

**PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS
IN VIRGINIA
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2016**

Prepared by:
Child Protective Services Program

March 2017



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
I. CHILD DEATHS	3
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	
II. CHILDREN	8
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	
III. CARETAKERS	9
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	
IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT	11
Table 13: Type of Neglect in Child Deaths	
Table 14: Type of Abuse in Child Deaths	
V. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM	13
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	
VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS	16
VII. APPENDICES	18
A. Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death	
B. Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death	

CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2016

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) 2016. This report demonstrates changes or trends from previous years. It also includes a synopsis of data for all child abuse or neglect fatalities for SFY 2016, including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators and households impacted by those fatalities. The information is used to evaluate and modify Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) policies, guidance, best practices 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 appendices. Appendix A provides details for investigations that resulted in a founded disposition; Appendix B provides details of investigations that resulted in unfounded dispositions. A founded disposition means that a preponderance of the evidence demonstrates 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 2016, the Regional Child Fatality Review Teams conducted reviews of all child deaths which occurred in SFY 2015. There are five regional teams throughout the state and they utilize a multidisciplinary approach in these reviews.

Preliminary Summary of Findings

In SFY 2016:

- LDSS investigated 129 child deaths suspected of being caused by child abuse or neglect.
- There were 46 children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect.
- There were 80 investigations that resulted in an unfounded disposition; three investigations were incomplete at the time of this report.
- Fifty-six LDSS conducted at least one child death investigation.
- The child death rate in Virginia decreased from 2.8 deaths per 100,000 children in SFY 2015 to 2.5 deaths per 100,000 children in SFY 2016 and is slightly higher than the national death rate of 2.3 deaths per 100,000 children.
- The Eastern Region investigated the most child deaths (53). However, the Western Region had the highest rate of death (6.3 deaths per 100,000 children).

- Children who died as a result of abuse or neglect ranged in age from birth to 12 years with more than 87% who were under the age of three.
- The race of the children who died as a result of abuse or neglect included: 45% who were White; 41% who were African American; 11% who were multi-racial and one was unknown.
- More male children (29) died from abuse or neglect than female children (17).
- Seventy caretakers were determined to be responsible for the death of 46 children.
- One caretaker was responsible for more than one child death.
- Thirty-five of the caretakers were female and 34 were male. Three were unknown.
- Fifty-three (76%) of the 70 caretakers were biological parents and 40 (57%) of them were less than 29 years of age.
- Twenty-three (50%) of the 46 child deaths involved physical neglect, 15 (32.6%) 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 seven households out of the 28 families who had other children in the home at the time of the child death.
- There were 45 households where child deaths were found to be caused by abuse or neglect; 24 families (53%) had prior involvement with child welfare.

I. CHILD DEATHS

Local departments of social services (LDSS) conducted 128 investigations involving 129 child deaths suspected of being caused by child maltreatment in SFY 2016. One investigation involved two children. LDSS determined that 46 children died as a result of child abuse or neglect; 80 children were in unfounded reports and three reports were pending at the time of this report.

The Eastern Region investigated the most reports (53) followed by Central (26), Northern (19), Piedmont (19), and Western (12).

**Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality
SFY 2016**

LDSS	Founded	Unfounded	Pending or Appealed	Total
Accomack		1		1
Alexandria	1			1
Arlington			1	1
Augusta	1			1
Bedford Co.		1		1
Buchanan	1			1
Charlotte		1		1
Chesapeake	2	4		6
Chesterfield		3		3
Culpeper		1		1

Danville		1		1
Dinwiddie		1		1
Fairfax City		1		1
Fairfax Co.	1	1		2
Fauquier		3		3
Fluvanna		1		1
Franklin City		1		1
Franklin Co.	1			1
Frederick	1	1		2
Galax	1			1
Giles	1			1
Gloucester	1			1
Grayson	1			1
Hampton	3	6		9
Hanover	1			1
Harrisonburg		1		1
Henrico	2	3		5
Hopewell	2	1		3
Isle of Wight		1		1
James City		1		1
Lunenburg	1			1
Lynchburg	1			1
Martinsville	1			1
Mecklenburg	1	1		2
Montgomery		1		1
Newport News		10		10
Norfolk	1	2		3
Petersburg	2	3		5
Pittsylvania	1	1		2
Portsmouth	4*	3		7
Prince William		2	1	3
Richmond City	4	3		7
Roanoke City	2	2		4
Roanoke Co.	2			2
Rockbridge			1	1
Russell		2		2
Shenandoah	1			1
Smyth	1			1
Southampton		1		1
Spotsylvania		1		1
Stafford	1	1		2
Virginia Beach	1	10		11
Warren		1		1
Washington	1			1

Wise	1	1		2
Wythe		1		1
Total	46	80	3	129

*One investigation involved more than one child by the same caretaker.
Sources: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

LDSS investigated 129 child deaths in 128 investigations in SFY 2016. This was a slight decrease of two investigations from those conducted in SFY 2015 (131). Portsmouth investigated two siblings involving the same caretaker. Unless noted, the number of investigations will equal the number of children (129).

Fifty-six (47%) of the 120 LDSS investigated at least one child death. Hampton, Newport News, 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 2014 - SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Founded	47	37.9	52	39.7	46	35.7
Unfounded	73	58.9	72	55.0	80	62.0
Pending/Appealed	4	3.2	7	5.3	3	2.3
Total	124	100.0	131	100.0	129	100.0

Sources: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

The percentages of founded versus unfounded dispositions involving child fatalities showed a slight decrease for founded dispositions and a slight increase for unfounded dispositions. The percentage of all investigations in SFY 2016 has been approximately 38% founded and 60% unfounded¹.

¹ 10,870 investigations completed; 4,113 founded (38%); 6,482 unfounded (60%); and 275 other (2%). Source: Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports Version 4.36 (March 2017).

**Table 3: Death Rate of Children in Virginia Due to Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2006 – SFY 2016**

SFY	Death Reports Investigated	Deaths Due to Abuse/Neglect	Death Rate (per 100,000 children)*	National Death Rate**
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
2015	131	52	2.8	2.1
2016	129	46	2.5	2.3

*Death rate is calculated as number of deaths due to abuse/neglect divided by the state child population (2016 = 1,870,422)

Sources: VDSS, March 2017, Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

** Source: *Child Maltreatment 2015*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

The death rate for children who died from abuse or neglect was slightly lower than SFY 2015. The decrease in child death investigations in Virginia is likely the result of fewer fatalities that were reported to LDSS. However, according to the 2015 [Child Maltreatment report](#), many states reported increased counts of child fatalities and attributed the increase to better reporting, implementation of child death reviews or expansion of the scope of existing reviews. The number of reported child deaths reported to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) has fluctuated over the years. There may be several reasons for this. Due to the 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.²

**Table 4: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region
SFY 2016**

	Founded		Unfounded		Pending		Appealed		Total
		%		%		%		%	
Central	12	46.2	14	54.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	26
Eastern	12	21.4	41	77.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	53
Northern	4	21.1	13	68.4	2	11.0	0	0.0	19
Piedmont	11	57.9	7	37.0	1	5.3	0	0.0	19
Western	7	58.3	5	42.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
Statewide	46	35.7	80	62.0	3	2.3	0	0.0	129

Sources: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

² Source: *Child Maltreatment 2015*. 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 conducted the most child death investigations. 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.³

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 2016, this accounted for the three pending investigations.

**Table 5: Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect and Rates by Region
SFY 2014-SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate* (Per 100,000)
Central	5	1.7	8	2.7	12	4.0
Eastern	17	4.1	12	2.9	12	2.9
Northern	10	1.2	8	.9	4	.5
Piedmont	8	3.4	12	5.1	11	4.7
Western	7	6.3	12	10.8	7	6.3

Sources: VDSS, March 2017. 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 has increased in the Central Region since SFY 2014; the Western Region continues to have the highest rate.

II. CHILDREN

LDSS investigated the deaths of 129 children in SFY 2016; 46 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 who were determined to be abused or neglected.

³ The percentages for founded investigations by region: Central- 39.7%; Eastern- 44%; Northern- 30.7%; Piedmont- 42.1%; Western- 39.7%. Source: Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports Version 4.36 (March 2017).

**Table 6: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age
SFY 2014 – SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Birth to 12 months	21	44.7	22	42.3	28	61.0
13 months to 3 years	14	29.8	20	38.5	12	26.1
4 to 7 years	5	10.6	7	13.5	4	8.7
8 to 12 years	3	6.4	3	5.8	2	4.2
13 to 17 years	4	8.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	47	100.0	52	100.0	46	100.0

Sources: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

This table illustrates that children from birth to three years continue to be the most vulnerable to death as a result of child abuse or neglect. Virginia's percentage for SFY 2016 was 87.1% and is higher than the percentage throughout the country. Nationally, three quarters (74.8%) of all child fatalities in FFY 2016 were children younger than three years of age.⁴

**Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race
SFY 2014 – SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Rate* (per 100,000)
African-American	12	25.5	17	32.7	19	41.2	4.3
White	27	57.4	34	65.4	21	45.6	1.6
Multi-racial	6	12.8	1	1.9	5	11.0	n/a
Asian	2	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	2.2	n/a
Total	47	100.0	52	100.0	46	100.0	2.5

Sources: VDSS, May 2017. 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.

Racially, 45.6% of the child fatalities in Virginia were white and 41.2% were black. The percentage of African-American child deaths has continued to increase since SFY 2014 and the disproportionate rate (more than 2.5 times) in Virginia is consistent with the national data (approximately 2.5 times.)

⁴ Source: *Child Maltreatment 2015*. 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 2014 – SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014			SFY 2015			SFY 2016		
	Number	Percent	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Percent	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Percent	Rate* (per 100,000)
Female	18	38.3	1.97	28	53.8	1.97	17	37.0	1.9
Male	29	61.7	3.04	24	46.2	3.04	29	63.0	3.0
Total	47	100.0	2.51	52	100.0	2.51	46	100.0	2.4

Sources: VDSS, March 2017. 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 2016, there were more male child deaths than female deaths. This is consistent with the national data which indicates boys had a higher child fatality rate (2.42 per 100,000) than girls (2.09 per 100,000).

III. CARETAKERS

CPS only investigates child fatalities that are suspicious for abuse or neglect committed by a caretaker. LDSS determined that there were 70 caretakers responsible for the deaths of 46 children due to child abuse or neglect in SFY 2016. Fourteen victims were abused or neglected by two different caretakers. In one case, the caretaker abused or neglected two children.

**Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2014 – SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mother	29	48.3	25	41.7	28	40.0
Father	16	26.7	16	26.7	25	36.0
Stepparent	2	3.4	0	0.0	3	4.2
Grandparent	4	6.7	1	1.7	1	1.4
Uncle/Aunt	1	1.7	2	3.3	0	0.0
Paramour	5	8.2	6	10.0	5	7.1
Child Care Provider	3	5.0	4	6.7	3	4.2
Foster Parent	0	0.0	1	1.7	0	0.0
Legal Guardian	0	0.0	1	1.7	0	0.0
Other adult in home	0	0.0	1	1.7	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	3	5.0	5	7.1
Total Caretakers	60	100.0	60	100.2	70	100.0

Source: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS. *Three caretakers were stepparents of three victims-

The overwhelming majority of caretakers (76%) were the biological parents. Mothers are the caretakers most commonly responsible for a child’s death. The national data indicates that more than three-quarters (79.3%) of child fatalities involved parents acting alone, together or with other individuals. Perpetrators without a parental relationship to the child accounted for 18.7%.⁵

One father was responsible for two child deaths. Child care providers included regulated (licensed) and unregulated (unlicensed) caretakers. All three of the child care providers were not regulated; however, one of the child care providers was subject to licensure. The identity of five 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 2014- SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	19	31.7	15	25.0	30	42.9
White	38	63.3	41	68.3	36	51.4
Asian	2	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	1	1.7	3	5.0	4	5.7
Multi-racial	0	0.0	1	1.7	0	0.0
Total Caretakers	60	100.0	60	100.0	70	100.0

Source: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

In SFY 2016, the race for the majority of caretakers (51.4%) was White; this is consistent with previous years.

**Table 11: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Gender
SFY 2014-SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	37	61.7	32	53.3	35	48.6
Male	23	38.3	25	41.7	34	47.2
Unknown	0	0.0	3	5.0	3*	4.2
Total Caretakers	60	100.0	60	100.0	72	100.0

Source: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

*The gender for 3 caretakers is unknown

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

⁵ Source: *Child Maltreatment 2015*. 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 2014- SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 20 years	0	0.0	4	6.7	7	10.0
20 to 29 years	28	46.7	23	38.3	33	47.0
30 to 39 years	18	30.0	19	31.7	18	26.0
40 to 49 years	8	13.3	7	11.7	8	11.4
50 or older	6	10.0	3	5.0	1	1.4
Unknown	0	0.0	4	6.7	3	4.2
Total	60	100.0	60	100.0	70	100.0

Source: VDSS March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

The ages of caretakers in SFY 2016 ranged from 16 to 51 years of age. The majority of the caretakers (47.0%) were between 20 to 29 years of age.

IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In SFY 2016, 46 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, 23 (50%) had been physically neglected and 15 (32.6%) had been physically abused. Seven (18%) children died from physical abuse and/or in combination with physical or medical neglect. One (2.2%) 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 2014- SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014	SFY 2015	SFY 2016
Abandonment	0	0	1
Inadequate Supervision	26	35	25
Inadequate Shelter	3	1	7
Inadequate Food	0	0	0
Failure to Thrive	0	0	0
Medical Neglect	9	2	6
Other/Unspecified sub-type	0	1	1

Source: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

Twenty-eight (61%) of the child deaths involved some type of physical neglect. 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: ten children in an unsafe sleeping environment; one child drowned in a marsh; two children died from asphyxia; two children died in a car accident and the driver was under the influence of alcohol; two children died from unsafe home environments and one child died from being left in a car for an extended period of time.

Medical neglect directly caused or contributed to the death of 6 (13%) 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 2014 – SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014	SFY 2015	SFY 2016
Asphyxiation	2	2	2
Bone Fracture	2	2	2
Burns	0	1	0
Bruises	2	0	2
Gunshot	3	1	3
Poisoning	1	1	1
Abusive Head Trauma	3	5	5
Stabbing	0	0	0
Internal Injuries	2	3	0
Head Injury	4	6	14
Chronic Physical Abuse ¹	0	0	0
Other or Unspecified Type	3	1	2

Source: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

¹Chronic Physical Abuse, formerly known as Battered Child Syndrome.

In SFY 2016, 25 (54.3%) 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 Chronic Physical Abuse are diagnoses made by medical doctors and based on a pattern of injuries. SFY 2016 saw no change in AHT child deaths.

In SFY 2016, there was a significant increase of head injuries from the previous two years. Two of the three gunshot deaths were the result of unsecured guns.

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 as well as 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 2014-2016**

	SFY 2014	SFY 2015	SFY 2016
	# Families	# Families	# Families
Emergency removal/foster care	10	3	7
Safety plan with relatives	15	17	15
Safety plan with family	5	13	6
Total Families	30	33	28

Source: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

There were 45 households, including the child care providers, that involved 46 child death investigations resulting in a founded disposition for SFY 2016; 28 (62.2%) of those households had other children for whom initial safety was assessed. All of the remaining households had no other children in the home. In SFY 2016, LDSS assessed siblings living in seven households as unsafe and removed the children by placing them into foster care. An additional 15 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 six households that allowed the siblings to remain in the home with a safety plan and was monitored by the agency. The number of children removed and placed into foster care increased from SFY 2015; one of the removals was because the parents had violated the safety plan.

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; intimate partner violence services; Family Partnership Meetings (FPM); 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 2014- SFY 2016**

	SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent
Yes	20	42.6	16	33.3	24	53.3
No	27	57.4	32	66.7	21	46.7
Total	47	100.0	48	100.0	45	100.0

Source: VDSS, March 2017. Information obtained from LDSS.

There were 46 victims (45 households) in founded CPS fatality investigations for SFY 2016; 24 families (53.3%) had prior or active child welfare involvement. Five families were active with the LDSS at the time of the fatality. The percentage of families with prior involvement for child deaths has increased approximately 20% from SFY 2014 to SFY 2016. This increase is concerning and will be reviewed in more detail by the regional child fatality review teams.

Prior involvement means that the abuser, victim or siblings were previously the subject of a family assessment, an investigation or an ongoing service or foster care case. Prior involvement does not include any caretaker’s history of abuse or neglect that occurred as a child or any reports of suspected child abuse or neglect that did not meet validity criteria.

Prior involvement also includes any open family assessment, investigation or case at the time of the child’s death. The following summarizes the prior or current child welfare involvement of the families with founded fatality victims:

- 1. Roanoke City:** In July 2015, a two year-old child was being held by mother and died from gunshot wounds inflicted by a non-caretaker. The mother failed to protect child from a known violent person. The sibling of the deceased child was in the custody of the grandmother and was placed into foster care when the fatality occurred. In 2012, a report was received regarding physical neglect of a sibling of the deceased child. No services were recommended.
- 2. Wise:** In August 2015, a five month-old child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The father was criminally charged. In June 2015, an investigation was conducted regarding the death of the twin sibling. The sibling appeared to die of natural causes and the investigation was unfounded.
- 3. Franklin Co.:** In August, 2015, a three year-old child died from gunshot wounds from a weapon that was not properly secured. The father was charged with involuntary manslaughter. In March 2014, CPS received a report for physical abuse involving the sibling of the deceased child and an adult in the home. Services were recommended and provided by another agency.
- 4. Frederick:** In August 2015, a one and a half year-old child died from strangulation from a window blind cord. In 2015, CPS received a report of physical neglect. In 2013, CPS received a report of physical neglect. No services were recommended.

5. **Pittsylvania:** In August 2015, a one month-old child was found unresponsive on a couch. In 2013, an older sibling of the deceased child was placed into foster care and custody was awarded to the great grandparents.
6. **Smyth:** In September 2015, a two month-old child died from dehydration. Both parents failed to seek medical treatment in a timely manner. From 2011-2015, there were five reports involving the parents and children for physical abuse and physical neglect. Services were provided to the family. There was an open report involving a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child) at the time of death.
7. **Richmond City:** In September 2015, an 11 month-old child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The father was criminally charged. The family's history includes two prior CPS reports pertaining to physical neglect in June 2012 and September 2013. No services were provided to the family.
8. **Richmond City:** In September 2015, a six month-old child was found unresponsive on a couch after being unsupervised for several hours. Both parents were criminally charged. The deceased child was a substance-exposed infant. From 2010-2015, there were several CPS reports for physical abuse and physical neglect. Two prevention cases were opened to help the family. As a result of the prior reports and child's death, the two siblings were removed and placed into foster care.
9. **Roanoke Co.:** In November 2015, a three month-old child died from non-accidental traumatic injuries. The father was criminally charged. From 2013-2015, there were five reports involving the mother and her other children. There was an open case and services were being provided to the family at the time of the fatality.
10. **Giles:** In December 2015, a nine year-old child died from complications of meningitis. The parents failed to seek emergency medical care for child after falling out of a window nine days earlier. In November 2015, court-ordered services were provided.
11. **Richmond City:** In January 2016, a two year-old child was found deceased in an attic. The stepmother was charged with murder. A report was received in July 2015 for physical abuse. No services were recommended.
12. **Augusta:** In February 2016, a six year-old child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The parents did not seek immediate medical attention. Both parents were criminally charged. In November 2015, CPS received a report of physical abuse by the father. No services were recommended.
13. **Mecklenburg:** In February 2016, a three year-old child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The grandmother was criminally charged. The siblings were removed and placed into foster care. In October 2015, a report was received regarding substance use by the mother. Services were not recommended.
14. **Richmond City:** In February 2016, a three year-old child died from blunt force trauma to the head. There was evidence of non-accidental injury. The caretaker was criminally charged. A report was received in December 2015 regarding the mother physically abusing this child. No services were provided.
15. **Hopewell City:** In February 2016, a one and a half year-old child died from blunt force trauma to the head while unsupervised by the father. From 2014-2016, there were three reports involving the mother and the sibling of the deceased child. Services were provided to the family.

- 16. Lynchburg:** In March 2016, a five month-old child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The mother's paramour pled guilty to criminal charges. In October 2014, CPS received a report of substance use by the mother. Services were not recommended.
- 17. Roanoke City:** In March 2016, a five month-old child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The babysitter was criminally charged. In October 2015, a report was received regarding physical neglect by the parents. Services were provided to the family.
- 18. Martinsville:** In March 2016, a three month-old child was found unresponsive in a crib. There was an open report involving a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child) at the time of the death.
- 19. Gloucester:** In March 2016, a one month-old child died while co-sleeping with the parents. There was an open report involving a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child) at the time of death.
- 20. Henrico:** In March 2016, a four month-old child was found unresponsive in a bassinet. In December 2015, CPS received a report of intimate partner violence against the mother by her paramour, who was arrested.
- 21. Fairfax Co.:** In April 2016, a two year-old child died after being left in a hot car. The mother's paramour was criminally charged. In August 2015, a report was received regarding physical neglect for inadequate supervision. Services were provided to the family.
- 22. Norfolk:** In May 2016, a four month-old child was found unresponsive sleeping in a car seat. The mother was intoxicated while caring for the child. There was an open report involving a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child) at the time of death. In December 2015, CPS received a report on the deceased child's older sibling for physical neglect. Custody was awarded to the grandmother. No services were recommended.
- 23. Lunenburg:** In June 2016, a four month-old child sustained a non-accidental head injury. The stepfather was charged with first degree murder. In 2014, CPS received two reports for an older sibling of the deceased child for physical abuse. Services were provided.
- 24. Shenandoah:** In June 2016, a one month-old child sustained non-accidental blunt force trauma to the head. The father was charged with second degree murder. In November 2015, CPS received a report regarding physical abuse by the grandmother and medical neglect by the mother. Services were recommended.

VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS

In SFY 2016 there were 80 (62.0%) 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 80 unfounded reports:

- 59 of the reports (73.8%) involved a child less than one year of age.
- 52 of the 80 reports (65%) 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 congestion⁶.

VII. APPENDICES

A. Table of Child Death Investigations with a Founded Disposition

B. Table of Child Death Investigations with an Unfounded Disposition

⁶ 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 2016

AppendixA: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Hampton	7/2/2015	1/25/2011	4.4	M	AA	Stepparent Mother	26 21	AA AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child died from self-inflicted gunshot wounds. The weapon was not properly secured. The step-father was criminally charged.
Washington	7/8/2015	6/10/2015	0.11	F	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	18 18	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child died from asphyxia after co-sleeping with the mother in an adult bed. The condition of the home was determined to be unsafe.
Roanoke	7/16/2015	7/24/2013	0.11	F	Multi	Mother	26	Unk	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was being held by mother and died from gunshot wounds inflicted by a non-caretaker. The mother failed to protect child from a known violent person.
Virginia Beach	7/29/2015	8/20/2014	0.11	M	AA	Mother Other	25 Unk	AA Unk	F Unk	Medical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child died from injection of methadone pill and was found to have blunt force injury at autopsy. The mother failed to seek medical attention in a timely matter.
Wise	8/17/2015	3/11/2015	0.5	M	W	Father	44	W	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The father was criminally charged .
Franklin Co.	8/23/2015	7/25/2012	3.1	M	W	Father	32	W	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died from gunshot wounds from a weapon that was not properly secured. The father was charged with involuntary manslaughter.
Frederick	8/24/2015	2/25/2014	1.5	F	W	Father Mother	26 24	W W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died from strangulation by a window blind cord. The home was determined to be unsanitary and unsafe.
Pittsylvania	8/27/2015	7/22/2015	0.1	F	W	Mother	25	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive on a couch. The cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment.
Alexandria	9/2/2015	7/13/2015	0.1	M	AA	Mother Father	30 40	AA	F	Physical Neglect Medical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Both parents were criminally charged.
Smyth	9/5/2015	6/14/2015	0.2	M	W	Mother Father	26 36	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Medical Neglect	Yes	Child died from dehydration. Both parents failed to seek medical treatment in a timely fashion. Child was born substance-exposed.
Portsmouth	9/7/2015	11/15/2006	8.10	F	AA	Other-Family Friend	20	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died as result of high-speed car accident and not being properly restrained. The driver was criminally charged. *One of two children.*

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016

AppendixA: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Portsmouth	9/7/2015	5/3/2010	5.4	F	AA	Other-Family Friend	20	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died as result of high-speed car accident and not being properly restrained. The driver was criminally charged. *Two of two children.*
Richmond City	9/8/2015	10/7/2014	0.11	F	AA	Father	36	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The father was criminally charged.
Richmond City	9/12/2015	2/17/2015	0.6	M	W	Mother	29	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child discovered unresponsive on a couch, after being unsupervised for several hours. Both parents were criminally charged.
Roanoke Co.	9/27/2015	1/30/2011	4.7	M	W	Mother's Paramour Mother	31 27	W W	M F	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	Unknown	Child died as a result of blunt force injuries to the head and torso. The mother and her paramour were criminally charged.
Petersburg	10/21/2015	1/14/2015	0.9	F	AA	Mother Father	18 20	AA AA		Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head and abdomen. The father was criminally charged.
Chesapeake	10/28/2015	3/5/2012	3.7	M	W	Father	25	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child drowned in neighborhood marsh. The father failed to adequately supervise.
Portsmouth	11/13/2015	3/23/2015	0.7	M	AA	Father	24	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with father on a loveseat. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment.
Roanoke Co.	11/20/2015	8/4/2015	0.3	F	Multi	Father	41	Unk	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from non-accidental traumatic injuries. The father was criminally charged.
Giles	12/3/2015	9/24/2006	9.2	M	W	Mother Father	43 43	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Medical Neglect	Yes	Child died from complications from meningitis. The parents failed to seek emergency medical care for their child, after falling out of a window nine days earlier.
Hampton	12/6/2015	7/25/2015	0.4	M	AA	Child care worker - unreg	33	AA	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The unlicensed provider was not subject to licensure. The caretaker was charged with homicide.
Chesapeake	12/13/2015	9/10/2015	0.3	M	W	Father Mother	27 28	W W	M F	Medical Neglect Medical Neglect	No	Cause of death was Double Pneumonia. The parents did not take the child for medical attention.

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016

AppendixA: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Portsmouth	12/26/2015	10/14/2014	1.2	M	AA	Mother	23	AA	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. No criminal charges at this time.
Grayson	1/8/2016	10/11/2014	1.2	F	W	Child care worker - unreg Child care worker - unreg	29 51	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child succumbed to injuries inflicted by a dog while sleeping in an adult bed.
Richmond City	1/16/2016	2/18/2013	2.9	F	AA	Stepparent	36	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Remains of a child found in an attic. Exact cause of death could not be determined. The stepmother charged with murder.
Henrico	1/25/2016	12/2/2015	0.1	F	AA	Father	20	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The father was criminally charged.
Hampton	1/29/2016	8/11/2015	0.5	M	AA	Father	23	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. The father was criminally charged.
Augusta	2/3/2016	4/22/2009	6.10	M	AA	Father Mother	23 19	AA AA	M F	Physical Abuse Medical Neglect	Yes	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. Parents did not seek immediate medical attention. Both parents were criminally charged.
Mecklenburg	2/3/2016	4/24/2012	3.8	M	W	Grandparent	39	W	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The grandmother was criminally charged.
Richmond City	2/15/2016	11/19/2012	3.2	F	AA	Other	24	AA	F	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. There was evidence of non-accidental injury. The caretaker was criminally charged.
Hopewell	2/24/2016	9/12/2014	1.5	F	W	Father	25	W	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head while unsupervised by the father.
Buchanan	2/27/2016	9/1/2015	0.5	M	W	Mother Father	23 26	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child was found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment.
Roanoke City	3/2/2016	9/28/2015	0.5	M	W	Other	21	W	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from non-accidental blunt force trauma to the head. The babysitter was criminally charged and not subject to licensure.

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016

AppendixA: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Lynchburg	3/2/2016	9/15/2015	0.5	M	W	Mother's Paramour	34	W	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The mother's paramour pled guilty to criminal charges.
Martinsville	3/13/2016	12/7/2015	0.3	F	W	Mother	26	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a crib. The cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. Child was born substance-exposed.
Gloucester	3/19/2016	2/15/2016	0.1	M	W	Father Mother	30 27	W W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died while co-sleeping with parents, who did not provide a safe sleeping environment.
Henrico	3/22/2016	11/2/2015	0.4	M	W	Mother	36	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a bassinet. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment.
Petersburg	4/11/2016	4/11/2016	0.0	M	Unk	Mother	16	Unk	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found deceased in a trash truck. No criminal charges at this time.
Hanover	4/17/2016	10/25/2013	2.5	M	Multi	mother's paramour	27	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force trauma to the head. The mother's paramour was found guilty of child abuse and first degree murder.
Fairfax Co.	4/20/2016	4/10/2014	2.0	F	Multi	Mother's Paramour	32	AA	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died after being left in a hot car. The mother's paramour was criminally charged.
Stafford	5/19/2016	12/21/2015	0.4	M	AA	Mother	30	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother on a sofa. The mother failed to provide a safe sleeping environment.
Norfolk	5/28/2016	1/15/2016	0.4	M	AA	Mother	30	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive sleeping in a car seat. Cause of death was SUID. The mother was intoxicated while caring for child. Child was born substance-exposed.
Hopewell	6/10/2016	5/23/2016	0.0	M	AA	Father	Unk	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force injuries to the head and torso. The father was charged with first degree murder.
Lunenburg	6/11/2016	2/10/2016	0.4	F	AA	Stepparent	27	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child sustained a non-accidental head injury. The stepfather was charged with first degree murder.

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016

AppendixA: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Galax	6/16/2016	7/14/2015	0.11	M	W	Mother Father	36 38	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	The child was found unresponsive in a pile of clothes next to an adult bed. The parents failed to provide a safe sleeping environment.
Shenandoah	6/30/2016	5/25/2016	1.1	M	Multi	Father	29	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child sustained non-accidental blunt force trauma to the head. The father was charged with second degree murder.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Southampton	7/5/2015	7/7/2014	0.11	M	M	Father	25	AA	M	Yes	Child died as a result of being wedged between cushions of a broken couch. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	7/5/2015	5/21/2015	0.1	F	W	Mother	29	W	F	No	Child died while co-sleeping with mother in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	7/13/2015	2/15/2015	0.4	M	AA	Father	18	AA	M	No	Child was found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was sudden infant death. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesterfield	7/16/2015	10/2/2012	2.9	F	W	Grandmother Father	62 33	W W	F F	No	Child accidentally drowned in the family swimming pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fauquier	7/18/2015	1/21/2015	0.5	F	W	Mother	21	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Wythe	7/27/2015	3/28/2015	0.3	M	W	Mother Father	32 37	W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive on an air mattress. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Henrico	7/31/2015	6/17/2015	0.1	F	AA	Mother Father	22 Unk	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother in an adult bed. Cause of death was accidental suffocation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Isle Of Wight	7/31/2015	7/26/2012	3.0	F	W	Mother	36	W	F	No	Child accidentally drowned in an above-ground swimming pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Montgomery	8/4/2015	11/27/2013	1.8	M	W	Grandmother Father	52 27	W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive while in a crib. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fairfax City	8/8/2015	3/18/2015	0.4	M	W	Mother	20	W	F	No	Child died while sleeping in a car seat. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	8/10/2015	12/1/2014	0.8	F	AA	Mother Father	27 Unk	AA	F M	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with father in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Prince William	8/11/2015	1/5/2014	1.7	M	W	Mother	39	W	F	No	Child got head stuck and suffocated. Cause of death was accidental. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	8/12/2015	7/2/2015	0.1	F	AA	Mother	31	AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother in a couch bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with prone position and an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	8/23/2015	7/28/2015	0.1	F	W	Mother	35	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	9/1/2015	10/27/2010	4.11	F	W	Mother	38	W	F	No	Child drowned in neighbor's pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	9/4/2015	5/27/2015	0.3	F	AA	Mother Father	23 27	AA AA	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in a crib. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	9/27/2015	2/9/2015	0.6	M	AA	Mother	28	AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Accomack	10/16/2015	8/16/2002	13.2	M	AA	Mother	33	AA	F	No	Child died from an accidental gunshot wound by non-caretaker. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	10/24/2015	9/12/2015	0.1	M	W	Father	33	W	M	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with father. Cause of death was asphyxia, due to airway obstruction. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	10/26/2015	8/20/2013	2.2	M	AA	Mother Father	32 37	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child died a natural death from numerous medical conditions that were present since birth. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	10/28/2015	8/26/2014	1.2	F	AA	Mother	30	AA	F	No	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Chesterfield	11/14/2015	11/21/2014	1.0	M	W	Mother Father	30 34	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was airway obstruction, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Henrico	11/16/2015	9/27/2015	0.1	M	W	Father	23	W	M	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with father in an adult bed. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
James City	11/17/2015	6/17/2015	0.5	F	W	Child care worker - unreg	55	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive while sleeping in a crib. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fauquier	11/18/2015	10/19/2015	0.1	F	W	Mother	25	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother on a couch. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Russell	11/20/2015	11/20/2015	0.0	F	W	Mother	19	W	F	No	Child was exposed to substances in utero and died at birth (23 weeks gestation). No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	11/30/2015	8/29/2015	0.3	M	AA	Mother	28	AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive while sleeping in a crib. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	12/4/2015	12/21/2013	2.0	F	AA	Mother	33	AA	F	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Danville	12/4/2015	8/28/2015	0.3	M	AA	Mother Father	24 43	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents and a sibling in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Wise	12/4/2015	12/2/2015	0.0	F	W	Mother Father	28 27	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fairfax Co.	12/11/2015	2/25/2013	2.9	M	W	Other	Unk	Unk	Unk	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Franklin	12/16/2015	1/18/2007	8.9	M	AA	Mother	28	AA	F	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	12/25/2015	6/9/2015	0.6	M	W	Mother Father	30 30	W W	M F	No	Child found unresponsive while sleeping in a crib. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Spotsylvania	12/31/2015	5/4/2015	0.7	M	W	Mother	22	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive while sleeping in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	1/3/2016	10/5/2015	0.2	F	W	Mother	36	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with a nursing mother in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment and prematurity. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Norfolk	1/6/2016	7/20/2015	0.5	M	AA	Mother Father	19 Unk	AA AA	M F	Yes	Child died of unknown cause. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Roanoke	1/9/2016	11/10/2015	0.2	M	AA	Mother Father	23 22	AA AA	F M	No	Child found unresponsive while sleeping in a crib. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Portsmouth	1/11/2016	3/23/2015	0.9	M	AA	Mother Father	23 31	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parent and sibling in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Harrisonburg	1/12/2016	9/3/2015	0.4	M	W	Child care worker-unreg Child care worker-unreg	37	W W	F F	No	Child found unresponsive on stomach at naptime. Cause of death was SIDS. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	1/13/2016	11/10/2015	0.2	F	W	Mother Father	25 26	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with a nursing mother. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Stafford	1/15/2016	10/26/2014	1.2	F	AA	Father Mother	23 23	AA AA	M F	Yes	Child found unresponsive while in father's care. Cause of death was sepsis due to pneumonia. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Norfolk	1/17/2016	8/26/2015	0.4	M	AA	Other Grandmother	21 47	W AA	F F	Yes	Child died while co-sleeping with caretaker in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment and prone position. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	1/23/2016	12/11/2015	0.1	M	Multi	Mother	23	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	1/24/2016	10/16/2015	0.3	M	AA	Uncle Aunt	29 23	AA AA	M F	Yes	Child found unresponsive while sleeping in a pack and play with a twin sibling. Cause of death was SUID, associated with prone position and prematurity. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fauquier	1/31/2016	8/22/2014	1.4	F	W	Mother Father	25 24	W W	F M	No	Child died after being hit by a vehicle that was being backed up in a driveway. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Mecklenburg	2/13/2016	6/29/1998	17.6	M	W	Father	52	W	M	Yes	Child died from intraparenchymal cerebellar hemorrhage. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	2/17/2016	12/18/2015	0.2	F	AA	Father	30	AA	M	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Prince William	2/23/2016	11/28/2015	0.2	M	Multi	Father	31	AA	M	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesterfield	2/27/2016	10/15/2015	0.4	M	W	Father	23	W	M	No	Child found unresponsive in a crib by father. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Petersburg	2/28/2016	8/10/2015	0.6	F	AA	Mother Father	23 26	AA AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was asphyxiation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Portsmouth	2/29/2016	11/24/2015	0.3	F	AA	Mother	25	AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive on stomach in a bassinet. Cause of death was SUID, associated with prone position, soft bedding and low weight. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Petersburg	3/3/2016	2/5/2016	0.1	F	AA	Mother	22	AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive on stomach in a crib. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Bedford Co.	3/3/2016	12/5/2015	0.2	M	W	Mother	27	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive on a couch. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Henrico	3/4/2016	3/4/2016	0.0	M	AA	Mother	14	AA	F	No	Child born at home at 22 weeks gestation. ME determined non-viable birth. There was no evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	3/10/2016	10/21/2015	0.4	M	W	Mother	31	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in a crib. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	3/13/2016	1/28/2016	0.1	F	AA	Mother Father	24 23	AA AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was undetermined, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Warren	3/18/2016	11/10/2015	0.4	M	W	Mother	31	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother on a couch. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	3/21/2016	12/10/2015	0.3	M	W	Mother Father	30 37	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive on stomach in a crib. Cause of death was SUIDS, associated with prone position and an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	3/25/2016	11/30/2015	0.3	M	Unk	Mother	24	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a crib. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	3/29/2016	11/29/2015	0.3	F	W	Mother Father	35 38	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with soft bedding. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	4/1/2016	4/16/2014	1.11	F	W	Grandmother	42	W	F	Yes	Child drowned in neighbor's above-ground pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Hampton	4/5/2016	12/23/2015	0.3	M	Unk	Mother	26	Unk	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with an older sibling in an adult bed. Cause of death was asphyxiation, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Frederick	4/6/2016	7/1/2015	0.9	M	W	Father Mother	27 27	Unk Unk	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in home. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	4/17/2016	9/4/2015	0.7	M	AA	Aunt Grandfather	17 55	AA AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a crib. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Charlotte	4/19/2016	12/4/2013	2.4	M	W	Mother	27	W	F	No	Child accidentally drowned in a pond. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Portsmouth	4/20/2016	1/14/2016	0.3	M	W	Child care worker - unreg	26	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive on a couch and ruled a natural death. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	4/27/2016	2/5/2016	0.2	F	AA	Child care worker - unreg	41	AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	5/4/2016	3/14/2016	0.1	F	W	Mother	32	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with parents and sibling in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fluvanna	5/9/2016	11/17/2015	0.5	M	W	Child care worker - unreg	36	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in a pack and play. Cause of death was undetermined. The daycare provider was subject to licensure.
Pittsylvania	5/11/2016	5/8/2016	0.0	F	W	Mother	29	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother in an adult bed. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	5/16/2016	4/20/2015	1.0	M	AA	Mother	19	AA	F	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2016
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Culpeper	5/17/2016	5/4/2016	0.0	F	W	Mother	31	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a bassinet. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Russell	5/17/2016	9/1/2010	5.8	F	W	Aunt	41	W	F	Yes	Child had a seizure after a fall in a bathroom. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hopewell	5/20/2016	10/27/2015	0.6	M	W	Mother	26	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was asphyxia by bedding. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	5/22/2016	1/17/2016	0.3	F	AA	Father	29	AA	M	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with father in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with prone sleep position and an unsafe sleeping environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Roanoke	5/26/2016	5/5/2005	11.1	M	AA	Mother	39	AA	F	Yes	Child died from accidental gunshot wound by a peer. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Petersburg	5/28/2016	1/20/2016	0.4	M	AA	Mother	20	AA	F	Yes	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	6/5/2016	3/8/2016	0.2	M	AA	Mother Father	28 25	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child found not breathing, Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Dinwiddie	6/13/2016	7/23/1998	17.9	F	AA	child care worker-reg child care worker-reg	33 56	W AA	F F	Yes	Child died from cardiac arrest after an extended illness. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	6/28/2016	5/11/2016	0.1	M	AA	Mother	37	AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive while co-sleeping with mother in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.