

**REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS
DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009**

Prepared by:
Child Protective Services Program
Virginia Department of Social Services
January 2010

REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2008

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
CHILD DEATHS	1
<i>Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality</i>	
<i>Table 2: Death Rate of Children Due to Abuse or Neglect</i>	
<i>Chart 1: Child Deaths in Virginia, by Suspected and Founded Maltreatment</i>	
<i>Chart 2: Rates of Child Deaths Due to Abuse and Neglect</i>	
<i>Chart 3: Rates of Founded Maltreatment Deaths by Region, SFY 2001-2009</i>	
<i>Table 3: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age</i>	
<i>Table 4: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race</i>	
<i>Table 5: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender</i>	
CARETAKERS	7
<i>Table 6: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect</i>	
<i>Table 7: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Race</i>	
<i>Table 8: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Gender</i>	
<i>Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Age</i>	
TYPES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT	9
<i>Table 10: Types of Abuse in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect</i>	
<i>Table 11: Type of Neglect in Child Deaths</i>	
<i>Table 12: Type of Abuse in Child Deaths</i>	
FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM	11
<i>Table 13: Prior Abuse and/or Neglect in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect</i>	
CHILD DEATH PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS	12
APPENDIX: Table of Cases	14

REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of Child Protective Services (CPS) is to provide a specialized continuum of services to protect children from abuse, neglect, or exploitation, to preserve families whenever possible, and to prevent further maltreatment. Every valid report of abuse or neglect must be responded to by either a family assessment or an investigation. Family assessments are the preferred response when a child is not in immediate danger and when the alleged abuse or neglect is less severe. Family assessments include developing child safety and family service plans to remedy maltreatment and/or prevent risk of future maltreatment. Investigations are conducted when there are immediate concerns about child safety, there may be a prior history of child abuse or neglect, and/or the reported allegation is severe. Valid reports involving a child fatality are investigated. Investigations include safety, dispositional, and risk assessments. The disposition in an investigation may be founded or unfounded. Founded complaints mean that a preponderance of the evidence shows that child maltreatment has occurred. The determination is to be based primarily upon “first source,” or direct, evidence. Unfounded complaints mean the evidence is insufficient to warrant a disposition of “founded.”

- Local departments of social services investigated 72 reports of child deaths suspected to be caused by child maltreatment for state fiscal year (SFY) 2009. This is a decrease of 2 reports from SFY 2008.
- Reports were founded for 34 children, one fewer founded child abuse fatality than in SFY 2008. There were 36 reports that were unfounded. One report is still pending; one is on appeal.
- The children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect ranged in age from birth through 14 years. Of the 34 children who died from maltreatment, 28 (82.35 %) were birth through three years of age. This is consistent with national data and previous state data that have found young children to be the most vulnerable.
- Twenty-eight children died as victims of physical neglect; 16 children died as victims of physical abuse and one child died due to medical neglect. Some children were abused or neglected in more than one way and/or by more than one caretaker.
- Nineteen children died from lack of supervision; six children died from shaking injuries; six drowned due to lack of supervision and one drowned by physical abuse.
- Of the 47 caretakers in founded investigations, 32% were mothers, 30% were fathers and 4% were stepparents. This total of 66% is slightly below previous state data that found that parent(s) were responsible for about 80% of child maltreatment deaths. There was an increase in the number of “other” caretakers to include mother’s adult cousin, daughter

of victim's godmother, and father of mother's paramour. This also includes the fact that four abusers were unknown because multiple caretakers had access to the victim.

- Of the 47 caretakers found responsible for the 34 child deaths, 22 were women and 21 were men. The gender of four caretakers was unknown because the abuser could not be determined. This is similar to the national data that have found more female than male perpetrators.
- Twenty-nine (61.7 %) of the 47 perpetrators were between the ages of 20 and 29. These data are similar to national data and previous state data that confirm most caretakers to be young adults in their mid-twenties.
- The families of 12 children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect were known to the child welfare system in some capacity.

**REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS
DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009**

CHILD DEATHS

**Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality
SFY 2009**

Local Department	Founded	Unfounded	Pending/Appealed	Total
Albemarle	1	0	0	1
Arlington	0	1	0	1
Bedford Co.	1	0	0	1
Bristol	0	1	0	1
Buchanan	0	2	0	2
Campbell	0	1	0	1
Chesapeake	1	4	0	5
Chesterfield	1	0	0	1
Fairfax Co.	1	0	0	1
Floyd	0	1	0	1
Fluvanna	1	0	0	1
Franklin Co.	1	2	0	3
Hampton	1	1	0	2
Henrico	2	0	0	2
Henry	0	1	0	1
Isle Of Wight	1	0	0	1
James City	1	0	0	1
Loudon	0	0	1	1
Manassas	0	1	0	1
Mecklenburg	0	1	0	1
Newport News	1	3	0	4
Norfolk	5	3	0	8
Petersburg	0	1	0	1
Portsmouth	0	3	0	3
Prince George	1	0	0	1
Prince William	2	1	0	3
Richmond	2	2	1	5
Roanoke	3	0	0	3
Roanoke Co.	1	0	0	1
Scott	1	0	0	1
Smyth	1	0	0	1
Stafford	0	1	0	1
Suffolk	1	0	0	1
Sussex	1	0	0	1
Virginia Beach	2	5	0	7
Washington	1	0	0	1
York	0	1	0	1
Total	34	36	2	72

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

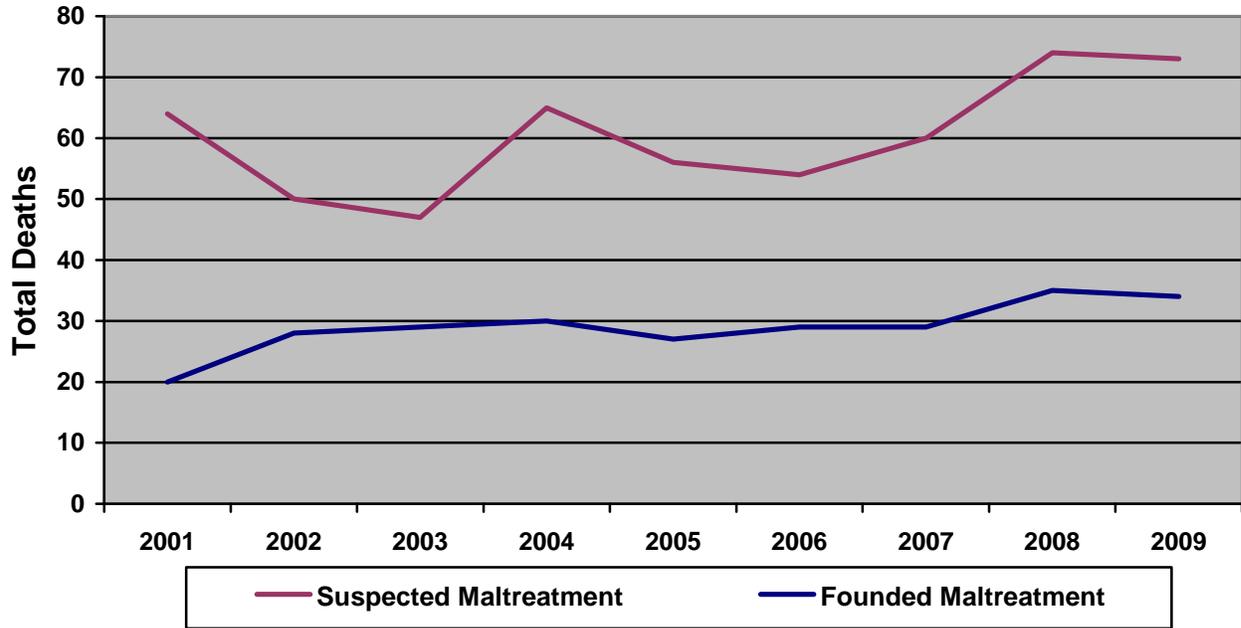
**Table 2: Death Rate of Children Due to Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2001 – SFY 2009**

State Fiscal Year	Number of Death Reports Investigated	Number of Deaths Due to Abuse/Neglect	Death Rate (per 100,000 children)¹
2001	64	20	1.02
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

¹Death rate is calculated as number of deaths due to abuse/neglect divided by the state child population
Sources: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010; Census State Population Estimates

The number of children who died as the result of child maltreatment decreased from SFY 2008 to SFY 2009. In SFY 2009, the child death rate due to abuse or neglect decreased to 1.66 from 1.71 in SFY 2008. The data indicates an increase in the child death rate from 1.02 in SFY 2001 to 1.66 in SFY 2009.

Chart 1: Child Deaths in Virginia, by Suspected and Founded Maltreatment, Annually, SFY 2001-2009

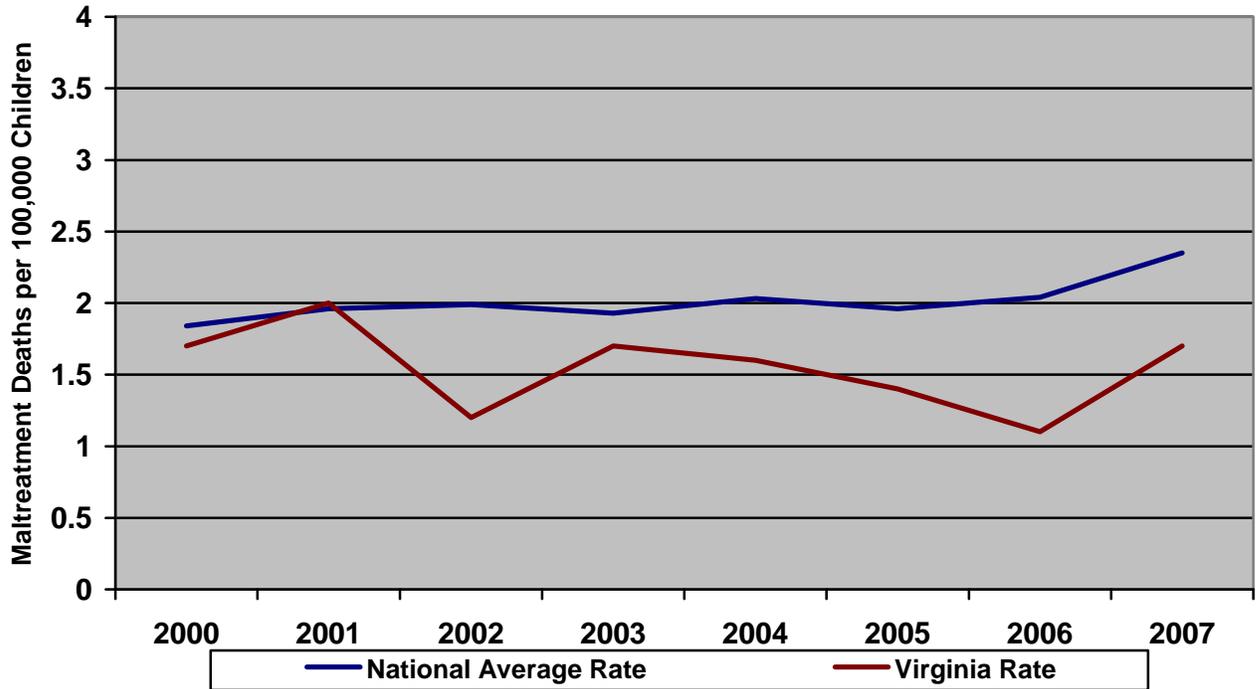


Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, December 2009

The graph above presents the number of child death reports that were investigated and the number of deaths that were a result of founded abuse or neglect. In SFY 2009, the number of child deaths due to abuse or neglect (the bottom line of the graph) increased after a period of stability between SFY 2002 and SFY 2007 and appears to now be leveling off. The number of reports of child deaths (the top line in the graph) has fluctuated since SFY 2001 but has increased between SFY 2006 and SFY 2008.

Comparison of Child Deaths Due to Abuse and Neglect to National Data

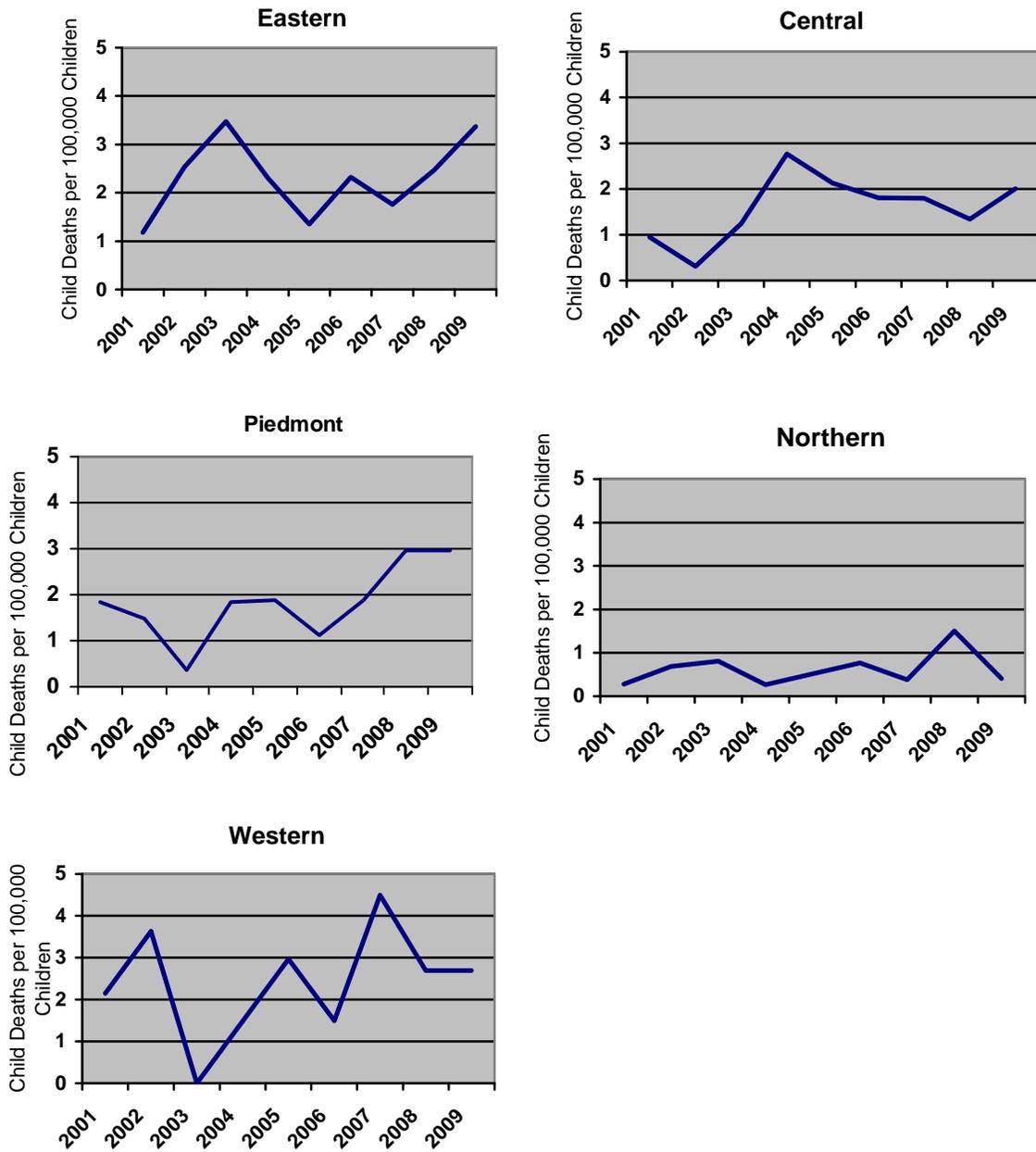
Chart 2: Rates of Child Deaths Due to Abuse and Neglect, 2000-2007



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

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) 2007 data documents that Virginia's rate of founded child maltreatment deaths has been slightly lower than the national average over the past eight years. Virginia's rate appears to have declined slightly over time, however both the Virginia rate and the national rate increased from 2006 to 2007. In 2007 (the most recent national data), the Virginia rate was 1.70 against a national rate of 2.35 per 100,000 children.

Chart 3: Rates of Founded Maltreatment Deaths by Region, SFY 2001-2009



Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010 and United States Census Bureau Population Estimates Retrieved January 29, 2010 from:

<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/CC-EST2008-agesex.html>

In SFY 2009, the Eastern region area had 15 child deaths and the Northern region had three deaths. The Piedmont region had seven deaths and the Central region had six child deaths. There were three child deaths in the Western region.

Since FY 2001, the *number* of child deaths due to founded maltreatment has been highest in the Eastern region, an average of 11 deaths per year compared to three deaths per year in the Western region. This is partly because the Eastern region is relatively populous. However,

over the past nine years displayed, the *rate* of child deaths due to founded maltreatment has been highest in the Western region for a majority of those years. In other words, adjusting for population, the Western region has the highest death rate due to founded maltreatment. The Northern region has had the lowest death rate. Keep in mind that these comparisons across regions are based on small numbers.

**Table 3: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age
SFY 2007 - 2009**

Age Category	State Fiscal Year 2007		State Fiscal Year 2008		State Fiscal Year 2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Birth to 12 months	15	51.7	12	34.3	20	58.8
13 months to 3 years	8	27.6	11	31.4	8	23.5
4 to 7 years	5	17.2	5	14.3	4	11.8
8 to 12 years	0	0.0	4	11.4	1	2.9
13 years and over	1	3.5	3	8.6	1	2.9
Total	29	100.0	35	100.0	34	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

Children who died from child maltreatment in SFY 2009 ranged in age from birth through 14 years. Of the 34 children who died from child maltreatment, 20 (58.8 %) were less than one year of age. This is consistent with national data that have found young children to be the most vulnerable and is an increase from past state data. The one child over the age of 13 died from drowning inflicted by her mother.

**Table 4: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race
SFY 2007 - 2009**

Race	State Fiscal Year 2007		State Fiscal Year 2008		State Fiscal Year 2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Black	10	34.5	10	28.6	15	44.1
White	15	51.7	21	60.0	13	38.2
Multi-racial	3	10.3	4	11.4	6	17.6
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	29	100.0	35	100.0	34	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

In SFY 2009, 15 children who died as a result of child maltreatment were African-American, 13 children were white, and six children were multi-racial. Between SFY 2007 and 2008, more white children died as a result of child abuse or neglect than African-American children. This is the first year that the number of African American children who died as a result of abuse/neglect is higher than white children. However, the rate of child deaths due to child abuse or neglect has been consistently higher among African-American children than among white children, which is reflected in the 2009 data. This is consistent with national data that shows African-American children to be over-represented in child deaths due to child maltreatment.

**Table 5: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender
FY 2007 - 2009**

Gender	State Fiscal Year 2007		State Fiscal Year 2008		State Fiscal Year 2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	7	24.1	17	48.6	20	58.8
Male	22	75.9	18	51.4	14	41.2
Total	29	100.0	35	100.0	34	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

In SFY 2009, there were 20 (58.8%) females and 14 (41.2 %) males who died due to abuse or neglect. This compares to 17 females (48.6 %) and 18 (51.4 %) males in SFY 2008 who died from abuse or neglect. Virginia’s data for SFY 2009 varies from national data and previous state data that found males to have a higher rate of child maltreatment fatalities than females.

CARETAKERS

**Table 6: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2007 - 2009**

Caretaker Type	State Fiscal Year 2007		State Fiscal Year 2008		State Fiscal Year 2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mother	21	55.3	18	40.0	15	31.9
Father	10	26.3	18	40.0	14	29.8
Stepparent	1	2.6	0	0.0	2	4.2
Grandparent	0	0.0	1	2.2	4	8.5
Aunt	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Uncle	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.1
Cousin	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Paramour	3	7.9	3	6.7	2	4.2
Babysitter	2	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Group Home Staff	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Daycare Provider	1	2.6	3	6.7	2	4.2
Other	0	0.0	2	4.4	7	14.9
Total Caretakers	38	100.0	45	100.0	47	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

Local departments of social services found 47 caretakers to be responsible for the deaths of 34 children due to child abuse/neglect in SFY 2009. Some victims were abused by more than one caretaker.

Most caretakers were related to the victim or resided with the victim. Out of the 47 caretakers, 31 (66.0%) were biological, adoptive or stepparents parents. This is less than SFY 2008 that found 80.0% of caretakers to be parents of the child victim.

Two of the 47 (4.2%) caretakers were out of family providers. This is a decrease from SFY 2008 that found 6.7% of all caretakers were in out of family settings.

Two caretakers (4.2%) were the mother’s paramour. This is one less than the number of paramours in SFY 2008.

There was an increase in the number of other caretakers identified in SFY 2009. The relationship of other caretakers includes the following: mother’s adult cousin, daughter of victim’s godmother, and father of mother’s paramour. This also includes four abusers were unknown due to the fact that multiple caretakers had access to the victim.

**Table 7: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Race
SFY 2007 and 2009**

Race	State Fiscal Year 2007		State Fiscal Year 2008		State Fiscal Year 2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Black	10	26.3	17	37.8	24	51.1
White	25	65.8	27	60.0	19	40.4
Multi-racial	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	1	2.6	1	2.2	4	8.5
Total Caretakers	38	100.0	45	100.0	47	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

In SFY 2009, 24 (51.1 %) caretakers were African-American, and 19 (40.4 %) were white. The race of four (8.5%) caretakers was unknown due to the fact that the abuser was unknown as multiple caretakers had access to the victim. This is a large increase in the number of African-American caretakers from SFY 2008.

**Table 8: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Gender
SFY 2007 - 2009**

Gender	Fiscal Year 2007		Fiscal Year 2008		Fiscal Year 2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	22	57.9	24	53.3	22	46.8
Male	16	42.1	20	44.4	21	44.7
Unknown	0	0.0	1	2.2	4	8.5
Total Caretakers	38	100.0	45	100.0	47	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

In SFY 2009, of the 47 caretakers found to be responsible for child deaths there were 22 females and 21 males. The gender of four caretakers was unknown due to the fact that the abuser was unknown as multiple caretakers had access to the victim. This is similar to the gender of caretakers in previous state data that finds more female than male caretakers responsible for child deaths.

**Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Age
SFY 2009**

Age Category	Number of Caretakers	Percent
Under 20 years	3	6.4
20 to 29 years	29	61.7
30 to 39 years	4	8.5
40 to 49 years	2	4.3
50 or older	3	6.4
60 or older	2	4.3
Unknown	4	8.5
Total	47	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

Twenty-nine (61.7%) of the 47 perpetrators were between the ages of 20 and 29. These data are similar to national data and previous state data that confirm most caretakers to be young adults in their mid-twenties.

TYPES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

**Table 10: Types of Abuse in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2009**

Abuse Type	Number of Children	Percent
Medical Neglect	1	2.2
Physical Neglect	28	62.2
Physical Abuse	16	35.6
Total Incident Count¹	45	100.0

¹Duplicated count because some children experienced more than one type of neglect or abuse;

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

In SFY 2009, 34 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. Twenty-eight (62.2%) children died due to physical neglect. Sixteen (35.6%) children died from physical abuse and 1 (2.2%) child died as a result of medical neglect. This data is consistent with national data that shows physical neglect is responsible for most child deaths.

**Table 11: Type of Neglect in Child Deaths
SFY 2007 and 2009**

Type of Neglect	State Fiscal Year 2007		State Fiscal Year 2008		State Fiscal Year 2009	
	Number of Children	Percent	Number of Children	Percent	Number of Children	Percent
Abandonment	2	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Drowning	1	4.1	1	3.6	6	20.7
Inadequate or dangerous shelter	1	4.1	2	7.1	0	0.0
Lack of supervision	13	54.1	15	53.6	19	65.5
Other	2	8.3	5	17.9	2	6.9
Medical Neglect	5	20.8	3	10.7	1	3.4
Malnutrition	0	0.0	1	3.6	1	3.4
Gunshot	0	0.0	1	3.6	0	0.0
Total children ¹	24	100.0	28	100.0	29	100.0

¹Duplicated count because some children experienced more than one type of neglect or abuse;
Count of children by type of neglect includes medical neglect – this type is broken out in Table 10 above
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

The most prevalent type of neglect is lack of supervision. Nineteen (65.5%) children died from this type of neglect. Examples of deaths that occurred from lack of supervision include six children who drowned in the tub or pool when left unattended or inadequately supervised. There were five deaths from inadequate supervision related to unsafe sleeping arrangements and one from a child left unattended in a car seat by an unregulated child care provider. Two victims were shot by another child who had access to a gun while not adequately supervised. Four victims had unexplained injuries while inadequately supervised, and two victims were deprived of food and/or water while unsupervised. Of the “other” victims from Table 11, one died in a car wreck when father was driving under the influence and another died from an intoxicated caretaker laying on the child.

**Table 12: Type of Abuse in Child Deaths
SFY 2007 and 2009**

Type of Physical Abuse	FY 2007		FY 2008		FY 2009	
	Number of Children	Percent	Number of Children	Percent	Number of Children	Percent
Asphyxiation	2	15.3	0	0.0	1	6.3
Battered child syndrome	1	7.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bone Fracture	0	0.0	1	5.6	2	12.5
Bruises	1	7.6	2	11.1	2	12.5
Drowning	0	0.0	2	11.1	1	6.3
Gunshot	0	0.0	4	22.2	0	0.0
Poisoning	2	15.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Shaking	1	7.6	8	44.4	6	37.5
Stabbing	1	7.6	0	0.0	2	12.5
Other or Unspecified Type	5	38.5	1	5.6	2	12.5
Total children ¹	13	100.0	18	100.0	16	100.0

¹Duplicated count because some children experienced more than one type of neglect or abuse

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

In SFY 2009, 16 children died as a result of at least one type of abuse. Some children were neglected or abused in more than one way. Six (37.5%) children died from injuries caused by shaking. The “other” type of physical abuse included one victim who had blunt force trauma to the torso and another victim who had a head trauma.

FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Compared to families and caretakers with no previous child welfare involvement, families and caretakers previously known to the child welfare system were more likely to have been abused as a child, been in foster care or other out of home setting. Research substantiates that these factors are associated with child abuse and neglect.

**Table 13: Prior Abuse and/or Neglect in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2009**

Prior Abuse/Neglect	Number	Percent
Yes	12	35.3
No	22	64.7
Unknown	0	0.0
Total	34	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2010

There were 12 families with prior or current child welfare or Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement in the founded fatality investigations for SFY 2009. Three children died during an open investigation or family assessment. During the course of one open family assessment with no prior history of abuse, a child died of shaking injuries from an unknown abuser as the child had contact with several caretakers. One child died during the course of an open investigation with a prior history of one unfounded abuse investigation, three prior family assessments, and nine screened out reports. The family had been receiving post-adoption services. One fatality occurred from shaking injuries and medical neglect during a pending investigation of the parents for physical abuse of a sibling who was hospitalized. The victim was being cared for by an uncle during the pending abuse investigation on parents. The prior history of CPS involvement varied among the other nine cases ranging from screened out referrals to founded complaints. One caretaker had an unfounded complaint, while another family had a screened out referral. One victim had been removed and placed in foster care at birth due to the mother’s termination of parental rights on other children. This child died while in the care of an unregulated caretaker. Three children died having had prior family assessments on either the victim or a sibling. Two fatalities occurred with the caretaker having a founded investigation for abuse of a sibling. Another victim had been the subject of a substance exposed infant report.

These cases, where the child was known to the child welfare system in some way, are the most devastating. Local agency CPS workers make a safety and risk assessment based on the information they have gathered at the time. It is almost impossible to determine if any of these deaths could have been prevented.

CHILD DEATH PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

The Child Abuse Prevention Month Symposium “Building Strong Families, Growing Great Kids” was held April 24, 2009 in Richmond, Virginia with approximately 135 people in attendance. The symposium addressed linkages between local, state, and federal child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives with the Children’s Services Transformation. This symposium was a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Social Services and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia in partnership with the Governor’s Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Family and Children’s Trust Fund (FACT), the Child Abuse Prevention Committee (CAPC) and the Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention.

The Virginia Department of Social Services collaborated with Prevent Child Abuse Virginia in the development and distribution of approximately 2,200 prevention packets for the April Child Abuse Prevention Month public awareness campaign and observance. An additional fifteen agencies were partners in the Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention. The observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month provides an opportunity for communities to focus attention on child maltreatment and how individuals and communities can work to prevent abuse and neglect.

CPS Prevention Staff provided ongoing grant management for 39 Healthy Families (HF) programs funded by the General Assembly and 23 prevention programs funded through the Community-Based Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CBCAP) program and the Virginia Family Violence Prevention Program (VFP) Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention funding streams. 5,161 families were served by the Healthy Families grants and 1,585 families were served by the CBCAP and VFP Child Abuse Prevention grants during SFY 2009.

The Child Abuse Prevention Committee (CAPC) continued to work on activities related to the nine strategies of the Blue Ribbon Plan for Child Abuse Prevention. CAPC is supporting the effort to launch a pilot project to prevent Inflicted Traumatic Brain Injury. Dr. Michelle Clayton, CAPC Chairperson, is working through Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters and has been seeking grant funding for the project.

The Virginia Department of Health Division of Injury and Violence Prevention (DIVP) launched the media campaign “Give ’Em a Boost” with television and radio public service announcements about the importance of using booster seats. DIVP partners with local organizations to reduce preventable injuries in high risk communities. In SFY2009 several of the prevention programs funded dealt with safe sleeping practices and the prevention of suffocation, drowning and poisoning among children.

The Hampton Roads Child Fatality Review Team meets monthly to review all child fatalities in the eastern region referred for Child Protective Service investigation. This team also evaluates trends of fatalities with the intent to target prevention efforts with the local health departments and Children’s Hospital of the King’ Daughters.

The Virginia Department of Social Services is planning to move forward with implementation of Structured Decision Making (SDM) along the CPS continuum. SDM is a key practice that supports the Virginia Children's Services Practice Model and has been piloted by 30 to 50 local departments of social services since 2004. SDM is a process that uses a set of research and evidence based assessment tools to help caseworkers make appropriate decisions at key stages in the child welfare process. SDM is designed to increase consistency of casework decisions and improve the validity of those decisions, thereby better protecting children from harm. The Virginia Department of Social Services is developing a training plan to implement SDM assessment tools. SDM is a practice that compliments child welfare transformation.

The next review of the State Child Fatality Team will focus on deaths to infants that are likely related to unsafe sleeping arrangements. These include three categories of medical examiner cases among infant deaths: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome cases; Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths; and Unintentional Injury Deaths. The Team will review all of the 2009 deaths that fall into any of these three categories. The Team's findings and recommendations will then be used by Virginia's Regional Perinatal Councils which provide maternal and child health services around the Commonwealth.

APPENDIX

Table of Cases

Report On Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2009
APPENDIX: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Agency	Sex	Race	Age at Death	Date of Death	Date of Complaint	Abuser Relation to Child	Age	Sex	Race	Type Abuse/Neglect Resulting in Death	Disposition	Criminal Justice Involvement	Prior CPS or Other Child Welfare Involvement	Summary
Norfolk	Female	White	9 months	7/2/2008	7/2/2008	Father	23	Male	White	Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	No	Father put child in tub for bath and father fell asleep. Mother was asleep at the time and later found child had drowned in tub. Father charged with felony child neglect.
Norfolk	Female	Black	3 years, 1 month	7/7/2008	7/7/2008	Mother Other	23 20	Female Male	Black Black	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Founded	No	No	Child was asleep in recliner, and father was asleep upstairs. As mother was leaving, mother's cousin entered intoxicated. When mother returned, cousin was face down in recliner on top of child who was unresponsive. Child was pronounced dead at scene.
Richmond	Male	Black	1 year, 5 months	7/24/2008	7/24/2008	Mother's paramour Mother	23 23	Male Female	Black Black	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	Yes. Prior CPS report involving sibling was screened out.	Child left in care of mother's paramour while she went to work. Child was reported to have fallen down steps and was unresponsive. Cause of death was blunt force trauma to torso inconsistent with fall as reported, and child had old and healing injuries. Paramour found guilty of 2nd degree murder.
Smyth	Female	White	1 year	7/27/2008	7/26/2008	Father	26	Male	White	Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	No	Child taken to ER with severe head injuries and bruises on face. Father confessed to shaking child and slamming her to the ground. Father charged with 1st degree murder.
James City	Male	Black	7 years, 7 months	8/7/2008	8/7/2008	Other	24	Female	Black	Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	No	Caretaker allowed victim to go to another pool alone while she stayed behind to watch her own children. Family was vacationing from NJ. Child drowned due to lack of supervision.
Richmond	Female	Black	3 years, 7 months	8/13/2008	8/13/2008	Grandmother	40	Female	Black	Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	No	Grandmother left three children alone with adult with severe dementia. Ten year old found gun and shot victim in head. Grandmother charged with felony neglect.
Hampton	Female	Black	1 month	8/21/2008	39681	Mother	23	Female	Black	Physical Neglect	Founded	No	No	Baby found wedged in sofa unresponsive. Mother admitted to concerns about child co-sleeping on sofa with another teenager in home and was fully aware of risk but didn't alter sleeping arrangements.
Albemarle	Male	White	6 months	8/27/2008	10/20/2008	Other		Unknown	Unknown	Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	Yes. Family assessment regarding neglect was closed as high risk with no services needed a week prior to fatality.	Child was fed and put to sleep in crib in closet of parents' room. Parents report finding baby not breathing. Rescue called but baby could not be revived. Preliminary autopsy indicated head trauma and healing broken ribs.
Norfolk	Female	Black	4 years, 1 month	8/31/2008	9/2/2008	Mother Mother's Paramour Other	26 29 52	Female Male Male	Black Black Black	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	Yes. Family Assessment from 2007 alleged physical abuse by mom and paramour-child not in home at time. Investigation in 2002 founded for physical abuse involving mother and another child who was placed with grandmother.	Mother reported child missing on 8/31/08. Victim was later found in parents' closet under a pile of clothes. Child died from deprivation of food and water with indications of blunt force trauma.
Bedford Co.	Female	White	9 months	9/4/2008	9/3/2008	Other	unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Physical Abuse	Founded	No	Yes. Family Assessment open on 8/7/08 for physical abuse. Nothing noted during FA that child was at risk.	While caring for child, mother's paramour called 911 as child was lifeless. ER Doctor indicated child had signs of a traumatic shaken baby event and later died. Abuser is unknown as at least two caretakers had access. Child had visitation between mother and father on alternating weeks.
Norfolk	Female	Black	12 years, 10 months	9/21/2008	9/21/2008	Stepparent	26	Male	Black	Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	No	Mother came home to find daughter on floor stabbed to death. Stepparent was charged with murder after admitting he stabbed child and raped her.
Sussex	Male	Black	5 months	9/25/2008	9/25/2008	Child care worker - unreg	67	Female	Black	Physical Neglect	Founded	Unknown	Yes. Child removed from birth parent who had rights terminated for other children.	Foster mother's mother was babysitting child while foster mother attended a funeral. Child suffocated while sleeping on adult bed(no crib in home)with pillows, blankets and dry cleaning plastic bag.
Fluvanna	Female	Multi-racial	6 months	10/8/2008	10/5/2008	Father	23	Male	Black	Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	Yes. Prior unfounded complaint of physical abuse of child.	Child admitted to hospital for diffuse brain swelling and died 3 days later. Injuries were consistent with Shaken Baby Syndrome/Traumatic Inflicted Brain Injury. Father confessed to police.
Roanoke	Male	Black	5 months	10/10/2008	9/28/2008	Mother	20	Female	Black	Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	No	Child sustained injuries indicative of Shaken Baby Syndrome while in care of the mother who reported that child fell off couch. Child had multiple subdural hematomas and retinal hemorrhages and died of complications from blunt force injury to the head.
Suffolk	Female	Black	11 months	12/1/2008	12/1/2008	Father Mother	25	Male	Black	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	No	Parents found child in crib unresponsive and had not checked on child for several hours. Home conditions were unsafe and unsanitary, posing health threat. Preliminary ME assessment was death from starvation. Both parents charged with murder.

Report On Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2009
APPENDIX: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Agency	Sex	Race	Age at Death	Date of Death	Date of Complaint	Abuser Relation to Child	Age	Sex	Race	Type Abuse/Neglect Resulting in Death	Disposition	Criminal Justice Involvement	Prior CPS or Other Child Welfare Involvement	Summary
Prince William	Female	Black	13 years, 10 months	1/9/2009	1/14/2009	Mother	44					Yes	Yes. Child entered foster care in January 1999. Dating back to 2004 there were 9 reports screened out as invalid, 4 family assessments for issues of physical abuse and neglect, and 3 investigations for physical abuse. Adoptive family was receiving ongoing post adoption services through 2008.	On 1/9/09 child was reported missing. Child's body was found a few days later in a creek 8 miles away. Later, mother stated that she overdosed child by giving her Tylenol with codeine, and when child was unresponsive, mother dumped child's body in the creek. Child drowned.
Washington	Female	White	3 months	1/21/2009	1/21/2009	Father Mother	20	Female	Black	Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	No	Parents admitted to leaving child alone for 4 hrs. Child had been fed, laid on stomach and covered up on parents' bed. Parents admitted to taking the car seat so the friend, who was asleep on couch, would think baby not there. They returned to find the child not breathing. There were medical indicators of asphyxiation. Parents were charged with felony neglect.
Henrico	Male	Black	2 years, 10 months	1/26/2009	1/25/2009	Grandmother	57					Yes	Yes. Prior family assessment completed for physical abuse.	Child was in the physical care of the grandmother while mother was at work. Child and siblings found rifle in yard and report that grandmother told them to put it under the bed. Victim child was shot in head with semi-automatic rifle. Suspicion that older sibling may have accidentally shot victim. It was reported that sibling and child were alone in the bedroom. Grandmother charged with felony child neglect.
Henrico	Male	White	5 months	1/28/2009	1/29/2009	Father Mother	30 24	Male Female	White White	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	No	Child died in car accident when father crashed into a tree. Father tested positive for amphetamines, benzodiazepines, cocaine and opiates. Parents both abused substances. Child died from blunt force trauma in car accident with father DUI.
Newport News	Female	White	7 months	2/4/2009	2/6/2009	Child care worker - unreg	37					Unknown	No	Child died while in care of unlicensed sitter who had 8 other children under age 3 in her care at the time. Sitter partially strapped child in car seat and left her unattended to return and find seat had flipped. Preliminary ME impression was strangulation on car seat lock.
Virginia Beach	Male	White	5 years, 10 months	2/10/2009	2/10/2009	Father	32	Male	White	Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	No	Father confessed to decapitating his son in presence of his wife (child's mother). He was arrested and charged with murder.
Franklin Co.	Female	Multi-racial	9 months	2/17/2009	2/13/2009	Mother Father	29 25	Female Male	White Black	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Founded	Unknown	No	Mother put infant and 3 year old sibling in the tub and left room. The father was in the other room. Mother returned to find the child had drowned. Father tested positive for marijuana and mom admitted she would too.
Norfolk	Male	Black	2 years	2/25/2009	2/26/2009	Mother	18	Female	Black	Physical Neglect	Founded	No	No	Mother put child in tub for bath and left room. When she returned she found him face down in tub. Grandmother lives in home and was in another room. Child drowned.
Roanoke	Female	Multi-racial	2 months	3/15/2009	3/15/2009	Mother Father	21 18	Female Male	White Black	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Founded	Unknown	Yes. There were 2 prior family assessments involving the mother and an older child.	Child taken to ER by rescue with initial concern of shaken baby. Autopsy revealed cause of death as blunt force injury to head and may have been consistent with reports of child being dropped or falling off bed. Child had been left unsupervised for periods of time around siblings, who reported hitting and sometimes dropping child. Domestic violence history in home.
Scott	Male	White	5 months	3/16/2009	39888	Father Mother	25 22	Male Female	White White	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	Founded	Yes	Yes. Founded investigation against father for physical abuse of another child.	Mother went to work leaving child with father. He confessed to placing his hand over child's mouth to stop child from crying. He then put pacifier in child's mouth, and placed child face down in bed with him. When he woke up child was dead. Father charged with 2nd degree murder.
Fairfax Co.	Male	Multi-racial	8 months	3/18/2009	39888	Father	38					Yes	No	Child admitted to hospital and underwent surgery due to bleeding on brain with retinal hemorrhaging. Father reported was he was in shower with child and as he was exiting shower, slipped & fell with child in his arms. Baby died 2 days later from injuries consistent with shaking. Father charged with murder.
Prince George	Female	White	1 year, 10 months	4/2/2009	3/31/2009	Mother	25	Female	White	Physical Abuse	Founded	Unknown	No	Mother reported child fell down steps. Child had old bruises to chin, forehead, left side of vaginal lip, in addition to a skull fracture. Cause of death was inflicted blunt force trauma.

Report On Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2009
APPENDIX: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Agency	Sex	Race	Age at Death	Date of Death	Date of Complaint	Abuser Relation to Child	Age	Sex	Race	Type Abuse/Neglect Resulting in Death	Disposition	Criminal Justice Involvement	Prior CPS or Other Child Welfare Involvement	Summary
Roanoke	Male	Multi-racial	3 months	5/3/2009	5/3/2009	Father	19					Unknown	No	Father took baby from mother's room, where there were appropriate sleeping arrangements, and fell asleep on the couch with child. Father woke up and found baby unresponsive under him. Rescue could not resuscitate.
Virginia Beach	Female	Black	11 months	5/5/2009	5/4/2009	Uncle Other	23 Unknown	Male	Black	Physical Neglect	Founded	Unknown	Yes. Family had one previous screened out report and one unfounded report of physical abuse of sibling. This fatality occurred during a pending investigation of the parents for physical abuse of sibling who was hospitalized. Fatality occurred as victim was being cared for by an uncle due to other pending abuse investigation on parents.	Child died from inflicted brain injury and blunt force trauma to the skull. Uncle admitted to not seeking medical treatment in timely manner. There were several caretakers who had access to child to cause shaking injuries.
Prince William	Male	White	3 years, 5 months	5/31/2009	5/30/2009	Grandfather	56	Male	White	Physical Neglect	Founded	No	No	Child drowned in pool while not adequately supervised by grandparent. CPR administered, but child died the next day.
Roanoke Co.	Female	Black	.4 months	6/2/2009	6/2/2009	Other	unknown					Unknown	No	Mother called 911 after finding child in distress. Child resuscitated by rescue and taken to ER where large hematoma was discovered on back of skull. Physician suspected child was mishandled, but caretakers who had access deny trauma. Child died in hospital about 4 hrs. after being operated on for brain bleed.
Isle Of Wight	Female	White	4 months	6/5/2009	6/5/2009	Mother Father	25 27	Female	White	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	Founded	No	No	While mother at work father said he left room to take shower and baby fell off couch. Child taken to ER with head injury. Doctor's report indicates bilateral retinal hemorrhages, multiple old and healing injuries. Child later died. Father changed story that he dropped the baby.
Chesapeake	Female	White	5 years, 5 months	6/10/2009	6/10/2009	Father Stepparent	24 21	Male	White	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	Founded	Yes	No	Child taken to hospital when found unresponsive. Child died from inflicted brain injury with nutritional neglect contributing. Parents charged with murder.
Chesterfield	Male	Multi-racial	2 years, 2 months	6/17/2009	6/17/2009	Grandmother	60					No	Yes. There is a prior family assessment for neglect of the victim's mother when she was a teenager. There is a prior family assessment with the victim born substance exposed.	Child left in care of great grandmother, and child was found floating on his side in family swimming pool. Child pronounced dead at hospital due to drowning.