<b>Unfounded</b>	66	62.3	73	58.9	72	55.0
<b>Pending/Appealed</b>	7	6.6	4	3.2	7	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

The percentages of founded versus unfounded dispositions involving child fatalities showed a slight increase for founded dispositions and a slight decrease for unfounded dispositions. This continues to mirror dispositions made in *all* child abuse and neglect investigations in SFY 2015. The percentage of founded to unfounded dispositions has typically been approximately 37% founded and 60% unfounded<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 11,174 investigations completed; 4,173 founded (37.3%); 6,733 unfounded (60.3%); and 268 other (2.4%). Source: Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports Version 4.22 (May 2016).

**Table 3: Death Rate of Children in Virginia Due to Abuse or Neglect  
SFY 2005 – SFY 2015**

SFY	Death Reports Investigated	Deaths Due to Abuse/Neglect	Death Rate (per 100,000 children)*	National Death Rate
2005	56	27	1.3	2.0
2006	54	29	1.4	2.0
2007	60	29	1.4	2.4
2008	74	35	1.7	2.3
2009	72	34	1.7	2.3
2010	78	44	2.4	2.3
2011	86	30	1.6	2.0
2012	107	37	2.0	2.1
2013	105	33	1.8	2.2
2014	124	47	2.5	2.0
<b>2015</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>

\*Death rate is calculated as number of deaths due to abuse/neglect divided by the state child population (2014= 1,869,115)  
Sources: VDSS, May 2016, Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

The death rate for children who die from abuse or neglect was slightly higher than SFY 2014. The increase in child death investigations in Virginia may be a result of more investigations being conducted by LDSS in response to the regional child fatality review process that was implemented statewide in 2012. According to the [2014 Child Maltreatment report](#), many states reported increased counts of child fatalities and attributed the increase to better reporting and implementation of child death reviews. The number of reported child deaths reported to NCANDS has fluctuated over the years. There may be several reasons for this. Due to relatively low frequency of child fatalities, the national rate is sensitive to which states report data and changes in the child population estimates produced by the U. S. Census Bureau.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 4: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region  
SFY 2015**

	Founded		Unfounded		Pending		Appealed		Total
		%		%		%		%	
<b>Eastern</b>	12	26.1	34	73.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	<b>46</b>
<b>Central</b>	8	44.4	7	38.9	2	11.1	1	5.6	<b>18</b>
<b>Piedmont</b>	12	48.0	13	52.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	<b>25</b>
<b>Northern</b>	8	29.6	16	59.3	2	7.4	1	3.7	<b>27</b>
<b>Western</b>	12	80.0	2	13.3	0	0.0	1	6.7	<b>15</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>131</b>

Sources: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

<sup>2</sup> Source: *Child Maltreatment 2014*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

The Eastern Region has consistently conducted the most child death investigations over the past 10 years. The percentage of founded versus unfounded child fatality investigations varies by region. The percentage of founded versus unfounded in *all* investigations also varies by region with the exception of the Western region, where the percentage of founded child death investigations (80%) was twice as much compared to all founded investigations (40%).<sup>3</sup>

The Code of Virginia § 63.2-1505 B5 grants exceptions to completing child death investigations which require reports or records generated outside the local department, such as an autopsy, in order to complete the investigation. The time needed to obtain these reports or records is not counted towards the 45/60/90 day timeframes. The records must be necessary to complete the investigation and not available due to circumstances beyond the control of the local department. In SFY 2015, this accounted for the four pending investigations.

**Table 5: Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect and Rates by Region  
SFY 2013-SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate* (Per 100,000)
<b>Eastern</b>	12	2.5	17	4.1	12	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Central</b>	5	1.5	5	1.7	8	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Piedmont</b>	6	2.2	8	3.4	12	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Northern</b>	5	.6	10	1.2	8	<b>.9</b>
<b>Western</b>	5	3.8	7	6.3	12	<b>10.8</b>

Sources: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS. Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics. \*The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age by region are: Eastern: 416,842; Central: 299,032; Piedmont: 236,385; Northern: 806,155; Western: 110,701.

In addition to looking at the number of child deaths and the percentages of founded and unfounded investigations, VDSS also reports the ratio of child deaths to the population of children less than 18 years of age by region. The rate of child deaths per 100,000 children is most concerning due to the significant rise in the Piedmont and Western region's rates. (Both of these regions had the three investigations that involved more than one child death.)

## II. CHILDREN

LDSS investigated the deaths of 131 children in SFY 2015. Of those, 52 children were found to have been abused or neglected. This section provides detailed demographic information and trends for the children involved in child death investigations and were determined to be abused or neglected.

<sup>3</sup> The percentages for founded investigations by region: Central- 40.3%; Eastern- 40.2%; Northern- 30.9%; Piedmont- 44.3%; Western- 39.8%. Source: Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports Version 4.22 (May 2016).

**Table 6: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age  
SFY 2013 – SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Birth to 12 months</b>	15	45.5	21	44.7	22	42.3
<b>13 months to 3 years</b>	10	30.3	14	29.8	20	38.5
<b>4 to 7 years</b>	4	12.0	5	10.6	7	13.5
<b>8 to 12 years</b>	2	6.1	3	6.4	3	5.8
<b>13 to 17 years</b>	2	6.1	4	8.5	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.1</b>

Sources: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

This table shows that children from birth to three years of age were the most vulnerable to death as a result of child abuse or neglect. Virginia's percentage for SFY 2015 (80.8%) was slightly higher than the national data which indicated that nearly three quarters (70.7%) of all child fatalities in FFY 2014 were children less than three years of age.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race  
SFY 2013 – SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Rate* (per 100,000)
African-American	13	39.4	12	25.5	17	32.7	3.9
White	19	57.6	27	57.4	34	65.4	2.7
Multi-racial	1	3.0	6	12.8	1	1.9	n/a
Asian	0	0.0	2	4.3	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Sources: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS. Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

\*The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age was African American: 440,093; White: 1,275,382; Asian: 140,738; multi-racial not available; total: 1,869,115.

The race of the majority of child fatalities in Virginia was White (65.4%). The race of 32.7% of the child deaths was African-American. Based on the 2014 Virginia data, African-American children comprise 21.0% of all children less than 18 years of age. SFY 2015 data for African American child deaths was disproportionate with the percentage of African-Americans in the total population. This was contrary to SFY 2014 but consistent with previous year's data which indicated an over-representation of African-American children.

<sup>4</sup> Source: *Child Maltreatment 2014*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

**Table 8: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender  
SFY 2013 – SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014			SFY 2015		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Percent	Rate* (per 100,000)
Female	14	42.4	18	38.3	1.97	28	53.8	3.1
Male	19	57.6	29	61.7	3.04	24	46.2	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Sources: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS. Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics. \*The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age was females: 914,818 and males: 954,297.

In SFY 2015 there were more female child deaths than male deaths. This is contrary to the national data which indicates boys had a higher child fatality rate (2.48 per 100,000) than girls (1.82 per 100,000); however, this has not been consistently true in Virginia.

### III. CARETAKERS

CPS only investigates child fatalities that are suspicious for abuse or neglect committed by a caretaker. LDSS determined that there were 60 caretakers responsible for the deaths of 52 children due to child abuse or neglect in SFY 2015. Ten victims were abused or neglected by two different caretakers. One child was abused or neglected by three caretakers. In three cases, the caretaker abused or neglected more than one child.

**Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect  
SFY 2013 – SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mother	20	45.5	29	48.3	25	41.7
Father	10	22.7	16	26.7	16*	26.7
Stepparent	0	0.0	2	3.4	0	0.0
Grandparent	2	4.5	4	6.7	1	1.7
Uncle/Aunt	0	0.0	1	1.7	2	3.3
Paramour	4	9.1	5	8.2	6	10.0
Child Care Provider	5	11.4	3	5.0	4	6.7
Foster Parent	1	2.3	0	0.0	1	1.7
Legal Guardian	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7
Other adult in home	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7
Unknown	2	4.5	0	0.0	3	5.0
<b>Total Caretakers</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.2</b>

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS. \*One caretaker was both the father of one victim and the step-parent of a second victim and is counted only once as the father.

The vast majority of caretakers (68%) were the biological parents. Mothers are the most common caretakers responsible for a child’s death. The national data indicates that four-fifths or 79.3% of child fatalities involved parents acting alone, together or with other individuals. Perpetrators without a parental relationship to the child only accounted for 15.7%.<sup>5</sup>

One mother was responsible for three child deaths. One father was responsible for two child deaths. Child Care Provider included regulated (licensed) and unregulated (unlicensed) caretakers. All four of the child care providers were not regulated; however two of the child care providers were subject to licensure. One child care provider who was subject to licensure was responsible for the death of two children. The identity of three caretakers was unknown. Unknown is used when an investigation establishes that the child was physically abused or neglected, but the LDSS is unable to establish the identity of the responsible caretaker. If new information is received regarding the identity of the caretaker a new investigation may be conducted.

**Table 10: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Race  
SFY 2013- SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	14	31.8	19	31.7	15	25.0
White	28	63.6	38	63.3	41	68.3
Asian	0	0.0	2	3.3	0	0.0
Unknown	2	4.5	1	1.7	3	5.0
Multi-racial	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7
<b>Total Caretakers</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

In SFY 2015, and consistent over past years, the race of the majority of caretakers (68%) was White.

**Table 11: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Gender  
SFY 2013-SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	26	59.1	37	61.7	32	53.3
Male	16	36.4	23	38.3	25	41.7
Unknown	2	4.5	0	0.0	3	5.0
<b>Total Caretakers</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

Typically, there are more female perpetrators of child maltreatment than male perpetrators.

<sup>5</sup> Source: *Child Maltreatment 2014*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

**Table 12: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Age  
SFY 2013- SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 20 years	1	2.3	0	0.0	4	6.7
20 to 29 years	23	52.3	28	46.7	23	38.3
30 to 39 years	10	22.7	18	30.0	19	31.7
40 to 49 years	7	15.9	8	13.3	7	11.7
50 or older	1	2.3	6	10.0	3	5.0
Unknown	2	4.5	0	0.0	4	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.1</b>

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

The ages of caretakers in SFY 2015 ranged from 17 to 56 years of age. The majority of the caretakers (38.3%) were between 20 to 29 years of age.

#### **IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

In SFY 2015, 52 children died as a result of at least one type of abuse or neglect. Some children were abused or neglected in more than one way and by more than one caretaker. Of the children who died, 33 (55.0%) had been physically neglected and 14 (26.9%) had been physically abused. Four (7.7%) children were both physically abused and physically or medically neglected. One (1.9%) child was medically neglected.

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 he shot himself. The manner of death (as determined by the medical examiner) would be accidental, the cause of death (also determined by the medical examiner) would be gunshot wound and the type of abuse or neglect (determined by CPS) would be neglect, an act of omission.

**Table 13: Types of Neglect in Child Deaths  
SFY 2013- SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
Abandonment	1	0	0
Inadequate Supervision	12	26	35
Inadequate Shelter	1	3	1
Inadequate Food	1	0	0
Malnutrition	0	0	0
Medical Neglect	5	9	2
Other/Unspecified sub-type	2	0	1

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

Thirty-eight (73.1%) of the child deaths involved some type of physical neglect. One child death involved medical neglect and lack of supervision. The most prevalent type of neglect was lack of supervision. A lack of supervision involves a child being left in the care of an inadequate caretaker or in a situation requiring judgement or actions greater than the child’s level of maturity, physical condition, and/or mental abilities would reasonably dictate. A lack of supervision resulted in the deaths of: 11 children in an unsafe sleep environment; nine children drown (three in a bathtub, four in a pool, one in a pond, and one in a septic tank); eight children died in a house fire; three children died in a car accident and the driver was under the influence of alcohol; and one child died from being left in a hot car for an extended period of time.

Medical neglect directly caused or contributed to the death of three (5.8%) children. Medical neglect includes a caretaker’s failure to obtain immediate necessary or emergency medical care or to follow doctor recommended medical regimen for a child. See the Table of Founded Child Deaths in **Appendix A** for more detail.

**Table 14: Types of Abuse in Child Deaths  
SFY 2013 – SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
Asphyxiation	1	2	2
Bone Fracture	5	2	2
Burns	0	0	1
Bruises	4	2	0
Gunshot	0	3	1
Poisoning	0	1	1
Abusive Head Trauma <sup>1</sup>	3	3	5
Stabbing	0	0	0
Internal Injuries	4	2	3
Head Injury	14	4	6
Battered Child Syndrome	2	0	0
Other or Unspecified Type	0	3	1

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

<sup>1</sup>Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), also known as Traumatic Inflicted Brain Injury or Shaken Baby Syndrome

In SFY 2015, 18 (34.6%) children died as a result of physical abuse. Some children died from more than one type of physical abuse and/or in combination with physical neglect or medical neglect.

Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) and Battered Child Syndrome are diagnosis made by medical doctors and based on a pattern of injuries. SFY 2015 saw a slight increase in AHT child deaths.

In SFY 2015 there was a significant decrease of head injuries from SFY 2013. The one gunshot death was a mother who shot the child and then herself. The one burn death was caused by immersion burns inflicted by a foster parent.

## V. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

When initiating a response to a child fatality report, CPS will conduct an assessment of immediate harm or threat of harm for any siblings or other children in the home. Based on this safety assessment, a safety plan may be developed with the family for a course of action to mitigate danger or threats of harm and to protect a child from abuse or neglect. Table 15 identifies those families and the resulting protective action taken by the LDSS.

**Table 15: Initial Safety Outcomes for Other Children in the Household  
SFY 2013-2015**

	<b>SFY 2013</b>	<b>SFY 2014</b>	<b>SFY 2015</b>
	<b># Families</b>	<b># Families</b>	<b># Families</b>
Emergency removal/foster care	1	10	3
Safety plan with relatives	9	15	17
Safety plan with family	8	5	13
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

Of the 48 households, including the child care providers, which involved 52 child death investigations resulting in a founded disposition in SFY 2015, 33 (68.7%) households had other children for whom initial safety was assessed. All of the remaining households had no other children in the home. In SFY 2015, LDSS assessed siblings living in three households as unsafe and removed the children by placing them into foster care. An additional 17 households were able to develop a safety plan with the LDSS that allowed the siblings to stay with relatives while remaining in the legal custody of the caretakers. A plan was developed with 13 households that allowed the siblings to remain in the home with a safety plan that was monitored by the agency. The number of children removed and placed into foster care was significantly less than SFY 2014. The number of safety plans made with families which allowed children to remain in their care increased significantly. These cases will be reviewed in more detail by the regional child fatality review teams.

As a result of CPS involvement, families were either referred to or provided services to include mental health services, substance use assessments and treatment, parent education, domestic violence services, Family Partnership Meetings, Protective Orders, grief counseling and burial assistance. Family Partnership Meetings are usually held when a child is either removed from the home or is at risk of being removed from the home. It is an opportunity for family and community participation in the decision making process for children.

**Table 16: Prior Family Child Welfare Involvement in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect  
SFY 2013- SFY 2015**

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent
Yes	14	42.4	20	42.6	16	33.3
No	19	57.6	27	57.4	32	66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: VDSS, May 2016. Information obtained from LDSS.

Of the 52 victims (48 households) in founded CPS fatality investigations in SFY 2015, there were 16 (33.3%) families with prior child welfare involvement or active child welfare cases. Three families were active with the LDSS at the time of the fatality. The percentage of families with prior involvement for child deaths decreased approximately 10% from SFY 2013 to SFY 2015.

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. Prior involvement does not include any abuse or neglect that occurred when the adult was a juvenile or screened out reports of suspected child abuse or neglect.

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

- Alexandria:** In December 2015, a two-week-old child was found unresponsive co-sleeping with her mother who was under the influence of alcohol and likely rolled on top of the child. This family's history included four prior CPS reports pertaining to physical abuse (2010), exposure to domestic violence and alcohol use (July 2012), physical neglect-lack of supervision (January 2014), and medical neglect (May, 2014). No services were provided to the family.
- Campbell:** In December 2014, a two-month-old child was found unresponsive on an adult bed. The mother ignored recommended advice regarding sleep position and sleep surface. There was an open report involving a substance exposed infant at the time of the death.
- Franklin Co.:** In May 2015, a three-year-old child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The child's legal guardian was criminally charged. Prior history involved the biological mother and children. In November 2014 an investigation was conducted and founded on the mother for physical neglect (inadequate hygiene) of this child and a sibling. Services were provided to the mother; however they were unsuccessful and the children's custody was awarded to friends of the family.
- Hanover:** In October 2014, a one-month-old child died while co-sleeping with the parents. Both parents were found to be under the influence of alcohol and drugs. A report had been received a week prior to the death for concerns about the mother's ability to care for a newborn child due to her history of mental health issues. That report was pending when the fatality occurred.
- Henrico:** In April 2015, a three-year-old child died from dehydration. Additionally, there was evidence of prior physical abuse and poisoning. Three caretakers failed to obtain

timely medical treatment. From 2010 to 2013 there were six reports involving the aunt and her children for physical abuse and physical neglect. A prevention case was opened to assist the family.

6. **Henrico:** In July 2014, a six-month-old child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. The abuser's identity was unknown as more than one caretaker was responsible for the child during the timeframe which the fatal injury likely occurred. In 2007, the father of the deceased child was investigated and found to have been physically abusive to a sibling by a different mother. As a result of the abuse, that sibling was removed and placed into foster care.
7. **Isle of Wight:** In September 2014, a 14-month-old child drowned in a bathtub after the father left her unattended. A report was received in 2012 concerning older siblings of the deceased child for physical neglect. No services were provided.
8. **Montgomery:** In March 2015, a three-year-old child died in a car accident when the car driven by the father was hit by a train. The father was found to be under the influence of drugs at the time. In January 2013, CPS received a report on the deceased child's older siblings and alleged drug use by the mother and her husband. No services were recommended. In December 2013, CPS received a report on the mother and two older siblings. The mother was incarcerated for manufacturing methamphetamines. The agency did not open a case as the children were with relatives and the mother was placed on probation. In August 2014, a report was received regarding alleged drug use by the father. No services were recommended.
9. **Montgomery:** In September 2014, a one-month-old child was found unresponsive and had not been checked on for over eight hours. The mother was under the influence of opiates at the time of death. The infant was born dependent on methadone. In 2012, the parents had been investigated for physical abuse- selling drugs with a minor present. The minor was not related to them. No services were recommended.
10. **Norfolk:** In July 2014, an eight-year-old child died from gunshot wounds inflicted by her mother, who then committed suicide. In 2009, services were provided to the family.
11. **Portsmouth:** In May 2015, a three-year-old child drowned in a neighbor's pool. The mother failed to provide adequate supervision. Earlier in the same month an investigation was conducted regarding an older sibling involving the mother's failure to seek medical attention. The older sibling came into foster care and the investigation was pending at the time of death. In 2012, services were provided to the family.
12. **Roanoke City:** In January 2015, an eight-month-old child drowned after being left unattended in a bathtub by the mother. The father knew the mother was under the influence of opiate drugs. In 2010, the father was involved in a case regarding his oldest child by a different mother. The case was closed after that child's custody was granted to the paternal grandparents. In 2014, an investigation was conducted and founded for neglect on the father for driving under the influence of drugs with two children in car and then hitting a telephone pole. The father was monitored through the courts.
13. **Rockbridge:** In March 2015, a one-month-old child died after being put to sleep face down on a recliner chair by the father and then not checked on for over six hours. In April 2013, a report was received regarding physical abuse of a sibling of the deceased child. No needed services were identified.
14. **Shenandoah Co.:** In September 2014, a four-month-old child likely suffocated while co-sleeping with mother, who was intoxicated. In 2007, services were provided to the

mother regarding domestic violence and mental health issues. In 2008 a sibling of the deceased was placed into foster care in Henrico County and in 2009 custody was given to grandparents.

**15. Virginia Beach:** In August 2014, a two-and-half-year old child was not being adequately supervised by the grandmother and drowned in an above ground pool. In May 2013, CPS investigated and founded a case of sexual abuse on the deceased child's sibling by an uncle. In June 2013, CPS investigated allegations of physical abuse by the mother to a different sibling and determined it was unfounded.

**16. York:** In August 2014, a one-year-old child died after being left to sleep in a car seat by her child care provider. The cause of death was asphyxia. In October 2013, CPS received a report involving the child care provider regarding physical discipline used by her husband to her own children. Services were recommended and provided under the supervision of the military Family Advocacy program.

## VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS

In SFY 2015 there were 72 (55.0%) child fatality investigations with an unfounded disposition. An unfounded disposition does not mean the abuse or neglect did not occur. An unfounded disposition means the investigation lacked a preponderance of the evidence to warrant a disposition of founded.

Of the 72 unfounded reports:

- 52 of the 72 unfounded reports (72.2%) involved a child less than one year of age.
- 46 of the 72 unfounded reports (63.9%) were sleep related. This means the actual surface the child slept on, with whom the child was sleeping, or how the child was sleeping. This includes children who suffocated or accidentally asphyxiated due to their sleep environment.

Many of the sleep-related child deaths resulted in a determination by a medical examiner that the cause of death was Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID). SUID is a diagnosis of exclusion, made when there is an absence of pathological findings revealing injury, violence, disease, or other fatal medical condition. A SUID diagnosis recognizes a host of confounding factors, most importantly the presence of unsafe sleep factors and/or medical problems such as pneumonia, prematurity, or congestion<sup>6</sup>.

Additional information regarding all unfounded child deaths is located in the Table of Child Death Investigations with an Unfounded Disposition in **Appendix B**.

## VII. APPENDIXES

**A. Table of Child Death Investigations with a Founded Disposition**

**B. Table of Child Death Investigations with an Unfounded Disposition**

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<sup>6</sup> Excerpt from Sleep-Related Infant Deaths in Virginia, a report from the Virginia State Child Fatality Review Team. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/childfatality-reports.htm>

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2015**

**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
Henrico	7/11/14	1/7/14	0.5	M	AA	Unknown	unk	unk	unk	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. The abuser's identity was unknown. No criminal charges.
Fluvanna	7/20/14	6/13/13	1.1	M	W	Mother's Paramour	unk	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. Mother's boyfriend was found guilty.
Norfolk	7/23/14	12/20/05	8.6	F	W	Mother	43	W	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from gunshot wounds inflicted by mother, who then committed suicide.
Pulaski	7/28/2014	3/27/2010	4.3	F	W	Mother	35	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child was not in a car seat and was ejected from the vehicle when it went off the road and flipped. Mother was charged with DUI. A sibling suffered near fatal injuries.
Richmond City	7/30/2014	4/27/2012	2.3	M	AA	Mother's Paramour	43	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the abdomen. The mother's boyfriend was found guilty of murder.
Virginia Beach	8/6/2014	1/18/2012	2.6	F	W	Grandmother	56	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child drowned in an above ground pool. Child was not being adequately supervised by the grandmother.
York	8/12/2014	4/20/2013	1.3	F	W	Childcare Worker-Unregulated Setting	32	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died after being left to sleep in a car seat. The cause of death was asphyxia. Child care provider was charged with the child's death. Child care provider was not subject to licensure.
King William	8/21/2014	4/16/2013	1.3	F	W	Father	30	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child drowned in a neighbor's pool. Child was not being adequately supervised by the father.
Prince William	8/26/2014	10/14/2012	1.9	F	W	Mother	34	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child drowned in a pool. Child was not being adequately supervised by the mother.
Roanoke	8/31/2014	1/21/2012	2.6	F	W	Father Mother	37 30	W W	M F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died from hypothermia having been left in the family van by parents on a hot day.
Shenandoah Co.	9/4/2014	4/17/2014	0.4	F	W	Mother	26	W W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child likely suffocated while co-sleeping with mother, who was intoxicated. The sleeping environment was found to be unsafe.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2015**

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Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary
Petersburg	9/7/2014	9/7/2014	0.0	M	AA	Mother	20	AA	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child was suffocated by the mother shortly after giving birth at home. Mother was charged with homicide.
Montgomery	9/12/2014	7/23/2014	0.1	F	W	Mother	29	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was found unresponsive after not being checked on for over eight hours. Mother admitted to being under the influence of prescription drugs not prescribed for her. Mother was charged criminally and pled guilty to felony child abuse.
Lynchburg	9/24/2014	12/17/2013	0.8	M	AA	Childcare Worker- Unregulated Setting	55	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died in a house fire. The unregulated childcare provider was watching seven children ranging in age from nine months to four years of age. The caretaker was subject to licensure and was charged criminally.
Lynchburg	9/21/2014	12/19/2012	1.8	F	W	Childcare Worker- Unregulated Setting	55	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died in a house fire. The unregulated childcare provider was watching seven children ranging in age from nine months to four years of age. The caretaker was subject to licensure and was charged criminally.
Isle of Wight	9/24/2014	7/21/2013	1.2	F	AA	Father	39	AA	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child drowned in a bathtub after father left the child unattended. There were no criminal charges.
Prince William	10/5/2014	12/20/2013	0.8	F	W	Mother Father	21 21	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child was found unresponsive after not being checked by parents for 12 hours. The living environment was unsafe. Both parents were charged with felony child neglect.
Halifax	10/13/2014	7/30/2014	0.2	F	W	Unknown	unk	unk	unk	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. A perpetrator could not be indentified. No criminal charges were filed.
Chesterfield	10/22/2014	9/24/2013	1.1	W	M	Childcare Worker- Unregulated Setting	46	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died in a house fire as a direct result of the caretaker failing to acknowledge the child was in the home. The childcare provider was subject to licensure as she routinely watched between three to seven children under the age of three.
Hanover	10/21/2014	9/16/2014	0.1	W	F	Mother Father	22 23	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died while co-sleeping with parents. Parents were under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Cause of death was asphyxia due to airway obstruction. Parents were charged criminally.
Carroll	10/31/2014	12/20/2009	4.9	W	M	Father	29	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child died in a car wreck. The father was driving under the influence and child was not properly restrained. Father was charged criminally.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2015**

**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
Alexandria	11/15/2014	10/19/2014	0.1	F	AA	Mother	24	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was found unresponsive co-sleeping with mother. Mother was under the influence of alcohol and likely rolled on top of child.
Patrick	11/9/2014	2/15/2005	9.7	F	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	49 55	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Medical Neglect	No	Child died in a house fire that was the result of an unsafe fireplace being used to heat the home. Additionally, the child had not received medical attention for his disability.
Danville	11/23/2014	4/22/2013	1.6	F	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	28 30	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child died from head injuries inflicted by mother's boyfriend. He was found guilty of murder. Mother also failed to protect child knowing he had injured child before.
Norfolk	12/25/2014	11/3/2014	0.1	M	AA	Father	26	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. Father was charged with the child's death.
Grayson	12/30/2014	12/8/2014	0.1	M	Multi	Mother	22	multi	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died from asphyxia while co-sleeping with mother. The mother knew the dangers of co-sleeping as she had another child die under similar circumstances the previous year.
Campbell	12/31/2014	10/23/2014	0.2	F	W	Mother	30	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping on adult bed. Mother ignored recommended advice regarding sleep position and sleep surface. Child had been born substance-exposed.
Stafford	2/1/2015	1/14/2014	1.0	M	AA	Foster Parent	33	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from immersion burns. The foster father was charged criminally.
Harrisonburg	1/8/2015	11/19/2014	0.1	M	W	Mother Father	18 20	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive after sleeping on a "Boppy" pillow. The parents failed to check on the child for three hours. The parents had been under the influence of drugs.
Montgomery	1/10/2015	9/16/2013	1.3	M	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	22 33	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. Mother and her boyfriend were charged criminally.
Roanoke City	1/10/2015	4/20/2014	0.7	F	W	Mother Father	25 35	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child left unattended in a bathtub by the mother and drown. Father knew mother was under the influence of opiate drugs. Mother pled guilty to manslaughter.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2015**

**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
Winchester	1/23/2015	6/26/2014	0.6	F	AA	Mother	18	AA	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child died as a result of suffocation. The mother was charged with murder.
Hampton	1/28/2015	12/8/2012	2.1	F	W	Mother's Paramour	27	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the abdomen. The mother's boyfriend was charged with murder.
Roanoke Co	2/23/2015	12/1/2014	0.2	F	W	Childcare Worker-Unregulated Setting	46	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive on an adult bed. The cause of death was determined to be sudden unexpected infant death associated with unsafe sleep environment. The caregiver was not subject to licensure.
Rockbridge	3/3/2015	1/18/2015	0.1	M	W	Father	24	W	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died after being put to sleep face down on a recliner chair by the father and not checked on for over six hours. Criminal investigation is pending.
Carroll	3/6/2015	5/22/2014	0.8	M	W	Mother	27	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Three children died in a house fire. Mother neglected to get the children out. Fire was started by children playing with a lighter.
Carroll	3/5/2015	8/22/2010	4.5	F	W	Mother	27	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Three children died in a house fire. Mother neglected to get the children out. Fire was started by children playing with a lighter.
Carroll	3/5/2015	11/25/2007	7.3	M	W	Mother	27	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Three children died in a house fire. Mother neglected to get the children out. Fire was started by children playing with a lighter.
Danville	3/18/2015	9/17/2010	4.5	F	AA	Father	32	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child and sibling had been left alone by the father and died from smoke inhalation in a house fire.
Danville	3/18/2015	6/9/2004	10.8	F	AA	Step-father	32	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child and sibling had been left alone by the step-father and died from smoke inhalation in a house fire.
Pulaski	3/25/2015	6/26/2009	5.7	M	W	Mother Father	30 32	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child drowned in a septic tank after being left unsupervised by parents. Parents were charged criminally.
Suffolk	3/25/2015	12/9/2008	6.3	M	W	Mother Father	42 41	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child drowned in a pond; parents were not adequately supervising.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2015**

**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
Carroll	5/23/2014*	5/23/2014	0.0	M	W	Mother	17	W	F	Medical Neglect	No	Child died after mother gave birth at home. Mother failed to seek medical attention. * Discovered 4/2/2015
Portsmouth	4/4/2015	1/15/2015	0.2	F	AA	Mother	19	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child drowned in a bathtub. Mother had been under influence of alcohol.
Portsmouth	4/18/2015	10/9/2013	1.5	F	AA	Mother	21	AA	F	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The mother was charged criminally.
Montgomery	3/25/2015	6/19/2011	3.8	F	W	Father	26	W	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died in car that was hit by a train. The father was under the influence of drugs and was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter.
Henrico	4/26/2015	1/24/2012	3.3	M	AA	Aunt Uncle Other-Roomate	31 35 25	AA AA W	F M M	Medical Neglect Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from dehydration and there was evidence of prior physical abuse and poisoning. Caretakers failed to obtain timely medical treatment. All three caretakers were charged criminally.
Virginia Beach	5/8/2015	4/26/2012	3.0	F	AA	Father	29	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. The father pled guilty to murder.
Fairfax	5/13/2015	5/4/2012	3.0	M	W	Unknown	unk	unk	unk	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from multiple injuries however the cause and manner of death was undetermined. No one caretaker was identified as being responsible.
Franklin Co.	5/12/2015	10/31/2011	3.5	M	W	Legal Guardian	30	W	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The legal guardian was charged with murder.
Portsmouth	5/28/2015	10/14/2011	3.6	M	AA	Mother	36	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Mother failed to provide adequate supervision and child drowned in a neighbor's pool.
Virginia Beach	6/4/2015	3/19/2015	0.2	M	AA	Father	25	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. Child had multiple injuries including rib fractures and retinal hemorrhages. The father was charged criminally.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2015**

**Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Alleged Abuser(s)	Age	Sex	Race	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death)
Newport News	7/4/14	9/29/11	2.8	M	W	Mother Father	26 43	F M	W W	No	Child died after being struck by a car. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fairfax	7/9/14	2/6/14	0.4	F	W	Childcare Provider- Unregulated	60	F	W	No	Child died while sleeping in a crib. The cause of death was SUID, associated with unsafe sleep environment . The childcare provider was not subject to licensure. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fauquier	7/13/14	4/20/14	0.2	M	AA	Grandmother	52	F	AA	No	Child was found unresponsive face down in a chair. The home environment was found to be unsafe, but not the cause of death. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Winchester	7/18/14	8/24/12	1.9	M	W	Unkown	Unk	Unk	Unk	Yes	Child died from natural casues. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	7/22/14	6/7/14	0.1	M	AA	Cousin	22	F	AA	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping on a couch face down. The cause of death was determined to be SUID associated with possible asphyxia from unsafe sleep conditions. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fairfax	7/22/14	2/24/14	0.4	M	Multi	Childcare Provider- Unregulated	38	F	W	No	Child died while sleeping on the floor. The cause of death was unknown. The childcare provider was not subject to licensure. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Henry	8/12/14	6/6/14	0.2	F	UNK	Mother	23	F	Unk	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping in adult bed with mother and sibling. No evidence of abuse or neglect. The cause of death was accidental suffocation due to co-sleeping.
Spotsylvania	8/12/14	11/14/11	2.7	M	AA	Father	28	M	AA	No	Child found unresponsive by the father. The cause of death was undetermined. There was no evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	8/23/14	4/27/14	0.3	F	AA	Cousin	22	F	AA	No	Child died while co-sleeping with a relative. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Mecklenburg	8/27/14	1/5/07	7.6	M	AA	Mother Aunt	35 47	F F	AA AA	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of medical neglect.

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Alleged Abuser(s)	Age	Sex	Race	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death)
Norfolk	8/28/14	2/11/12	2.5	M	W	Mother	25	F	W	Yes	Child died after a chest of drawers fell over and crushed him. The home environment was found to be unsafe, but not the cause of death. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	9/5/14	1/19/10	4.6	F	AA	Mother	33	F	AA	No	Child died after being accidentally shot with a pellet gun. No one was charged. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	9/17/14	6/26/14	0.2	M	W	Mother Father	18 17	F M	W W	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with father on adult bed. The cause of death was SUID associated with co-sleeping and unsafe sleep surface. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	9/18/14	6/23/14	0.2	F	AA	Great-Grandmother	66	F	AA	No	Child died while sleeping on a couch. Cause of death was ruled SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	9/21/14	8/6/14	0.1	M	AA	Mother	21	F	AA	Yes	Child died while co-sleeping with the mother. Cause of death was ruled SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Amherst	9/29/14	6/19/14	0.3	M	W	Mother	25	F	W	No	Child died while sleeping on a couch with the mother. Cause of death was SUID associated with co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Lynchburg	10/3/14	8/16/14	0.1	F	AA	Mother	21	F	AA	No	Child found unresponsive sleeping with in a car seat. The cause of death was SUID associated with unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Orange	10/10/14	8/16/14	0.2	M	W	Mother Father	22 23	F M	W W	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping in an adult bed. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Danville	10/13/14	1/19/13	1.7	M	AA	Mother Father	38 40	F M	AA	Yes	Child was accidentally struck and killed by a school bus. There was no indication of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	10/14/14	7/9/14	0.3	M	W	Mother	31	F	W	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping in an adult bed. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Norfolk	10/16/14	9/1/14	0.1	M	AA	Aunt	55	F	AA	Yes	Child died while sleeping in a bassinet. The cause of death as "inconclusive and sleep related positional asphyxiation could not be ruled out".

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Alleged Abuser(s)	Age	Sex	Race	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death)
Hampton	10/23/14	9/22/14	0.1	M	W	Father	26	M	W	No	Child was found unresponsive in a crib. The cause of death was SIDS. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	11/2/14	9/10/14	0.1	M	AA	Mother Father	22 22	F M	AA AA	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping in an adult bed. The cause of death was overlaying associated with co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Prince William	11/8/14	7/12/14	0.3	M	AA	Mother	24	F	AA	No	Child found unresponsive sleeping in a bed, swaddled and on his stomach. The cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	11/10/14	11/9/12	2.0	M	W	Childcare Provider- Unregulated	71	F	W	No	The childcare provider was subject to licensure. The cause of death was determined to be SUID, associated with tracheobronchitis, with para influenza virus type 3 and adenovirus. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Spotsylvania	11/11/14	10/20/14	0.1	F	AA	Mother	22	F	AA	No	Child died while co-sleeping with the mother. The cause of death was asphyxiation due to overlay. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Lynchburg	11/14/14	8/7/12	2.3	F	AA	Father Father's Paramour	43 24	M F	AA AA	Yes	Child died from accidental hanging from bunk bed. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Orange	11/24/14	9/23/14	0.2	F	W	Family Friend	40	F	Unk	Yes	Child died while sleeping in a car seat. The cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fairfax	11/24/14	6/16/14	0.4	F	W	Mother	19	F	W	No	Child found unresponsive on a bed with twin sibling. The cause of death was inconclusive. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Norfolk	11/27/14	9/6/14	0.2	M	AA	Mother Aunt	23 47	F F	AA AA	Yes	Child found unresponsive co-sleeping in bed with a relative. Cause of death was accidental suffocation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Portsmouth	12/7/14	9/25/14	0.2	M	AA	Mother	22	F	AA	No	Child found unresponsive sleeping in a crib. The cause of death was determined to be SUID, associated with soft bedding and prone sleep position. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Prince William	12/9/14	8/10/11	3.3	M	AA	Unkown	Unk	Unk	Unk	No	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Alleged Abuser(s)	Age	Sex	Race	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death)
Newport News	12/17/14	7/18/03	11.4	M	W	Mother Father	41 41	F M	W W	No	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Franklin	12/20/14	9/26/14	0.2	M	AA	Father	29	M	AA	No	Child died while co-sleeping with the father. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Grayson	1/5/15	10/15/14	0.2	M	Multi	Mother	22	F	Multi	No	Child died from accidental asphyxia while co-sleeping with the mother. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Prince William	1/25/15	11/4/14	0.2	F	W	Mother	23	F	W	No	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Loudoun	1/29/15	10/19/14	0.3	F	A	Mother	30	F	A	No	Child found unresponsive in a crib. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	2/8/15	1/5/15	0.1	M	AA	Mother	25	F	AA	No	Child found unresponsive on a futon. The cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Northumberland	2/11/15	6/19/13	1.6	F	W	Father	25	M	W	No	Child died in a house fire. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	2/14/15	6/20/14	0.7	M	W	Mother	32	F	W	Yes	Child died in a house fire. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	2/17/15	1/22/15	0.1	M	W	Mother Father	32 32	F M	W W	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother and father in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID associated with meconium aspiration, pneumonitis, and co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	2/20/15	1/18/15	0.1	M	AA	Mother	21	F	AA	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with the mother. Cause of death was asphyxiation due to unsafe sleeping and bedding. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
York	2/27/15	12/7/14	0.2	M	W	Mother Father	30 28	F M	W W	Yes	The child died while sleeping on an adult bed. The cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Alleged Abuser(s)	Age	Sex	Race	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death)
Hampton	3/7/15	12/17/14	0.2	M	Multi	Mother	22	F	Unk	Yes	Child died while co-sleeping with the mother. The cause of death was SUID associated with co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Spotsylvania	3/7/15	11/5/05	9.3	F	W	Mother Father	26 29	F M	W W	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
York	3/8/15	8/7/02	12.6	M	AA	Unkown	unk	Unk	Unk	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	3/15/15	7/23/14	0.6	F	AA	Mother	19	F	AA	No	Child died after being put to sleep on an adult bed. The cause of death was SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	3/15/15	8/10/12	2.6	M	W	Father	32	M	W	No	Child drowned in the family pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	3/22/15	2/11/15	0.1	M	Multi	Mother Father	29 33	F M	W W	Yes	Child died of natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Gloucester	3/25/15	3/19/15	0.0	M	AA	Mother	23	F	AA	No	Child died due to suffocation while breastfeeding. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Henry	4/3/15	12/10/14	0.3	M	Multi	Father	19	M	AA	No	Child died of natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Norfolk	4/9/15	1/13/15	0.2	M	AA	Mother	19	F	AA	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother and sibling in an adult bed. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	4/12/15	12/21/14	0.3	F	AA	Mother Father	21 23	F M	AA AA	No	Child found unresponsive on an adult bed. The home environment was found to be unsafe, but not the cause of death. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	4/13/15	8/27/14	0.6	F	AA	Mother Father	16 20	F M	AA AA	No	Child found unresponsive sleeping in an adult bed. The cause of death was SUID associated with Pulmonary Hemosiderosis. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Alleged Abuser(s)	Age	Sex	Race	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death)
Prince George	4/21/15	1/25/15	0.2	F	W	Mother	34	F	W	No	Child died of natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Botetourt	4/23/15	1/9/15	0.3	F	W	Mother	21	F	W	No	Child found unresponsive in a pack and play. Cause of death was determined to be SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Accomack	5/5/15	3/28/12	3.1	M	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	21 33	F M	W W	No	Child died from traumatic injuries caused by an uncle in Maryland. The abuse did not occur in Virginia and therefore is considered unfounded in Virginia due to lack of jurisdiction.
Fairfax	5/9/15	1/17/15	0.3	M	W	Mother	24	F	W	No	Child found unresponsive while sleeping in a portable crib. Cause of death was Positional Asphyxiation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Portsmouth	5/16/15	1/8/15	0.4	M	AA	Mother	28	F	AA	Yes	Child was found unresponsive while sleeping in a bed with other children. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	5/17/15	4/20/09	6.1	F	W	Mother	32	F	W	Yes	Child died from accidental strangulation while playing a game with a scarf. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Henrico	5/20/15	8/2/14	0.8	M	AA	Childcare Provider- Unregulated	49	F	Unk	No	Child found unresponsive on stomach in a pack and play. The unregulated child care provider was subject to licensure. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Suffolk	5/24/15	3/23/15	0.2	F	AA	Mother	26	F	AA	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a bassinet. Cause of death was SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface and prone position. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Waynesboro	5/24/15	6/3/14	1.0	F	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	24 24	F M	W W	Yes	Child was found unresponsive sleeping. The cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Albemarle	5/25/15	6/8/12	3.0	M	W	Father	36	M	W	No	Child accidentally drown in the family pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Danville	5/30/15	4/29/15	0.1	F	W	Mother Father	27 30	F M	W W	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping in an infant swing. The cause of death was SUID associated with an unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Alleged Abuser(s)	Age	Sex	Race	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death)
Virginia Beach	5/31/15	10/1/08	6.7	F	AA	Mother	26	F	AA	No	Child drown in the family pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Wise	6/2/15	3/11/15	0.2	M	W	Mother Father	42 43	F M	W W	Yes	Child died of natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Augusta	6/11/15	12/23/14	0.5	M	W	Mother	23	F	W	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping in an adult bed. Cause of death was ruled accidental asphyxia via overlaying. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	6/17/15	3/19/15	0.2	F	W	Mother Father	17 20	F M	W W	No	Child died while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface, prematurity and co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
York	6/21/15	12/9/13	1.5	M	W	Mother	37	F	W	No	Child died of natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Campbell	6/26/15	4/3/15	0.2	F	W	Unkown	unk	Unk	Unk	No	Child found unresponsive face down in a crib. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Winchester	6/29/15	2/12/15	0.4	M	W	Mother Father	26 29	F M	W W	Yes	Child died while sleeping in a pack-n-play. The cause of death was SUID associated with unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.