

**CHILD MALTREATMENT DEATH
INVESTIGATIONS
IN VIRGINIA
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021**

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
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CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report on child deaths that were reported to local departments of social services (LDSS) and investigated during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021. This report includes a synopsis of data for all child abuse or neglect fatalities for SFY 2021, including demographic information pertaining to the victims, alleged abuser/neglector(s) and households impacted by those fatalities. It also highlights changes or trends from previous years. The information is used to evaluate and modify Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) policies, guidance, procedures and best practices where warranted.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on all child deaths 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 occurred. This determination is 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.

Preliminary Summary of Findings

In SFY 2021:

- LDSS investigated 171 child deaths suspected of being caused by abuse or neglect.
- There were 59 children whose deaths were the result of abuse or neglect.
- There were 108 investigations that resulted in an unfounded disposition; four investigations were incomplete at the time of this report.
- Sixty-four LDSS conducted at least one child death investigation.
- The Eastern Region investigated the most child deaths (69), while the Western Region experienced the highest rate of child deaths (9.5 deaths per 100,000 children).
- Children who died as a result of abuse or neglect ranged in age from birth to 17 years with more than 84% who were three and under.
- More male children (34) died from abuse or neglect than female children (25).
- The race of the children who died as a result of abuse or neglect included 49% who were White; 32% who were African American and 15% who were Multi-Racial.
- Eighty-seven caretakers were determined to be responsible for the death of 59 children; fifty-four of the caretakers were female and 33 were male.

- Seventy-two (83%) of the 87 caretakers were biological parents, and 46 (53%) of them were less than 30 years of age.
- Thirty-eight (64%) of the 59 abuse-or-neglect-related child deaths involved physical neglect, and 19 (32%) child deaths involved physical abuse. Some children died from more than one type of abuse and/or in combination with physical neglect or medical neglect.
- Twenty-eight families (49%) had prior or active child welfare involvement.
- Forty-four families had other children living in the home at the time of the fatality. Of those 44 families, 12 children from seven different families were placed into foster care.

I. CHILD DEATHS

LDSS conducted 171 investigations involving 171 child deaths suspected of being caused by child maltreatment in SFY 2021. LDSS determined that 59 children died as a result of abuse or neglect; 108 children were in unfounded reports; and four reports were pending at the time of this report.

The Eastern Region investigated the most reports (69) followed by Piedmont (35), Central (28), Northern (23), and Western (16).

As highlighted in Table 1, 64 (53%) of the 120 LDSS investigated at least one child death. Norfolk (12), Virginia Beach (12) and Newport News (9) had the highest number of investigations, not all of which were founded.

**Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality
SFY 2021**

LDSS	Founded	Unfounded	Pending/Appeal	Grand Total
Accomack		2		2
Albemarle		1		1
Alleghany		1		1
Amelia		1		1
Augusta		1		1
Bath		1		1
Bedford County	1	1		2
Bristol	1			1
Buchanan	2		1	3
Buckingham		1		1
Campbell	3	2		5
Carroll	1			1
Chesapeake	2	6		8
Chesterfield	3	3		6
Culpeper	1			1
Danville	1	3		4
Dinwiddie	1	1		2
Fairfax County	1	2		3
Fauquier		2		2
Franklin County	4			4
Fredericksburg	1	1		2
Gloucester	1			1
Grayson	1	1		2

Greensville	2	1		3
Hampton	1	5	1	7
Hanover		1		1
Harrisonburg		2		2
Henrico	2	2		4
Henry	2	2		4
Hopewell		1		1
Isle of Wight		1		1
King & Queen	1			1
Lee		1		1
Loudoun		3		3
Louisa		1		1
Lynchburg	2	1		3
Mecklenburg		1		1
Middlesex	1			1
Montgomery	1			1
Newport News	1	8		9
Norfolk	2	10		12
Orange	1	1		2
Petersburg		2		2
Pittsylvania		1		1
Portsmouth	2	2		4
Prince Edward	1			1
Prince George	1			1
Prince William		4		4
Pulaski		1		1
Richmond City	4	4		8
Roanoke City	1	2		3
Roanoke County		3		3
Rockbridge		1		1
Russell	1			1
Smyth	3	1		4
Spotsylvania	1			1
Stafford	1			1
Suffolk		2	1	3
Sussex	1		1	2
Virginia Beach	2	10		12
Washington		1		1
Westmoreland		1		1
Winchester	1			1
York	1	1		2
GRAND TOTAL	59	108	4	171

Sources: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS

Four investigations could not be completed due to ongoing criminal investigations.

As exhibited in Table 2, the percentages of **founded** versus **unfounded** dispositions involving child fatalities increased for founded (35%) and decreased for unfounded (63%) dispositions.

**Table 2: Dispositions of Child Death Investigations
SFY 2019 - SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Founded	51	35.4	42	30.2	59	35.0
Unfounded	89	62.0	93	67.0	108	63.0
Pending/Appealed	4	2.7	4*	3.0	4	2.0
Total	144	100.1	139	100.0	171	100.0

Sources: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

Four investigations could not be completed due to ongoing criminal investigations.

As shown in Table 3, the death rate for children who died from abuse or neglect increased from SFY 2020. According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) 2020 [Child Maltreatment Report](#) the national estimate of child deaths due to maltreatment has increased 1.2% since FFY 2016. Due to the relatively low frequency of child fatalities, the national rate is sensitive to which states report this data and changes in the child population estimates produced by the U. S. Census Bureau.¹

Table 3: Death Rate of Children in Virginia Due to Abuse or Neglect SFY 2010 – SFY 2021

SFY	Death Reports Investigated	Deaths Due to Abuse/Neglect	Death Rate (per 100,000)	National Death Rate**
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
2017	124	46	2.5	2.3
2018	118	40	2.1	2.3
2019	144	51	2.7	2.4
2020	139	42	2.2	2.5
2021	171	59	3.2	2.4

*Death rate is calculated as number of deaths due to abuse/neglect divided by the state child population (2020 = 1,868,597)

Sources: VDSS, July 2022, Kids Count Data Center from the Annie E Casey Foundation

** Source: *Child Maltreatment 2020*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

¹ Source: *Child Maltreatment 2020*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

The Code of Virginia, specifically § 63.2-1505 B5, grants certain exceptions to the time frame for completing child death investigations, when such investigations require reports or records that are generated outside of the local department, such as an autopsy report. 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 2021, this accounted for four pending investigations.

**Table 4: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region
SFY 2021**

	Founded		Unfounded		Pending		Appealed		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Central	12	42.9	16	57.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	28	100.0
Eastern	16	23.2	50	72.5	3	4.3	0	0.0	69	100.0
Northern	7	30.4	16	69.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	100.0
Piedmont	14	40.0	21	60.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	35	100.0
Western	10	62.5	5	31.3	1	6.2	0	0.0	16	100.0
Statewide	59	35.0	108	63.0	4	2.0	0	0.0	171	100.0

Sources: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

Four investigations could not be completed due to ongoing criminal investigations.

VDSS also reports by region the ratio of child deaths to the population of children less than 18 years of age, as well as examines the number of child deaths and the percentages of founded investigations.

As exhibited in Table 5, the rate of child deaths per 100,000 children has increased in the Eastern and Piedmont Regions since SFY 2019. It should be noted that an increase of one or two child deaths would have a more significant impact on regions with a low child population (i.e. the Western Region) versus a region with a high child population (i.e. the Eastern Region).

**Table 5: Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect and Rates by Region
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate* (Per 100,000)
Central	14	4.8	9	3.0	12	4.0
Eastern	13	3.2	15	3.7	16	3.9
Northern	3	3.8	5	6.2	7	0.8
Piedmont	10	4.8	10	4.2	14	5.9
Western	11	10.2	3	2.8	10	9.5

Sources: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS. Kids Count Data Center from the Annie E Casey Foundation. *The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age by region are: Central: 294,304; Eastern: 408,211; Northern: 801,031; Piedmont: 236,312; Western: 105,704.

II. CHILDREN

LDSS investigated the deaths of 171 children in SFY 2021; and 59 children were found to have died as a result of abuse or neglect. This section provides detailed demographic information and trends for the children involved in child death investigations and whose deaths were determined to be the result of abuse or neglect.

As highlighted in Table 6, children under the age of three continue to be the most vulnerable to die as a result of abuse or neglect. Virginia's percentage for SFY 2021 was 85%, which is higher than the percentage throughout the country. Nationally, 67.8% of all child fatalities in FFY 2020 were children younger than three years of age.²

**Table 6: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Birth to 12 months	24	47.0	29	69.0	36	61.0
13 months to 3 years	14	27.4	8	19.0	14	24.0
4 to 7 years	5	10.0	1	2.4	4	6.7
8 to 12 years	3	5.9	3	7.1	4	6.7
13 to 17 years	5	10.0	1	2.4	1	1.7
Total	51	100.0	42	100.3	59	100.0

Sources: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

As shown in Table 7, there were significantly more male child deaths than female in SFY 2021. This is consistent with the national data which indicates that boys experienced a higher fatality rate (2.99 per 100,000) than girls (2.05 per 100,000).⁴

**Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019			SFY 2020			SFY 2021		
	#	%	Rate (per 100,000)	#	%	Rate* (per 100,000)	#	%	Rate* (per 100,000)
Female	19	37.3	2.1	16	38.0	1.7	25	42.4	2.7
Male	32	63.0	3.3	26	62.0	2.7	34	57.6	3.5
Total	51	100.3	2.7	42	100.0	2.2	59	100.0	3.1

Sources: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS. Kids Count Data Center from the Annie E Casey Foundation.

*The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age was females: 919,618 and males: 965,208.

As exhibited in Table 8, 49% of the child fatalities in Virginia were White and 32% were African-American. The disproportionate rate of African-American child deaths in Virginia is slightly below the national data (more than 3 times greater).⁶

^{2,4} Source: *Child Maltreatment 2020*. 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 Race
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021		Rate* (per 100,000)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
African-American	19	37.2	16	38.0	19	32.2	5.1
White	29	57.0	20	48.0	29	49.2	3.0
Multi-racial	2	4.0	5	12.0	9	15.3	7.8
Asian	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.7	1.0
Unknown	0	0.0	1	2.0	1	1.7	N/A
Total	51	100.0	42	100.0	59	100.0	3.1

Sources: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS. Kids Count Data Center f/t Annie E Casey Foundation. *The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age was African American: 374,628; White: 979,043; multi-racial: 116,030; Asian: 129,217; total: 1,884,826.

III. CARETAKERS

CPS investigates child fatalities that are suspicious for abuse or neglect committed by a caretaker only.

As shown in Table 9, LDSS determined that there were 87 caretakers responsible for the deaths of 59 children due to abuse or neglect in SFY 2021. Twenty-four victims were abused or neglected by two different caretakers and two victims were abused or neglected by three different caretakers. The majority of caretakers (83%) were the biological parents, which is greater than the national data (80.6%) that indicates the parents acted alone, together or with other individuals. Caretakers also include regulated (licensed) childcare providers.

⁵ Source: *Child Maltreatment 2020*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

**Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mother	33	45.0	22	40.0	43	49.4
Father	22	30.0	16	29.0	29	33.3
Stepparent	3	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Grandparent	2	2.7	1	2.0	2	2.3
Uncle/Aunt	1	1.3	0	0.0	5	5.7
Paramour	6	8.1	6	11.0	5	5.7
Childcare Provider	3	4.0	4	7.3	2	2.3
Foster Parent	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0
Legal Guardian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other adult in home	4	5.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sibling	0	0.0	1	2.0	1	1.1
Unknown	0	0.0	4	7.3	0	0.0
Total Caretakers	74	100.00	55	100.00	87	100.0

Source: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

Nationally, more than 15 percent (15.3%) of fatalities did not have a parental relationship to their perpetrator.⁷ Sometimes the identity of a caretaker is unknown. Unknown is used when an investigation reveals 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.

As highlighted in Table 10, the race of the caretakers was primarily White (60.0%) and African – American (30.0%).

**Table 10: Race of Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	26	35.1	25	45.4	26	30.0
White	41	55.4	24	44.0	52	60.0
Asian	2	2.7	1	2.0	1	1.1
Unknown	5	6.8	5	9.0	4	4.6
Multi-racial	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.6
Total Caretakers	74	100.00	55	100.0	87	100.0

Source: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

⁶Source: *Child Maltreatment 2020*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

As shown in Table 11, there are typically more female perpetrators of child maltreatment than male perpetrators.

**Table 11: Gender of Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	43	58.0	30	54.5	54	62.0
Male	31	42.0	21	38.1	33	38.0
Unknown	0	0.0	4	7.3	0	0.0
Total Caretakers	74	100.0	55	100.0	87	100.0

Source: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

As exhibited in Table 12, the ages of caretakers ranged from 18 to 60 years in SFY 2021. The majority of the caretakers (44%) were between 20 and 29 years of age.

**Table 12: Age of Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 20 years	2	2.7	2	3.6	8	9.1
20 to 29 years	37	50.0	25	45.4	38	44.0
30 to 39 years	25	34.0	14	25.4	27	31.0
40 to 49 years	7	9.4	4	7.2	9	10.3
50 or older	1	1.3	3	5.4	4	4.6
Unknown	2	2.7	7	13	1	1.1
Total	74	100.0	55	100.0	87	100.0

Source: VDSS July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In SFY 2021, 59 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, 38 (64.4%) had been physically neglected and 19 (32.2%) had been physically abused. One (1.7%) child was medically neglected and another (1.7%) child was mentally abused.

The type of abuse or neglect is not necessarily the *cause of death* for the child. For example, a child accidentally, fatally shot himself. The cause of death (determined by the medical examiner) would be gunshot wound of the head; the type of abuse or neglect (determined by CPS) would be neglect (failing to do something on behalf of the child).

As highlighted in Table 13, 38 (64.4%) of the child deaths involved some type of physical neglect. The two most prevalent types of neglect were Inadequate Supervision and Other/Unspecified sub-type. When determining the validity of a report, the alleged inaction by the caretaker may not clearly fit into the pre-defined sub-categories but still encompasses physical neglect so the Other/Unspecified sub-type is utilized by the LDSS.

**Table 13: Types of Neglect in Child Deaths
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019	SFY 2020	SFY 2021
Abandonment	0	0	0
Inadequate Supervision	14*	13*	15
Inadequate Shelter	0	0	1
Inadequate Food	0	1	0
Failure to Thrive	0	0	0
Medical Neglect	9	0	0
Other/Unspecified sub-type	14*	14	22

Source: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.
Three gun-related deaths were founded for physical neglect

Medical neglect directly caused or contributed to the death of one (1.7%) child. Medical neglect involves a caretaker’s failure to obtain a child’s necessary medical care or to follow doctor-recommended medical regimen for the child. Mental abuse contributed to the death of one (1.7%) child. Mental abuse occurs when a caretaker creates or inflicts a mental injury by other than accidental means or creates a substantial risk of impairment of mental functions. See the Table of Founded Child Deaths in **Appendix A** for further details.

As illustrated in Table 14, 19 (32.2%) children died as a result of physical abuse in SFY 2021.

**Table 14: Types of Abuse in Child Deaths
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019	SFY 2020	SFY 2021
Asphyxiation (accidental or intentional)	0	0	3
Bone Fracture	0	1	1
Burns	0	0	0
Bruises	1	2	1
Gunshot	1	0	0
Poisoning	0	0	2
Abusive Head Trauma	0	0	0
Stabbing	0	0	0
Internal Injuries	0	0	1
Head Injury	2	4	3
Chronic Physical Abuse ¹	0	0	0
Other or Unspecified Type	10	6	8

Source: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.
¹Chronic Physical Abuse, formerly known as Battered Child Syndrome.

V. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

When initiating a response to a child fatality report, CPS conducts an assessment of immediate harm or threat of harm toward any sibling(s) or other child(ren) in the home. Based on this initial safety assessment, a safety plan may be developed with the family for a course of action to mitigate any danger(s) or threat(s) of harm. The following information identifies those families and the resulting protective action taken by the LDSS.

As shown in Table 15, there were 57 households that involved 59 child death investigations resulting in founded dispositions for SFY 2021; 42 (74%) of those households had other children for whom initial safety was assessed. All of the remaining households had no other children in the home.

**Table 15: Initial Safety Outcomes for Other Children in the Household
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019	SFY 2020	SFY 2021
	# Families	# Families	# Families
Safety plan with family	14	4	10
Safety plan with relatives/family friends	15	23	25
Emergency removal/foster care	6	1	7
Total Families	35	28	42

Source: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

In SFY2021, a plan was developed with 10 households that allowed the siblings to remain in their own homes. An additional 25 households placed their children in alternate living arrangements with relatives or family friends, while maintaining legal custody of their children. LDSS assessed seven households as unsafe and placed 12 children in foster care.

As a result of CPS involvement, families were provided services that include: grief counseling; burial assistance; home visiting; parent education and mental health services; substance use assessments and treatment; intimate partner violence services; and protective orders.

As exhibited in Table 16, there were 59 victims (57 households) in founded CPS fatality investigations for SFY 2021; 28 families (49%) had prior or active child welfare involvement.

**Table 16: Prior Family Child Welfare Involvement in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
SFY 2019 – SFY 2021**

	SFY 2019		SFY 2020		SFY 2021	
	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent
Yes	34	67.0	21	50.0	28	49.0
No	17	33.0	21	50.0	29	51.0
Total	51	100.0*	42	100.0*	57	100.0*

Source: VDSS, July 2022. Information obtained from LDSS.

Some families had prior history in more than one locality

Prior involvement means that the alleged abuser, victim child or siblings were previously the subject of a family assessment, an investigation, in-home service or foster care case. It 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. It may also have occurred in more than one locality or a locality different from where the child died. The following summarizes the prior or current child welfare involvement of the families with founded fatality victims:

- From 2015 to 2019, several reports were received for abuse by the mother and her paramour (bio father of the siblings of deceased child) involving the siblings. One investigation was unfounded and another resulted in a founded disposition. Services were provided.
- In June 2017, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the deceased child and an older sibling. In October 2019, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the sibling of the deceased child.
- In December 2017, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the deceased child (born substance-exposed). In February 2020, a report was received for abuse by the parents involving a sibling of the deceased child. Services were provided and the case was open at the time of death.
- In January 2020, an investigation was conducted for abuse by the caregiver involving another child. The investigation was founded for an unknown abuser.
- In March 2020, a report was received for physical neglect by the parents and paternal grandfather involving the deceased child, siblings and a cousin. Services were provided.
- From 2019 to 2020, multiple reports were received for neglect by the parents involving the half-siblings and the deceased child. A case was open with the family at the time of death.
- From 2019 to 2020, multiple reports were received for abuse involving the deceased child by the biological mother.
- In 2003, the paramour's parental rights were terminated.
- In July 2020, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the decedent (born substance-exposed).
- In December 2019, a report was received for neglect by the mother's paramour involving his biological child.
- In May 2017, a report was received for neglect by the mother and the father of a sibling of the deceased child. The investigation was founded and services were provided. In April 2019, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving a sibling of the deceased child.
- From 2016 to 2020, multiple reports were received for abuse involving the siblings of the deceased child. Services were provided and a case was open at the time of death.
- In May 2018, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the deceased child. Services were provided.
- In October 2020, a report was received for abuse involving the deceased child. The LDSS obtained a protective order and the parents were required to leave the home; they were both criminally charged. Care of the deceased child was provided by relatives and contact by the parents was supervised. Services were provided.
- In October 2018, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving a sibling of the deceased child. The family was already receiving services. In June 2020, a report was

received for neglect by the mother involving another sibling of the deceased child. The family was already receiving services.

- In August 2020, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the deceased child (born substance-exposed).
- In December 2019, a child fatality report was received for neglect by the parents involving the deceased sibling.
- From 2018 to 2020, multiple reports were received for neglect by the mother and father involving the deceased child and siblings. Services were provided.
- In December 2018, a report was received for neglect by the parents involving the siblings of the deceased child. Services were provided.
- From 2017 to 2020, multiple reports were received for abuse involving the deceased child and siblings. Services were provided and a case was open at the time of the incident.
- In January 2020, a report was received for neglect by an adult sibling involving the deceased child and a younger sibling.
- From 2013 to 2021, multiple reports were received for abuse by the mother involving the deceased child and siblings. Services were provided and a case was open at the time of death.
- In April 2020, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the decedent (born substance-exposed). Services were provided.
- In October 2020, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the siblings of the deceased sibling. In November 2020, a report was received for neglect by the mother involving the deceased child (born substance-exposed). Services were declined. In March 2021, a report was received for neglect and abuse by the mother involving siblings of the deceased child and was pending at the time of death.
- In June 2015, a report was received for neglect by the parents (a child death). The investigation was unfounded. In October 2020, a report was received for neglect by the mother (decedent born substance-exposed).
- From 2012 to 2021, multiple reports were received for neglect by the mother involving the deceased child and siblings (including a prior child death). Services were provided.
- From 2012 to 2021, multiple reports were received for neglect by the mother involving the deceased child and siblings. Services were provided and a case was open at the time of death.

IX. REGIONAL CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ANALYSIS

Regional Child Fatality Review Teams (CFRT) convene to examine deaths that local departments of social services (LDSS) investigated. CFRT focus on identifying risk factors, trends and patterns, developing recommendations and creating action plans. The *Code of Virginia*, specifically §32.1-283.2 provides the authority for the work of CFRT.

There is a CFRT, which is multidisciplinary in structure, in each of the five VDSS regions. Virginia is one of 45 states that utilize the National Center for Fatality Reviews and Prevention of Child Death Case Reporting Tool to document child fatalities. Review teams are required to enter results of the review process into the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention's database.

In SFY 2021, the teams conducted reviews of the child deaths that occurred in SFY 2020. Some teams reviewed cases from previous fiscal years that had been suspended due to ongoing criminal investigations.

Region	Number of Cases Reviewed
Central	15
Eastern	85
Northern	22
Piedmont	30
Western	10

Each Regional Child Fatality Review Team reports annually the significant findings and themes from the reviews as well as recommendations or initiatives that result from the team's discussion of that year's child death cases. Highlights of SFY 2021's regional recommendations:

- Enhance public awareness campaigns related to safe sleep practices, gun safety, and substance abuse while targeting under reached populations such as the recovery community, fathers, grandparents, older siblings, and non-familial caretakers.
- Improve local and state partnerships with community resources to streamline education efforts around the prevention of child fatalities.
- Strengthen collaboration between law enforcement and CPS on joint investigations involving child deaths, to include developing or revising the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between local departments.

The prevention of child maltreatment deaths is essential to ensuring the well-being, safety and permanency of Virginia's children and remains a top priority for VDSS.

VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS

In SFY 2021, there were 108 (63%) child fatality reports and 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 108 unfounded reports:

- Seventy-six of the reports (70%) involved a child less than one year of age.
- Forty-eight of the 108 reports (44%) 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 congestion⁷.

VII. NEAR-FATALITIES

CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) defines a “near fatality” as *an act that, as certified by a physician, places the child in serious or critical condition (22VAC40-705-10). “Life-threatening condition” means a condition that if left untreated, more likely than not will result in death and for which the recommended medical treatments carry a probable chance of impairing the health of the individual or a risk of terminating the life of the individual.*

There were 28 near-fatalities reported and investigated by LDSS for possible abuse or neglect. Eight of the 28 children were under the age of one; thirteen were between 13 months old and 3 years old, and the remaining seven children ranged in age from four to 17 years old. Fifty-seven percent (16) of the children were male and 43% (12) female. The race of the children was 25% African-American; 57% White, 14% Multi-Racial and one child was Asian. Eighteen of the 28 investigations (64%) were founded for abuse or neglect; fourteen of the families had prior child welfare involvement.

VIII. APPENDICES

A. Table of Child Death Investigations with a Founded Disposition

B. Table of Child Death Investigations with an Unfounded Disposition

⁷ 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>

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Appendix A: 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)
Campbell	7/5/2020	5/23/2020	0.1	M	W	mother father	29 28	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death not noted.
Prince Edward	7/7/2020	6/7/2016	4.1	M	Multi	mother	35	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child killed after a motor vehicle accident. The mother was arrested and criminally charged.
Gloucester	7/7/2020	1/30/2020	0.4	F	W	father	60	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is asphyxia due to smothering. The father was criminally charged.
Bedford County	7/9/2020	8/5/2007	12.9	M	W	mother	48	W	F	Mental Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is gunshot wound of the head.
York	7/17/2020	2/26/2020	0.4	M	AA	father mother	23 24	Unk W	M F	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is anoxic brain injury of undetermined etiology.
Lynchburg	7/19/2020	4/10/2020	0.3	M	Multi	father mother	23 19	AA Multi	M F	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is suffocation in the setting of acute and healing skull and rib fractures.
Montgomery	7/19/2020	5/13/2020	0.2	F	AA	father aunt mother	24 33 26	W Unk Unk	M F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental suffocation related to co-sleeping and reported drug use in the home near time of death.
Chesapeake	7/28/2020	11/22/2019	0.7	F	W	father	37	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in a car. Cause of death is hyperthermia due to exposure to environmental heat.
Virginia Beach	7/28/2020	11/14/2016	3.7	F	W	mother father	35 36	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the family pool. Cause of death is drowning.
Henrico	8/3/2020	1/13/2017	3.6	F	AA	mother	40	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive at a water park. Cause of death is accidental drowning.
Prince George	8/4/2020	12/20/2017	2.6	M	Multi	aunt	32	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a relative's pool.

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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)
Greensville	8/7/2020	3/19/2020	0.4	F	AA	mother	28	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is mechanical asphyxiation (sleep related).
Virginia Beach	8/11/2020	6/30/2020	0.1	M	AA	father mother	35 21	AA W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is cardiac arrest.
Danville	8/14/2020	5/9/2020	0.3	M	AA	father	22	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was blunt force injuries of head in the setting of battered child syndrome.
Norfolk	8/18/2020	5/27/2018	2.2	F	Unk	childcare worker-reg	37	W	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home of a childcare provider (regulated). Cause of death was asphyxiation. The childcare provider was criminally charged.
Franklin County	8/22/2020	7/31/2018	2.1	M	W	mother grandmother father	21 48 22	W W W	F F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death not documented.
Henry	8/26/2020	5/25/2020	0.3	F	Multi	mother	23	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
Franklin County	9/6/2020	6/12/2020	0.2	M	W	mother	29	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is suffocation.
Campbell	9/18/2020	6/25/2017	3.2	M	W	father's paramour	30	Unk	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was blunt force injuries to the head. The father's paramour was criminally charged.
Dinwiddie	9/19/2020	1/18/2020	0.7	F	W	mother mother's paramour	22 19	W AA	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	No	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is blunt force trauma. The mother and her paramour were criminally charged.
Portsmouth	9/23/2020	6/16/2018	2.3	F	AA	grandmother paramour	55 54	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is acute fentanyl toxicity.

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Appendix A: 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)
Fredericksburg	10/4/2020	7/24/2020	0.2	M	W	mother	32	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is undetermined.
Chesapeake	10/14/2020	3/21/2016	4.6	M	Multi	mother mother's paramour	28 26	Multi Multi	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	Yes	Child became unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is multiple blunt force trauma. The mother's paramour was criminally charged.
Stafford	10/15/2020	8/16/2019	1.2	F	W	mother father	30 37	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is sudden unexpected death in childhood.
Buchanan	10/20/2020	3/2/2020	0.6	M	W	mother father	24 30	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID in association with unsafe sleep environment.
Richmond City	10/21/2020	6/2/2020	0.4	M	AA	mother mother's paramour	27 29	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is blunt force trauma to the head, neck and torso. The mother's paramour was criminally charged.
Chesterfield	10/27/2020	9/24/2020	0.1	F	AA	mother	25	AA	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is closed head trauma.
Orange	11/12/2020	10/6/2020	0.1	F	W	mother	23	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is undetermined.
Chesterfield	11/14/2020	5/25/2018	2.5	M	W	mother	30	W	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is homicide via methadone toxicity.
Culpeper	11/15/2020	6/9/2020	0.4	F	AA	mother	25	AA	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
Fairfax County	11/19/2020	4/24/2020	0.6	F	Asian	childcare worker-reg	37	Asian	F	Medical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in daycare provider's home (licensed). Cause of death is undetermined.
Franklin County	11/19/2020	6/20/2020	0.4	F	W	mother father	36 45	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is suffocation.

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Appendix A: 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)
Smyth	11/20/2020	4/28/2010	10.6	M	W	mother	27	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child sustained a fatal gunshot wound.
Smyth	11/20/2020	8/27/2017	3.2	F	W	mother	27	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child sustained a fatal gunshot wound.
Smyth	11/20/2020	8/14/2013	7.3	M	W	mother	27	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child was shot and later passed away from the injuries.
Carroll	12/28/2020	7/31/2020	0.4	M	W	mother father	26 28	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental suffocation.
Norfolk	12/29/2020	9/17/2020	0.3	M	AA	father	26	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is asphyxiation. The father was criminally charged.
Henry	1/9/2021	9/1/2020	0.4	F	W	mother	20	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is malnutrition, dehydration, and blunt force trauma to the head.
Russell	1/14/2021	10/17/2020	0.2	M	W	father	18	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is undetermined.
Roanoke	1/19/2021	11/27/2009	11.1	M	AA	aunt	39	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in a relative's home. Cause of death is gunshot wound of the head.
Greensville	1/21/2021	9/24/2019	1.3	M	AA	father	36	AA	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is congenital aganglionic megacolon (Hirschsprung disease).
Buchanan	1/22/2021	12/2/2020	0.1	F	W	mother father	27 33	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with co-sleeping.
Hampton	1/24/2021	8/21/2020	0.4	M	AA	mother	35	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with unsafe sleep and co-sleeping, with pulmonary siderophages as a contributing

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Appendix A: 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)
Bristol	1/29/2021	4/20/2020	0.8	M	W	mother father	23 Unk	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is positional asphyxiation.
Portsmouth	2/9/2021	7/8/2018	2.6	M	AA	father mother	18 18	AA AA	M F	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	No	Child became unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is blunt force abdominal injuries.
Franklin County	2/13/2021	6/15/2009	11.7	M	Multi	sibling	19	Multi	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is acute intoxication due to the combined effects of fentanyl and sertraline.
King & Queen	2/20/2021	8/14/2003	17.5	M	W	mother aunt	36 35	W W	F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is a self-inflicted gun shot wound.
Richmond City	2/25/2021	4/4/2020	0.9	F	AA	mother	25	AA	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is fentanyl toxicity.
Richmond City	2/26/2021	10/28/2020	0.3	F	AA	father	30	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is complications of blunt force trauma to the head.
Grayson	4/4/2021	7/18/2020	0.7	M	W	father mother	29 30	W W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping and severe perinatal hypoxicischemic encephalopathy.
Lynchburg	4/13/2021	1/3/2021	0.3	F	Multi	father mother	19 19	AA W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental asphyxia.
Winchester	4/14/2021	11/27/2020	0.4	M	W	mother father	24 45	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep practices.
Middlesex	4/15/2021	1/8/2021	0.3	F	Multi	father	33	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep environment.
Spotsylvania	4/17/2021	3/23/2021	0.1	M	W	mother father	30 49	W W	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is methamphetamine toxicity.

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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)
Campbell	4/24/2021	9/28/2020	0.6	M	W	mother father	26 25	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental suffocation due to an unsafe sleep environment.
Chesterfield	5/4/2021	9/14/2015	5.6	M	Multi	father mother	49 48	AA W	M F	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	No	Child found deceased in the home. Cause of death is homicidal violence with multiple blunt force injuries.
Newport News	5/10/2021	7/22/2020	0.8	M	W	mother	35	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is multiple stab wounds to the torso.
Henrico	5/27/2021	7/18/2019	1.9	F	AA	aunt	20	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the aunt's home. Cause of death is fentanyl overdose.
Richmond City	6/13/2021	2/21/2020	1.3	F	AA	mother father	40 56	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is cocaine toxicity.

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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	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Virginia Beach	7/4/2020	5/12/2006	14.1	M	W	Uncle	39	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. An autopsy was not completed as the child had a seizure disorder.
Virginia Beach	7/6/2020	1/8/2016	4.5	M	W	Other Other Other	12 39 45	W W W	M F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in a hotel pool. An autopsy was not conducted.
Grayson	7/18/2020	6/18/2020	0.1	F	W	Mother	30	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with co-sleeping.
Campbell	7/19/2020	7/2/2020	0.0	M	AA	Mother	31	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died from birth complications.
Roanoke County	7/19/2020	Unk	Unk	M	Unk	Mother	34	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found deceased in a bag. Cause of death is undetermined.
Norfolk	7/21/2020	3/15/2018	2.4	M	W	child care worker-unreg	33	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the family pool. Cause of death is drowning.
Bedford County	7/27/2020	7/6/2020	0.1	M	W	Mother	26	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was SUID (not sleep related).
Petersburg	8/4/2020	1/20/2020	0.5	F	AA	Mother	28	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SIDS.
Accomack	8/7/2020	3/23/2020	0.4	M	AA	Father	28	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is asphyxia due to overlay related to unsafe sleep.
Roanoke	8/7/2020	5/13/2020	0.2	F	AA	Father	30	Unk	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive by her father. Cause of death is suffocation associated with unsafe sleep.

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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	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Chesapeake	8/15/2020	6/21/2020	0.2	M	AA	Mother	26	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in a bassinet. Cause of death is SUID, associated with unsafe sleep.
Chesapeake	8/20/2020	6/22/2020	0.2	M	AA	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. The medical examiner declined to complete an autopsy.
Dinwiddie	8/27/2020	7/31/2020	0.1	M	AA	Mother Father	32 32	Multi AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with unsafe sleep.
Fauquier	8/28/2020	6/11/2020	0.2	M	AA	child care worker-unreg	38	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the childcare provider's home. Cause of death is blunt force trauma to the torso.
Suffolk	8/29/2020	1/17/2020	0.6	F	Multi	Father Mother	22 22	W AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface and focal tubulointerstitial nephritis of unknown etiology.
Campbell	8/29/2020	10/4/2016	3.9	M	W	child care worker-unreg child care worker-unreg	31 44	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the babysitter's home. The medical examiner declined to complete an autopsy.
Chesapeake	9/7/2020	2/1/2020	0.6	F	AA	Mother	19	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with co-sleeping and complications of prematurity and recent C-19 infection.
Newport News	9/7/2020	5/13/2020	0.3	F	AA	Mother Father	22 22	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with unsafe sleep surface and postmortem nasopharyngeal swab positive of rhinovirus.
Hampton	9/9/2020	7/9/2020	0.2	M	AA	Mother Father	29 58	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a hotel room. The cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping, marked pulmonary edema/hemorrhage, and intrauterine substance exposure.
Prince William	9/9/2020	5/15/2020	0.3	F	W	Father	29	Unk	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Child died of natural causes.

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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	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Portsmouth	9/11/2020	4/16/2020	0.4	M	AA	Mother Father	23 29	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep.
Richmond City	9/12/2020	7/21/2019	1.1	M	AA	Mother	29	Asian	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is natural death due to complications at birth.
Chesapeake	9/16/2020	5/13/2020	0.3	M	AA	Mother Father	25 26	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental suffocation.
Roanoke County	9/23/2020	5/3/2020	0.4	M	W	Mother	22	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental suffocation.
Norfolk	9/24/2020	8/23/2020	0.1	F	AA	Mother	26	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with co-sleeping and unsafe sleep surface.
Isle of Wight	9/26/2020	5/10/2008	12.4	M	W	Mother Stepparent	44 44	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home after a fatal, self-inflicted gunshot wound.
Buckingham	10/23/2020	6/3/2003	17.4	F	W	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	Medical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive. Cause of death is ligature asphyxiation.
Richmond City	10/24/2020	9/23/2020	0.1	M	AA	Uncle Unknown	12 Unk	AA Unk	M Unk	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID.
Chesterfield	10/25/2020	8/24/2020	0.2	F	Multi	Mother Father	31 31	AA Multi	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface and co-sleeping.
Westmoreland	10/26/2020	9/21/2018	2.1	M	Multi	Other	38	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the neighbor's home. Cause of death is choking.
Washington	10/27/2020	1/15/2007	13.8	M	W	Father Stepparent	32 32	W W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is gunshot wound to the head.

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Richmond City	10/31/2020	8/17/2017	3.2	F	AA	Father	Unk	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is gunshot wound the head.
Prince William	10/31/2020	9/10/2020	0.1	F	W	Mother Father	28 26	W W	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is choking.
Chesterfield	11/3/2020	5/15/2020	0.5	M	AA	Mother Father	Unk Unk	AA AA	F M	Medical Neglect Medical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. The medical examiner declined to complete an autopsy due to the child's medical conditions.
Prince William	11/10/2020	5/14/2020	0.5	M	AA	Mother Unknown	26 Unk	AA Unk	F Unk	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death not documented.
Virginia Beach	11/12/2020	6/14/2020	0.4	M	AA	Father Mother	32 31	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was SUID, associated with unsafe sleep surface and mild tracheobronchitis.
Norfolk	11/13/2020	5/16/2020	0.5	M	AA	Father Grandmother	22 45	AA AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with unsafe sleep.
Hampton	11/15/2020	10/24/2020	0.1	M	AA	Mother	41	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child never left the hospital following his birth at 23 weeks gestation. Cause of death is intraoperative hemorrhage, extreme prematurity, stage 2 necrotizing enterocolitis,
Danville	11/16/2020	11/15/2020	0.0	M	AA	Mother	41	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died in the hospital following his birth.
Smyth	11/18/2020	3/16/2020	0.7	F	W	Aunt	32	Multi	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental suffocation.
Norfolk	11/20/2020	8/26/2020	0.2	F	W	Mother	37	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death not documented.
Loudoun	11/25/2020	10/17/2020	0.1	F	AA	Mother Father	29 36	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive by the mother. Cause of death is SUID.

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Fredericksburg	11/27/2020	7/4/2006	14.4	M	W	Other Other	24 29	AA W	F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a mental health facility. Cause of death is anoxic brain injury.
Augusta	11/28/2020	5/25/2020	0.5	F	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	22 22	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep.
Pulaski	11/30/2020	9/14/2020	0.2	M	AA	Father	31	AA	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with co-sleeping and chronic interstitial pneumonitis.
York	12/5/2020	7/13/2020	0.4	F	AA	Mother Father	21 21	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, associated with unsafe sleep.
Hanover	12/12/2020	4/14/2004	16.7	F	W	Father	60	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is opioid overdose.
Fairfax County	12/16/2020	3/16/2018	2.8	M	Asian	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental blunt-force trauma to the head.
Roanoke	12/17/2020	7/7/2010	10.4	M	AA	Mother	39	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is asphyxia by hanging.
Louisa	12/23/2020	11/11/2020	0.1	F	W	Mother	38	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface and co-sleeping.
Greensville	12/26/2020	6/21/2020	0.5	F	AA	Mother	32	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child became unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is complications of multiple congenital abnormalities.
Norfolk	1/1/2021	9/21/2020	0.3	M	AA	Mother Father Sibling	33 30 14	AA AA AA	F M M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was not reported.

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Norfolk	1/1/2021	12/25/2017	3.0	M	AA	Father's Paramour	26	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death not documented.
Lynchburg	1/1/2021	11/6/2020	0.2	F	AA	Mother	28	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID, in association with co-sleeping and Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome.
Hampton	1/6/2021	11/2/2020	0.2	M	AA	Mother Father	19 28	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep.
Virginia Beach	1/15/2021	7/28/2020	0.5	F	AA	Father	24	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with possible asphyxia due to overturned baby swing and Rhinovirus.
Fauquier	1/16/2021	9/17/2018	2.3	F	W	Grandmother Grandfather	63 58	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was fatally struck by a motor vehicle.
Roanoke County	1/18/2021	10/22/2020	0.2	F	AA	Father Mother	26 23	AA AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental suffocation related to co-sleeping.
Prince William	1/23/2021	10/28/2020	0.2	F	Multi	Mother	37	Unk	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was not reported.
Newport News	1/25/2021	9/19/2020	0.4	F	AA	Mother Father	23 24	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface, rhinovirus infection, and sickle cell trait.
Harrisonburg	1/29/2021	12/30/2020	0.1	M	W	Father Mother	36 25	W W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface, unsafe sleep position, and co-sleeping.
Bath	1/31/2021	10/19/2020	0.3	F	W	Mother	33	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping.
Newport News	2/6/2021	11/6/2020	0.3	F	AA	Mother	26	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep.

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Hopewell	2/15/2021	11/1/2020	0.3	M	AA	Mother Father	24 22	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface/bedding and co-sleeping.
Loudoun	2/16/2021	12/23/2020	0.1	M	AA	Father Mother	32 32	AA AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is undetermined.
Albemarle	2/18/2021	6/30/2007	13.6	M	W	Mother Father	51 53	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death not documented.
Alleghany	2/25/2021	10/31/2006	14.3	M	Multi	Mother	45	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental positional asphyxia.
Amelia	2/27/2021	10/11/2020	0.4	F	W	Mother Father	30 40	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death not documented.
Newport News	3/5/2021	1/29/2021	0.1	M	AA	Mother	36	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping.
Henry	3/5/2021	11/5/2020	0.3	M	AA	Mother	31	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with complications of prematurity.
Newport News	3/8/2021	12/17/2020	0.2	M	AA	Mother	30	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with human parainfluenza virus, human adenovirus infection, and co-sleeping.
Norfolk	3/9/2021	7/9/2020	0.7	M	Multi	child care worker-unreg	53	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child was found unresponsive in the childcare provider's home. Cause of death is SUID.
Lee	3/15/2021	7/6/2018	2.7	F	W	Father Mother	29 27	W W	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the family's yard. An autopsy was not completed.
Richmond City	3/16/2021	4/19/2010	10.9	M	AA	Mother Father	35 38	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is gun shot wound to the right arm and chest.

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Norfolk	3/18/2021	2/8/2021	0.1	F	AA	Father	38	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping and an unsafe sleep surface.
Chesapeake	3/23/2021	3/16/2018	3.0	M	W	Father	31	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the family pool. Cause of death is drowning.
Chesterfield	3/24/2021	1/1/2019	2.2	M	W	Mother Father	35 34	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is unexplained death in childhood.
Hampton	3/26/2021	3/22/2006	15.0	M	Multi	Mother Father	31 34	AA W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is gun shot wound to the head.
Suffolk	3/27/2021	10/27/2020	0.4	F	AA	Father Mother	30 32	AA AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID.
Hampton	3/30/2021	1/20/2021	0.2	M	AA	Mother	16	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with dentate neuronal dispersion and cortical dyslamination.
Virginia Beach	3/31/2021	5/4/2020	0.9	M	AA	Mother	22	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping, an unsafe sleep surface, and rhinovirus infection.
Henrico	4/6/2021	1/9/2021	0.2	F	AA	Father Mother	30 38	AA AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with an unsafe sleep environment and COVID-19.
Danville	4/12/2021	8/29/2010	10.6	M	AA	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is due to a head injury that was suffered 10 years ago, predisposing the child to acute pneumonia and aspiration.
Henrico	4/15/2021	7/16/2020	0.7	F	Multi	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe bedding.

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Loudoun	4/16/2021	8/20/2016	4.7	M	W	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. An autopsy was not completed as the child had a medical diagnosis. Cause of death is cardiac arrest related to complications from croup.
Virginia Beach	4/22/2021	11/14/2020	0.4	M	W	Mother	31	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID.
Newport News	4/22/2021	4/20/2021	0.0	M	AA	Mother	30	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child passed away in a hospital following his birth. An autopsy was not completed.
Danville	4/23/2021	3/5/2021	0.1	M	W	Mother	39	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
Virginia Beach	4/26/2021	11/2/2018	2.5	F	W	Foster Parent Foster Parent	50 51	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood associated with microcephaly and cerebral palsy.
Mecklenburg	4/28/2021	8/26/2006	14.7	M	AA	Other Other	43 21	AA AA	F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child died at the scene of a motor vehicle crash. Cause of death is blunt force trauma to the head.
Norfolk	5/1/2021	12/7/2020	0.4	F	AA	Father Mother	28 23	AA AA	M F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. No definitive cause of death is noted.
Rockbridge	5/2/2021	9/5/2020	0.7	M	W	Mother child care worker-unreg	30 25	W W	F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is related to the presence of chronic subdural hygromas.
Newport News	5/9/2021	11/17/2020	0.5	F	AA	Uncle	15	AA	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping in an adult bed, Rhinovirus, preterm birth, and congenital heart anomalies with spontaneous
Newport News	5/10/2021	2/17/2021	0.2	M	AA	Grandmother Paramour	Unk Unk	AA AA	F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep surface, human rhinovirus, small size, and sickle cell trait.
Sussex	5/19/2021	3/2/2021	0.2	F	W	Mother Father	33 29	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with an unsafe sleep environment.

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Accomack	5/21/2021	3/15/2021	0.2	M	AA	Mother Father	33 34	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is pneumonia with an unknown role of asphyxia due to co-sleeping.
Orange	6/4/2021	7/10/2017	3.9	M	AA	Mother Stepparent	29 33	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child became unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is accidental choking.
Chesapeake	6/5/2021	3/3/2017	4.3	M	W	Mother Unknown	25 Unk	W Unk	F Unk	Physical Neglect Mental Abuse	No	Child was found unresponsive in his mother's home. Cause of death was natural and due to Right Cerebellopontine Angle Medulloblastoma.
Portsmouth	6/5/2021	3/13/2021	0.2	M	AA	Other	31	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with acute pulmonary hemorrhage, unsafe sleep surface, and Rhinovirus.
Virginia Beach	6/5/2021	2/2/2021	0.3	M	W	worker - unreg childcare worker -	63 67	Unk Unk	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child was found unresponsive in the childcare provider's home. Cause of death was attributed to complications of cardiac arrest of undetermined etiology.
Virginia Beach	6/9/2021	4/18/2021	0.1	M	AA	Mother	23	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with co-sleeping/unsafe sleep.
Fairfax County	6/15/2021	6/10/2020	1.0	F	W	Childcare worker - reg Childcare worker - reg	70 72	W W	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the childcare provider's home. Cause of death is acute pyelonephritis (natural causes).
Pittsylvania	6/15/2021	11/20/2020	0.6	M	W	Mother Grandmother	20 52	W W	F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with human parainfluenza, human rhinovirus, and unsafe sleep.
Virginia Beach	6/20/2021	11/9/2020	0.6	M	AA	Mother	32	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in a relative's home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep practices.
Henry	6/24/2021	1/19/2011	10.4	M	AA	Mother	35	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. An autopsy was not completed.
Norfolk	6/25/2021	5/21/2021	0.1	F	W	Mother Father	35 44	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep, co-sleeping, and COVID-19.

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Petersburg	6/26/2021	1/25/2021	0.4	M	AA	Mother	32	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID associated with unsafe sleep.
Harrisonburg	6/29/2021	11/11/2020	0.6	F	W	Mother Father	21 21	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death is SUID.