

**PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON CHILD DEATHS
DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT
IN VIRGINIA
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2013**

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a preliminary report on child deaths that were reported to local departments of social services (LDSS) during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013. This report illustrates changes or trends from previous years. This report also includes a synopsis of data for all child abuse and/or neglect fatalities for SFY 2013, including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators and households impacted by these fatalities. This data is used to evaluate, review, and modify Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) policy, guidance, practice and procedures where warranted.

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

In SFY 2013 the Regional Child Fatality Review Teams conducted reviews of all child deaths which occurred in SFY 2012. The results of that review and their recommendations are anticipated to be published by September 2014.

Preliminary Summary of Findings

- Local departments of social services investigated 105 reports (involving 106 children) of child deaths suspected to be caused by child maltreatment for SFY 2013.
- There were 33 children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect in SFY 2013.
- There were 66 reports that were determined unfounded. Two reports are pending; five are on administrative appeal.
- Forty-five of the 120 local departments of social services investigated at least one child death.
- The child death rate in Virginia (1.8) is less than the national average of 2.2 per 100,000 children.
- The children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect ranged in age from birth through 16 years. Fifteen children (45.5%) were less than one year of age. This is consistent with national data that finds younger children are the most vulnerable population.
- SFY 2013 saw a decrease in child deaths in children over eight (8) years old.
- Nineteen (57.6%) children who died as a result of abuse or neglect were White; 13 (39.4%) children were African-American; and one (3.07%) child was multi-racial. African-American children continue to be over represented when compared to the percentage of African Americans in Virginia's general population (23.7%).

- Nineteen (57.6%) male and 14 (42.4%) female children were abused or neglected and died. Virginia data is consistent with the national data which finds males to have a higher rate of child maltreatment fatalities than females.
- Forty-four caretakers were found to be responsible for the deaths of 33 children due to child abuse/neglect.
- Of the 44 caretakers responsible for the 33 child deaths, 26 (59.1%) were women and 16 (36.4%) were men. This is consistent with the national data which reports more female than male perpetrators.
- Thirty (68.2%) of the 44 caretakers were biological parents and over half (54.5%) of the caretakers were less than 30 years of age.
- Thirteen (39.4%) children died from physical neglect and 11 (33.3%) from physical abuse. Four (12.1%) children were physically abused and neglected. Four (12.1%) children were physically abused and medically neglected. One (3.0%) child died from medical neglect.
- Of the 33 victims in founded CPS fatality investigations, there were 14 families (42.4%) with prior child welfare involvement or open child welfare cases.

I. CHILD DEATHS

Local departments of social services investigated 106 child deaths suspected to be caused by child maltreatment for SFY 2013. There were 33 children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect; 66 reports were unfounded; two reports are pending and five are on administrative appeal.

The Eastern region continues to investigate the most reports (47) followed by Central (20), Northern (19), Piedmont (12), and Western (8).

**Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality
SFY 2013**

Local Department	Founded	Unfounded	Pending or Appealed	Total
Accomack	1		1	2
Amherst			1	1
Caroline		1		1
Chesapeake	3	4		7
Chesterfield	2	1		3
Danville	1			1
Fairfax Co.	1	4		5
Fluvanna		2		2
Franklin City		1		1
Franklin County	1			1
Frederick		1		1
Greensville/Emporia	1			1
Hampton	1	3		4
Hanover		1		1
Henry-Martinsville	1	3		4
Henrico	1	1		2
Isle of Wight			1	1
Lee		1		1
Loudon		2		2
Lynchburg	1			1
Manassas City	1		1	2
Newport News	3	8		11
Norfolk		9		9
Page	1			1
Petersburg		3		3
Portsmouth		3		3
Prince Edward		2		2
Prince George			2*	2
Prince William	2	3		5

Local Department	Founded	Unfounded	Pending or Appealed	Total
Pulaski	1	1		2
Richmond City	2	2		4
Richmond County		1		1
Roanoke City		2		2
Roanoke County	1			1
Russell		1		1
Shenandoah County			1	1
Shenandoah Valley	1			1
Stafford		2		2
Suffolk		2		2
Tazewell	1			1
Virginia Beach	3	1		4
Washington	1			1
Westmoreland		1		1
Wythe	1			1
Wise	1			1
Total	33	66	7	106

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.
*One caretaker responsible for two deaths.

LDSS investigated 106 deaths in SFY 2013. In SFY 2013 there were four less children than SFY 2012 who died as a result of abuse or neglect. There were a total of 105 investigations conducted in SFY 2013 which includes one investigation conducted in Prince George County that involved the death of two children by the same caretaker.

Forty-five (37.5%) of 120 local departments of social services investigated at least one child death. Newport News, Norfolk, Chesapeake, Fairfax and Prince William had the highest number of investigations, not all of which were founded.

**Table 2: Dispositions of Child Death Investigations
2011- 2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Founded	30	34.9	37	33.6	33	31.1
Unfounded	52	60.4	70	63.6	66	62.3
Pending/Appealed	4	4.7	3	2.7	7	6.6
Total	86	100.0	110	99.0	106	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

The percentages of founded versus unfounded dispositions involving child fatalities remains consistent with previous years and mirrors dispositions made in *all* child abuse and neglect investigations in SFY

2013. The percentage of founded to unfounded dispositions has typically been 35% founded and 65% unfounded.

**Table 3: Death Rate of Children Due to Abuse or Neglect
2003 – 2013**

	Death Reports Investigated	Deaths Due to Abuse/Neglect	Death Rate (per 100,000 children)¹
2003	47	29	1.5
2004	65	30	1.5
2005	56	27	1.3
2006	54	29	1.4
2007	60	29	1.4
2008	74	35	1.7
2009	72	34	1.7
2010	78	44	2.4
2011	86	30	1.6
2012	107	37	2.0
2013	105	33	1.8

¹Death rate is calculated as number of deaths due to abuse/neglect divided by the state child population (2013= 1,853,546)
Sources: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments, and Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

**Table 4: Rates of Child Deaths Due to Abuse and Neglect
2003-2013**

	National Average Rate	Virginia Average Rate
2003	1.9	1.7
2004	2.0	1.6
2005	2.0	1.4
2006	2.0	1.1
2007	2.4	1.7
2008	2.3	2.0
2009	2.3	1.5
2010	2.3	2.4
2011	2.0	1.6
2012	2.1	2.0
2013	2.2	1.8

Sources: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments, Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics, and Administration for Children and Families Statistics and Research at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10/index.htm>

In SYF2013, the Virginia death rate was 1.8 per 100,000 children compared to a national rate of 2.2 per 100,000 children. The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) 2012

data (based on Federal Fiscal Year 2012) documents that Virginia’s rate of founded child maltreatment deaths has been equal to or slightly lower than the national average over the past 10 years.

**Table 5: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region
SFY 2013**

	Investigations		Founded		Unfounded		Pending		Appealed	
				%		%		%		%
Eastern	47	12	25.6	31	66.0	0		4	8.5	
Central	20	5	25.0	15	75.0	0		0		
Piedmont	12	6	50.0	5	41.7	1	8.3	0		
Northern	19	5	26.3	12	63.2	1	5.2	1	5.2	
Western	8	5	62.5	3	37.5	0		0		

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

The Eastern region has consistently conducted the most child death investigations in the past 10 years. The percentages of founded versus unfounded by *region* also mirrors the dispositions made in all child abuse and neglect investigations statewide in SFY 2013 with the exception of Western and Piedmont regions. The Western and Piedmont regions had a higher percentage of founded dispositions for child deaths.

Effective July 1, 2013, the Code of Virginia §63.2-1505 B5 was amended to grant 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 day timeframe. The records must be necessary to complete the investigation and not available due to circumstances beyond the control of the local department. This accounts for the two pending investigations.

**Table 6: Child Deaths Due to Abuse and/or Neglect and Rates by Region
2011-2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Deaths	Per 100,00	Deaths	Per 100,000	Deaths	Per 100,00
Eastern	9	2.05	16	3.77	12	2.52
Central	4	1.33	4	1.33	5	1.47
Piedmont	7	2.93	3	1.25	6	2.19
Northern	4	.53	5	.64	5	.57
Western	6	5.28	9	7.96	5	3.75

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments and Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics. The Census Population estimates for 2012 for persons <19 years of age by region are: Eastern: 475,071; Central: 338,478; Piedmont: 273,791; Northern: 866,571; Western: 133,165

In addition to looking at the number of child deaths, the percentages of founded and unfounded investigations, VDSS considers the ratio of child deaths to the population of children less than 18

years of age by region. Child death rates per 100,000 children by region indicate the Western Region has the greatest risk of children dying from abuse or neglect. The death rate for SFY 2013 decreased significantly in the Western Region to more than half that of SFY 2012. Eastern and Northern regions also experienced a decrease in the death rate. Piedmont and Central regions saw a slight increase in the death rate.

II. CHILDREN

Local departments of social services investigated the deaths of 106 children in SFY 2013. Of those, 33 children were found to have died from abuse and or neglect. This section provides detailed demographic information and trends of children involved in child death investigations.

**Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age
2011 – 2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Birth to 12 months	18	60.0	19	51.4	15	45.5
13 months to 3 years	8	26.7	10	27.0	10	30.3
4 to 7 years	1	3.3	1	2.7	4	12.0
8 to 12 years	2	6.7	5	13.5	2	6.1
13 years and over	1	3.3	2	5.4	2	6.1
Total	30	100.0	37	100.0	33	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

This table shows that younger children are the most vulnerable to death as a result of child abuse and neglect. Virginia's numbers are aligned with national data which indicates that nearly three quarters of all child fatalities are of children less than three years of age.

**Table 8: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race
2011 – 2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	10	33.3	12	32.4	13	39.4
White	17	56.7	19	51.4	19	57.6
Multi-racial	1	3.3	5	13.5	1	3.0
Asian	2	6.7	1	2.7	0	0.0
Total	30	100.0	37	100.0	33	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

The race of the majority of child fatalities in Virginia continues to be White (57.6%). The race of 39.4% of the child deaths was African-American. Census data indicates that African-American children comprise only 23.7% of all children less than 18 years of age. This highlights the over-

representation of African American children and is consistent with previous years and the national data.

**Table 9: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender
2011 – 2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	12	40.0	19	51.4	14	42.4
Male	18	60.0	18	48.6	19	57.6
Total	30	100.0	37	100.0	33	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

In SFY 2013 there were more male child deaths than female deaths. This is consistent with national data which indicates boys had a higher child fatality rate than girls.

III. CARETAKERS

Local departments of social services found 44 caretakers to be responsible for the deaths of 33 children due to child abuse/neglect in SFY 2013. Some victims were abused by more than one caretaker and there was one caretaker who was responsible for the death of two children.

**Table 10: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect
2011 – 2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mother	16	40.0	15	31.9	20	45.5
Father	8	20.0	14	29.8	10	22.7
Stepparent	0	0.0	1	2.1	0	0.0
Grandparent	5	12.5	2	4.3	2	4.5
Uncle	0	0.0	20	4.3	0	0.0
Paramour	5	12.5	9	19.1	4	9.1
Babysitter	3	7.5	3	6.4	5	11.4
Group Home Staff	1	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	1	2.5	1	2.1	1*	2.3
Unknown	1	2.5	0	0.0	2	4.5
Total Caretakers	40	100.0	47	100.0	44	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

*foster parent

The vast majority of caretakers (68.2%) were biological parents. Babysitter includes three caretakers who were unlicensed day care providers and two persons, not related to the child, who were in caretaking roles. The other caretaker was a foster parent; the identity of two caretakers was unknown. Unknown is used when an investigation establishes that the child was physically

abused or physically neglected, but fails to establish the identity of the caretaker responsible for the abuse or neglect.

**Table 11: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Race
2011-2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Black	11	27.5	16	34.1	14	31.8
White	24	60.0	27	57.4	28	63.6
Asian	1	2.5	2	4.3	0	0.0
Unknown	3	7.5	0	0.0	2	4.5
Multi-racial	1	2.5	1	2.1	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	1	2.1	0	0.0
Total Caretakers	40	100.0	47	100.0	44	99.9

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

In SFY 2013, the race of the majority of caretakers (63.6%) was White. This data remains relatively consistent over the past years.

**Table 12: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Gender
2011 – 2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	23	57.5	20	42.6	26	59.1
Male	16	40.0	27	57.4	16	36.4
Unknown	1	2.5	0	0.0	2	4.5
Total Caretakers	40	100.0	47	100.0	44	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

Typically there are more female perpetrators of child abuse and neglect than male perpetrators.

**Table 13: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect by Age
2011-2013**

	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 20 years	4	10.0	1	2.1	1	2.3
20 to 29 years	18	45.0	28	59.7	23	52.3
30 to 39 years	8	20.0	15	31.9	10	22.7
40 to 49 years	4	10.0	1	2.1	7	15.9
50 or older	4	10.0	2	4.3	1	2.3
Unknown	2	5.0	0	0.0	2	4.5
Total	40	100.00	47	100.0	44	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

The ages of caretakers in SFY 2013 ranged from 19 to 62 years of age. Over half (54.5%) of the caretakers were less than 30 years old.

IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In SFY 2013, 33 children died as a result of at least one type of abuse or neglect. Some children were neglected or abused in more than one way and by more than one caretaker. Of the children who died, 13 (39.4%) had been physically neglected and 11 (33.3%) had been physically abused. Four (12.1%) children were both physically abused and physically neglected. Four (12.1%) children were physically abused and medically neglected. One (3.0%) child died from medical neglect.

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 would be accidental, the cause of death would be gunshot and the type of abuse or neglect would be neglect, an act of omission.

**Table 14: Type of Neglect in Child Deaths
2011-2013**

	2011	2012	2013
Abandonment	0	1	1
Inadequate Supervision	15	16	12
Inadequate Shelter	0	1	1
Inadequate Food	0	0	1
Malnutrition	0	0	0
Medical Neglect	6	5	5
Other/Unspecified sub-type	2	0	2

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

Thirteen (39.4%) children died from one or more types of physical neglect. The most prevalent type of neglect is a lack of supervision that resulted in the deaths of two children in unsafe sleep environments; two children overdosed on drugs; one child drowned; one child committed suicide; and one child shot himself. Medical neglect *caused* or contributed to the death of five children. Medical neglect includes the caretaker failing to obtain immediate necessary or emergency medical care for a child.

**Table 15: Type of Abuse in Child Deaths
2011-2013**

	2011	2012	2013
Asphyxiation	1	1	1
Bone Fracture	0	6	5
Bruises	4	8	4
Gunshot	1	2	0
Poisoning	2	2	0
Abusive Head Trauma ¹	6	6	3
Stabbing	0	3	0
Internal Injuries	4	3	4
Head Injury	4	2	14
Battered Child Syndrome	-	3	2
Sexual Abuse	-	1	0
Bizarre Discipline	-	1	0
Other or Unspecified Type	2	3	0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

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

In SFY 2013, 19 (57.6%) children died as a result of physical abuse. Some children died from more than one type of physical abuse and or in combination with physical or medical neglect.

Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), Traumatic Inflicted Brain Injury and Battered Child Syndrome are diagnosis based on a pattern of injuries. This diagnosis is made by the medical examiner who conducted the autopsy. Each of the AHT cases identified in the table involved a traumatic head injury.

SFY 2013 saw a dramatic increase of head injuries or blunt force head trauma as a cause of death. The more accurate documentation of injuries may be the result of regional child fatality team reviews and closer collaboration with the medical examiner's office.

V. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

When initiating a response to a child fatality report, CPS will initiate 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 initiated with the family for a course of action to mitigate danger/threats of harm and to protect a child from abuse/neglect.

Table 16: Initial Safety Outcomes for Other Children in Home SFY 2011-2013

	2011	2012	2013
	# Families	# Families	# Families
Emergency Removal/Foster Care	4	3	1
Relative Placement w/ Safety Plan	11	12	9
Remain in the Home w/ Safety Plan	7	7	8
Total Families	22	22	18

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

Of the 33 child death investigations resulting in a founded disposition in SFY 2013, 18 families had other children for whom initial safety was assessed. One family had siblings who were removed from the home and placed into foster care and were ultimately placed with family members. Nine families made arrangements for the siblings to stay with relatives and eight families had siblings who remained in the home with a safety plan that was monitored by the local department. One case involved a foster home that was closed and the remaining cases did not have any siblings of the deceased or other children living in the home.

As a result of CPS involvement, families were either referred to or provided services to include mental health services, substance abuse assessment and treatment, parent education, domestic violence services, Family Partnership Meetings, Protective Orders and grief counseling. Family Partnership Meetings are 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 17: Prior Family Child Welfare Involvement in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect 2011-2013

	2011		2012		2013	
	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent
Yes	13	43.3	13	39.4	14	42.4
No	17	56.7	20	60.6	19	57.6
Total	30	100.0	33	100.0	33	100.0

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, March 2014. Information obtained from local departments.

The percentage rate of families with prior involvement for child deaths in the past three years has remained relatively constant and averages approximately 41%. Of the 33 victims in founded CPS fatality investigations, there were 14 families (42.4%) with prior child welfare involvement or open child welfare cases. While the total number of child deaths decreased from SFY 2012, the percentage of cases with prior history increased slightly in SFY 2013.

Prior involvement may mean that the abuser, victim, or siblings were previously or currently the subject of a family assessment, an investigation, or an ongoing service or foster care case.

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

- 1. Chesapeake:** A one year old child died from blunt force head, chest and abdominal trauma while in the care of the father. A report was received in 2011 regarding physical neglect of a sibling. No additional services were recommended as the family was receiving counseling and parent aide services. In 2011 an investigation regarding allegations of medical neglect of a sibling of the deceased child was unfounded.
- 2. Prince William:** A four year old child died due to medical reasons which were associated with chronic unsanitary conditions in the home. Prior involvement with this family extended back to 2004 to address concerns of neglect. In 2007 prevention services were offered but the family declined.
- 3. Wise:** A two year old child died from blunt force head trauma. The mother failed to seek medical attention. There were three physical neglect reports received on this family in 2011 and 2012 concerning inadequate supervision and substance abuse by the mother. There was an open case regarding substance abuse services at the time of the child's death.
- 4. Accomack:** A ten year old child was fatally shot by a sibling with a firearm that had not been secured properly in the home. There were nine investigations involving this family from 2005 to 2009. Five investigations were founded for physical neglect (inadequate shelter) and the remaining four investigations were unfounded. Services, which included parenting education and counseling, were provided to the family in 2006 and again in 2009.
- 5. Chesterfield:** A 14 year old child committed suicide. The mother failed to act upon her suicidal threats and had provided alcohol to the child. In 2010 and in 2012, reports were received regarding the mother's substance abuse. No case was opened; services were recommended and mother was to follow up on her own.
- 6. Virginia Beach:** A one month old child died from starvation and severe dehydration. Bruises were also present. Three reports were received in 2010 concerning the mother's drug use and physical neglect of siblings. No case was opened; services were recommended and mother was to follow up on her own. In 2012, three more reports were received concerning physical neglect. A case was opened and services were being provided at the time of the child's death.
- 7. Wythe:** A 16 year old foster child died of a drug overdose. The drugs were from pain patches used by an adult in the foster home that had not been disposed of properly by the foster parent. The foster child had her child removed from her care in 2011 due to prenatal exposure to illegal substances.
- 8. Henry/ Martinsville:** A three year old child overdosed on mother's prescription medication that was not properly secured. In 2007 there was a founded physical abuse investigation and the mother lost custody of her oldest child. Reports were received in 2009, 2011 and 2012 regarding physical neglect. A case was opened; substance abuse and mental health services were provided to the mother. The mother was receiving court ordered services at the time of the child's death.

9. **Henrico:** A three month old child died from a blunt force head injury inflicted by the father. The autopsy revealed old injuries as well. There were three prior reports received in 2011 regarding siblings of the deceased child and the family received services.
10. **Greensville/ Emporia:** A three month old child died from a blunt force head injury while in the care of the mother. A report was received in 2012 regarding the mother's mental functioning and ability to care for a newborn. No case was opened; no services were recommended.
11. **Danville:** A two month old child died from Abusive Head Trauma. Child also had several broken bones. The mother pled guilty to murder. A report was received shortly after birth alleging medical neglect. No case was opened; no services were recommended.
12. **Newport News:** A four year old child died from a blunt force head trauma with Battered Child Syndrome inflicted by the mother's boyfriend. A report was received alleging physical abuse and was pending at the time of the child's death.
13. **Franklin County:** A three month old child died from a blunt force head injury and had rib fractures inflicted by mother's boyfriend. A report was received in 2012 regarding medical neglect of a sibling by the mother. No case was opened; no services were recommended.
14. **Tazewell:** An eight month old child had numerous bruises which were determined to be non-accidental. The two unlicensed babysitters failed to obtain medical care. In 2010 a report was received regarding a substance exposed newborn of one of the babysitters. A subsequent report in the same year resulted in the babysitter's children being removed.

In SFY 2013, two caretakers were identified as having been in foster care as a juvenile compared to eight of the 24 caretakers in SFY 2012. Regional Child Fatality Review Teams were asked to pay particular attention to this while reviewing the cases for SFY 2012. Their responses will be included in the regional fatality report and recommendations for SFY 2012 to be published by September 2014.

VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS

In SFY 2013 there were 66 (62.3%) child fatality investigations with an unfounded disposition. An unfounded disposition does not mean the abuse or neglect did not occur. Unfounded means that a review of the facts does not support a finding that abuse or neglect occurred.

Of the 66 unfounded reports:

- 54 (81.8%) involved a child under one year of age.
- 46 (69.7%) of the 66 unfounded reports were related to the sleep environment. 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.
- Children died accidentally by drowning, falls, use of firearm, hanging, left unattended in a car and being crushed.
- Two children were exposed to drugs/alcohol prenatally.

VII. APPENDIX Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2013

Appendix: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary
Page	7/7/12	4/5/12	0.3	M	AA	Paramour	33	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from a blunt force head injury while in the care of mother's boyfriend. He was charged with murder.
Roanoke County	7/24/12	6/6/11	1.1	F	W	Mother	21	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child died from a blunt force head injury and had bone fractures, new and old. The mother's boyfriend was charged criminally.
Prince William	7/25/12	2/9/08	4.5	M	AA	Mother	31	AA	F	Physical Neglect	No	Mother failed to properly supervise four year old child who found a loaded firearm in a vehicle and shot himself.
Chesapeake	8/15/12	4/18/11	1.3	F	AA	Father	35	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from blunt force head, chest and abdominal injuries while in the care of the father. He was charged with murder.
Virginia Beach	8/16/12	5/21/11	1.2	F	AA	Father	24	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	The child died from Abusive Head Trauma in addition to Battered Child Syndrome. The father was found guilty of murder.
Manassas	8/22/12	9/8/10	2.0	M	W	Babysitter-unregulated	20	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	The child died from a head injury after being left alone in the bathtub by the babysitter.
Chesapeake	9/8/12	6/21/11	1.2	F	W	Mother	27	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child was not being supervised and drowned in family pool.
Prince William	9/28/12	5/5/08	4.4	M	W	Mother Father Grandmother	34 45 62	W W W	F M F	Physical Neglect	Yes	The child died due to medical reasons which were associated with chronic unsanitary conditions in the home.
Wise	10/22/12	9/4/10	2.1	F	W	Mother	30	W	F	Physical Abuse Medical Neglect	Yes	Child died from blunt force head trauma. The mother failed to seek medical attention. The mother was charged with murder.
Accomack	10/26/12	6/12/02	10.4	F	W	Mother Father	31 43	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child fatally shot by a sibling with a firearm that had not been secured properly in the home.
Newport News	11/11/12	8/30/12	0.2	M	AA	Father	19	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma while in the care of the father.
Chesterfield	11/14/12	3/19/98	14.7	F	W	Mother	37	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child committed suicide. The mother failed to act upon her suicidal threats and had provided alcohol to the child.
Virginia Beach	11/15/12	6/18/10	2.4	M	W	Babysitter-unregulated	34	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from a blunt force head injury and had a healing broken bone. The babysitter admitted to hitting the child and was charged criminally.
Virginia Beach	11/26/12	10/23/11	1.1	M	W	Mother Unknown	22 unk	W unk	F unk	Physical Neglect/ Abuse	Yes	Child died from starvation and severe dehydration. Bruises were also present. Mother was found guilty of felony child abuse.

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Appendix: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary
Hampton	1/5/13	7/10/12	0.5	M	W	Mother Paramour	20 21	W W	F M	Medical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child died from blunt force head injuries inflicted by the mother's boyfriend. Mother did not seek timely medical treatment. The boyfriend pled guilty to homicide; mother's charges pending.
Chesapeake	1/9/13	11/12/12	0.2	M	W	Babysitter- unregulated	42	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child's death determined to be Sudden Unexpected Infant Death associated with an unsafe sleep environment. Babysitter was also caring for four toddlers and a nine month old and not adequately supervising the child.
Wythe	1/21/13	3/2/96	16.9	F	AA	Foster Parent	47	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Foster child died of a drug overdose. The drugs were from pain patches used by an adult in the foster home that had not been disposed of properly by the foster parent. .
Henry Martinsville	2/4/13	12/17/09	3.1	M	AA	Mother	28	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child overdosed on mother's prescription medication that was not secured properly.
Henrico	2/9/13	10/13/12	0.3	M	W	Father	23	W	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from a blunt force head injury inflicted by the father. The autopsy revealed old injuries. The father was found guilty of manslaughter.
Greensville Emporia	3/8/13	11/3/12	0.3	M	AA	Mother	22	AA	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from blunt force head injury while in the care of mother.
Shenandoah Valley	03/14/13	3/26/12	1.0	F	W	Mother	27	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child drowned after being left unattended in a bathtub by mother.
Chesterfield	3/25/13	2/14/13	0.1	F	W	Father	22	W	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from a blunt force head injury. The father was charged with murder.
Newport News	4/4/13	3/30/06	7.0	F	AA	Mother Grandfather Unknown	40 44 unk	AA AA unk	F M unk	Medical Neglect Physical Abuse	No	Child died from extensive untreated abusive injuries. It was never determined who had abused the child but, caretakers failed to get emergency medical treatment when it was obvious the child was very ill.
Lynchburg	4/18/13	3/14/11	2.1	M	AA	Father	39	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from a blunt force head and chest injuries while in the care of the father.
Danville	4/19/13	2/15/13	0.2	M	Multi	Mother	21	W	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child died from Abusive Head Trauma. Child also had several broken bones. The mother pled guilty to murder.
Richmond	4/23/13	8/12/00	12.7	M	AA	Mother	31	AA	F	Medical Neglect	No	Child died of complications from severe asthma. The mother failed to obtain medical treatment.
Washington	4/30/13	3/8/13	0.1	M	W	Father	29	W	M	Physical Neglect	No	Cause of death was ruled Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and was associated with co-sleeping with the father, who was under the influence of alcohol.

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Appendix: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (yrs)	Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary
Newport News	5/2/13	1/31/09	4.3	F	W	Mother Paramour	24 23	W W	F M	Physical Abuse/ Neglect	Yes	Child died from blunt force head injuries with Battered Child Syndrome inflicted by the mother's boyfriend. The mother failed to protect the child.
Fairfax	5/7/13	5/7/13	0.0	F	W	Mother	22	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child died from a head injury received on day she was born. Mother delivered at home and did not tell anyone.
Pulaski	5/11/13	12/12/12	0.4	M	W	Mother Father	20 27	W W	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child's death was determined Sudden Unexpected Infant Death. The parents were found neglectful having not checked on the infant for an extended period of time.
Franklin Co.	5/19/13	1/27/13	0.3	M	AA	Mother Paramour	26 20	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect/ Abuse	Yes	Child died from a blunt force head injury and had rib fractures inflicted by mother's boyfriend. Mother knew boyfriend was violent and unstable yet continued to leave child with him.
Richmond	5/29/13	5/29/13	0.0	F	AA	Mother	27	AA	F	Physical Neglect/ Abuse	No	Child found deceased in a trash dumpster. Child died from asphyxiation. Mother was charged with the murder.
Tazewell	6/26/13	10/1/12	0.7	M	W	Babysitters- unregulated	27 45	W W	F M	Physical Abuse Medical Neglect	Yes	The child had numerous bruises which were determined to be non-accidental. The babysitters failed to obtain medical care.