

**MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**



**2008
CHILD MALTREATMENT
STATISTICS**

**Angelo McClain, Ph.D., LICSW
Commissioner**

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DEPARTMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

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CHILD MALTREATMENT
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Executive Summary

This report contains descriptive statistics dealing with reports, screening and investigation decisions, reporting groups, and the characteristics of maltreated children, mothers, and perpetrators. Separate analyses are presented for each type of maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. Although the maltreatment data were mostly analyzed at a statewide level, some statistics are presented at the DCF Regional and Area Office levels. Maltreatment reporting and victimization rates, and associated demographic/socioeconomic factors are provided for selected cities and towns. These rates are useful for monitoring the incidence and distribution of child maltreatment in Massachusetts.

Statistics presented for calendar year 2008 are compared to data from prior years. The report is intended to be used for monitoring purposes and education. For example, it provides: descriptions of victimized children, parents, perpetrators, and reporters by type of maltreatment (recognition/education); data on the incidence and distribution of child maltreatment in the state (allocation of resources for prevention and treatment programs); and feedback about the DCF reporting/investigation system (screening/investigating/case-opening process).

Principal observations from the analysis of child maltreatment data collected during 2008 are:

Reporting

- During 2008, DCF received 78,745 reports of abuse and neglect. A total of 119,247 children were identified in these reports. Compared to 2007, this was a 4% increase in the number of children identified.
- The 9% gain in reported children from 2006 to 2008 followed an eight-year period (1998-2006) of slow but steady growth (13%) in reported children.
- Neglect accounted for the majority of reports to DCF. As a proportion of all children reported (119,247), neglect accounted for 85%, physical abuse for 18%, and sexual abuse for 6%.
- Reporting groups that contributed the most to the 2007-2008 rise in reports of allegedly maltreated children were: law enforcement personnel, school personnel, medical professionals, and “other” mandated reporters.

Screening and Investigation Decisions

All Maltreatment

- The screen-in rate for all maltreatment in 2008 was 68%. From 1997 to 2008, screen-in rates have ranged from 62% to 68%.
- In 2008, DCF conducted 45,097 investigations of alleged maltreatment involving 71,264 children. Of these children, 41,125 (57%) were found to have been victimized (supported allegations). Along with the 2007-2008 growth in reported children, there was an increase of 10% in children who were the subjects of investigations and an 11% gain in children with allegations supported following an investigation.
- The percentage of children with an investigation that resulted in a decision to support was 58% in 2008. From 1997 to 2008, support rates have slowly increased from 51% to 58%.

Types of Maltreatment

- Compared to other forms of maltreatment, a child with a reported allegation of physical abuse was more likely to be screened-in (79% vs. 69% for neglect and 44% for sexual abuse). At the investigation level, allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse were much less likely than neglect to be supported (60% for neglect vs. 34% for sexual abuse and 32% for physical abuse).

City/Town Reporting Rates

All Maltreatment

- In 2008 the maltreatment reporting rate for Massachusetts was 52.9 reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. There were 34 cities/towns with a higher reporting rate than the state.¹ The maltreatment reporting rate was 50.4 in 1997 and 51.2 in 2007.
- North Adams, Pittsfield, and Holyoke had the highest reporting rates among cities in 2008. Twenty-nine municipalities had higher reporting rates than Boston. In 1997, Holyoke had the highest reporting rate, followed by Greenfield, North Adams, and Lynn. Although high reporting rates indicate a high incidence of maltreatment, they may also reflect a high public awareness within the geographic area.

¹ Of all cities/towns with 300 or more (unduplicated count) children reported as having been maltreated.

Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors

- Holyoke, Springfield, and New Bedford had high values for each of the following indicators of poverty and stress: %households with public assistance income; %families with related children less than 18 years old below poverty level; %families with single female with related children less than 18 below poverty level; %unemployed; teen birth rate; and the lowest median family income. Lawrence, Chelsea, and North Adams had high values for some of the preceding indicators.

City/Town Victimization Rates

- In 2008, the victimization rate in Massachusetts was 24.4 victimized children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. The victimization rate was 22.3 in 2007. Victimized children were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment. The top 10 municipalities with the highest reporting rates also had the highest victimization rates.

Maltreatment Trends (Supported Allegations)

Types of Maltreatment

- Neglect has been the driving force behind the sustained growth in child maltreatment over the years (1983-2008). Physical abuse and sexual abuse have been declining for most of the past 18 and 23 years, respectively.
- The continued decline in sexual abuse is a national phenomenon. Escalating numbers of sexually abused children during the 1980s were followed by declining numbers during the 1990s. Researchers believe that multiple factors are responsible for the decrease in reports and substantiations of sexual abuse. However, there is no clear consensus as to which factors are involved and to what degree they contributed to the decline.
- In Massachusetts, there has also been a dramatic decline in the number of children found to be sexually abused. From 1990 to 2007, the number of children with supported allegations of sexual abuse dropped 69%. Substantial declines occurred across all ages, but most significantly among the youngest children. As a result, the largest age group among sexually abused children shifted from 3-5 years in 1990-1997 to 12-14 years in 2002-2007.
- From 2007 to 2008, the number of sexually-abused children increased 16%. The most significant gains occurred in the 12-17 year age range. Over the same period, neglected children rose 10% and physically abused children increased 12%.

Recidivism (Supported Allegations)

All Maltreatment

- There were 26,020 supported investigations involving 41,125 children in 2008. Forty-one percent of these children had no prior investigation, 34% had a prior supported investigation, and 25% had a prior unsupported investigation.
- Recidivism time does not appear to be affected by whether a child had a prior supported investigation or an unsupported investigation. There was little difference in the elapsed time distributions for children with prior supported or prior unsupported investigations.
- Of the 14,102 children with a previous supported investigation, 49% were “resupported” within 1 year, 20% within 1-2 years, and 31% in 2 or more years.

DCF Region and Area Statistics

All Maltreatment (Screening and Investigation Decisions)

- The Boston Region had the highest screen-in rate (74%) and the Metro Region had the lowest screen-in rate (61%). Central had the highest support rate (60%) and the Northeast had the lowest support rate (54%). Statewide, 68% of reported children were screened-in and 58% of investigated children had a supported maltreatment finding.

Types of Maltreatment (Supported Allegations)

- From 2007 to 2008, the Plymouth (43%), Lowell (34%), and Lynn (29%) Area Offices exhibited the largest growth in neglected children (w/supported allegations). For physical abuse, the most significant increases were recorded at the Lowell (50%), Arlington (45%), Lynn (41%), and Plymouth (39%) offices. Area offices with relatively large increases in sexually abused children were Lowell (185%), Haverhill (160%), Malden (156%), and Hyde Park (115%).²

² The large increases from 2007 to 2008 for sexual abuse represent small numbers of children: 13 to 37 (Lowell), 5 to 13 (Haverhill), 16 to 41 (Malden), and 13 to 28 (Hyde Park). For the four areas combined, the unduplicated count of sexually-abused children in 2008 was 117 (duplicated count was 119). In 2007, there was no duplication; none of the 47 sexually-abused children had more than one supported investigation.

- Neglect was the predominant form of maltreatment throughout the area offices. As a percentage of all maltreatment supported, neglect ranged from 82% in Lawrence to 99% in Greenfield. Physical abuse was most prevalent in the North Central (26%) and Lawrence (25%) Area Offices. Sexual abuse was equally common among the area offices, ranging from 1% in both Haverhill and Coastal to 4% in Worcester East.

Reporters

All Maltreatment

- In 2008, 71% of the children reported by mandated sources were screened-in compared to 60% for nonmandated and 57% for anonymous. Reporting groups with the highest screen-in rates were: DCF social workers (80%), self-reporting children (76%), law enforcement personnel (74%), day-care providers (73%), medical professionals (72%), school personnel (70%), and foster parents (70%).
- Mothers and fathers in-home and out-of-home (and stepparents) had the lowest screen-in rates (ranged from 42% to 54%).
- Law enforcement personnel encountered more children in high-risk situations. Nineteen percent of the children reported to DCF by law enforcement personnel had their reports screened-in as emergencies. Statewide, 8% of all children reported were screened-in as an emergency.
- The number of children reported by law enforcement agencies (20,150) exceeded the number reported by anonymous callers (14,625). Other reporting groups who reported high numbers of children were school personnel (11,074) and medical professionals (10,044).
- Reports of maltreatment were highest in April, May, and October. The major reporting groups during these three months were law enforcement agencies, school personnel, and anonymous callers.

Types of Maltreatment

- Children reported by mandated sources exceeded children reported by nonmandated for all forms of maltreatment. Mandated sources reported 71%, 79%, and 86% of all children reported as neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused, respectively. Medical professionals were the primary reporters of sexual abuse. Physical abuse was most frequently reported by school personnel. Law enforcement agencies were the leading reporters of neglect.

- The mandated reporting group had higher screen-in rates for neglect and physical abuse than the nonmandated and anonymous reporting groups. However, nonmandated and anonymous reporters had higher screen-in rates for sexual abuse than mandated reporters.

Characteristics of Biological Mothers of Reported Children

Types of Maltreatment

- Comparing the age and marital status distributions of biological mothers by type of alleged maltreatment, showed a tendency towards younger, single mothers of neglected children. For neglect, a greater proportion of mothers were in the 20 to 29 year age group. Other maltreatment types had greater proportions of mothers in the 30 to 39 year age range.
- Depending on the type of maltreatment, up to 3% of the mothers with allegedly maltreated children in 2008 were teenagers. However, the teenage component rose to 43-46% when age was determined at the birth of their oldest child.

Characteristics of Victimized Children (Supported Allegations)

Types of Maltreatment

- Approximately equal numbers of boys and girls were neglected and physically abused. Seventy-six percent of sexually abused children were female.
- During the teen years, significantly more girls than boys were physically abused, sexually abused, or neglected.
- Neglect victimizations (both boys and girls) were highest at ages less than one year and gradually diminished with increasing age. However, there was a resurgence in girls during the teen years while the number of boys continued to decline.
- Physically abused boys outnumbered girls at ages 11 years and younger. At ages 12 and older, girls were more numerous than boys. The number of female victims peaked at 15 years old. Male victims were highest at 6 years.
- The number of sexually abused girls exceeded the number of boys at all ages. Female victims of sexual abuse were most numerous at ages 13-16 years. Among younger girls, there was also a peak at 5 years old.

- Of all children physically abused, 47% were White and 19% were Black. Sexually-abused children were 52% White and 11% Black. Neglected children were 55% White and 14% Black.
- Hispanic origin was identified for 28% of physically-abused children, 24% of sexually-abused children, and 23% of neglected children.
- From 1989 to 2008, the proportion of victimized children in the 0 to 5 year age group has been decreasing for all types of maltreatment. Over these years, the proportion of children in the 6 to 11 age group has fluctuated but has shown little overall change. In contrast, the proportion of children in the 12 to 17 year age group has increased 6% for physical abuse, 9% for neglect, and 20% for sexual abuse. There has been a shift in victimized children from the youngest to the oldest regardless of the type of maltreatment.

Characteristics of Perpetrators (Supported Allegations)

Types of Maltreatment

- Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to be female (57% vs. 41% male). Most perpetrators of sexual abuse were male (85%). There were approximately equal proportions of male and female perpetrators of physical abuse (50% male vs. 47% female).
- The majority of perpetrators, regardless of the type of maltreatment, were in the 30-39 year age group. Compared to physical abuse and neglect, there were greater proportions sexual abuse perpetrators who were teenagers or 50 years or older.
- Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to have been identified as a perpetrator in a prior supported investigation (46% of neglect perpetrators vs. 41% for physical abuse and 25% for sexual abuse). This higher proportion of repeat offenders for neglect may be an indicator of chronic neglect.
- Biological parents are the leading perpetrators of neglect and physical abuse. The proportion of mothers is greater than the proportion of fathers, especially for neglect. Fathers are the most significant perpetrators of sexual abuse. They are followed by Other Relative, Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home, and Stepfather.

Investigation Outcomes

Types of Maltreatment

- Investigation outcomes for neglected and physically abused children were similar, 63-65% had their cases opened for services (new cases) and 24-26% had their services continued (ongoing cases). Sexually abused children had a significantly lower “open for services” outcome—38%. This disparity in investigation outcomes occurred because sexually abused children were more likely to have an outcome of “no services required”—33% vs. 10% for both neglect and physical abuse. Services were not required because the alleged perpetrator was not currently involved with the family and posed no current or potential threat to the child. Additionally, the parent(s) or parent substitute(s) dealt with the situation appropriately.
- The type of maltreatment had no effect on the percentage of children receiving placement services within 90 days following an investigation disposition to support an allegation: 12% of neglected, 14% of physically abused, and 13% of sexually abused children entered placement.

Child Maltreatment and the DCF Caseload

- Child maltreatment is the driving force behind the DCF caseload. On the 31st of December 2008, 82% of 8,729 children less than 18 years old in placement had their case opened by a supported report of maltreatment. The remaining children in placement entered DCF care via a voluntary request for services, CHINS referral, and other means (court referral, institutional abuse/neglect).
- Of 36,455 children not in placement (active case status with an assessment for services or a service plan) less than 18 years old, 86% had case openings via a supported report.
- On the last day of 2008, DCF had 25,866 open cases representing 86,371 consumers. A total of 41,187 adults and 45,184 children were being served.

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NOTES

Most of the statistics in this annual analysis are based on duplicate counts of children who were the subjects of reports and investigations. Duplicate counts allow the inclusion of all reports, investigations, and types of maltreatment for each child. Through the use of duplicate child counts, data are recorded for a child each time he/she is reported and investigated during the year. In reports and investigations where more than one type of maltreatment is alleged or supported for a child, he/she is counted in each of the maltreatment categories. Appendix Table A1 displays statewide duplicate counts of children as well as unduplicated counts of reports, investigations, and children.

Guidelines for screening and investigating a report of child maltreatment are summarized in the chart on the following page. The principal types of maltreatment are neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse.

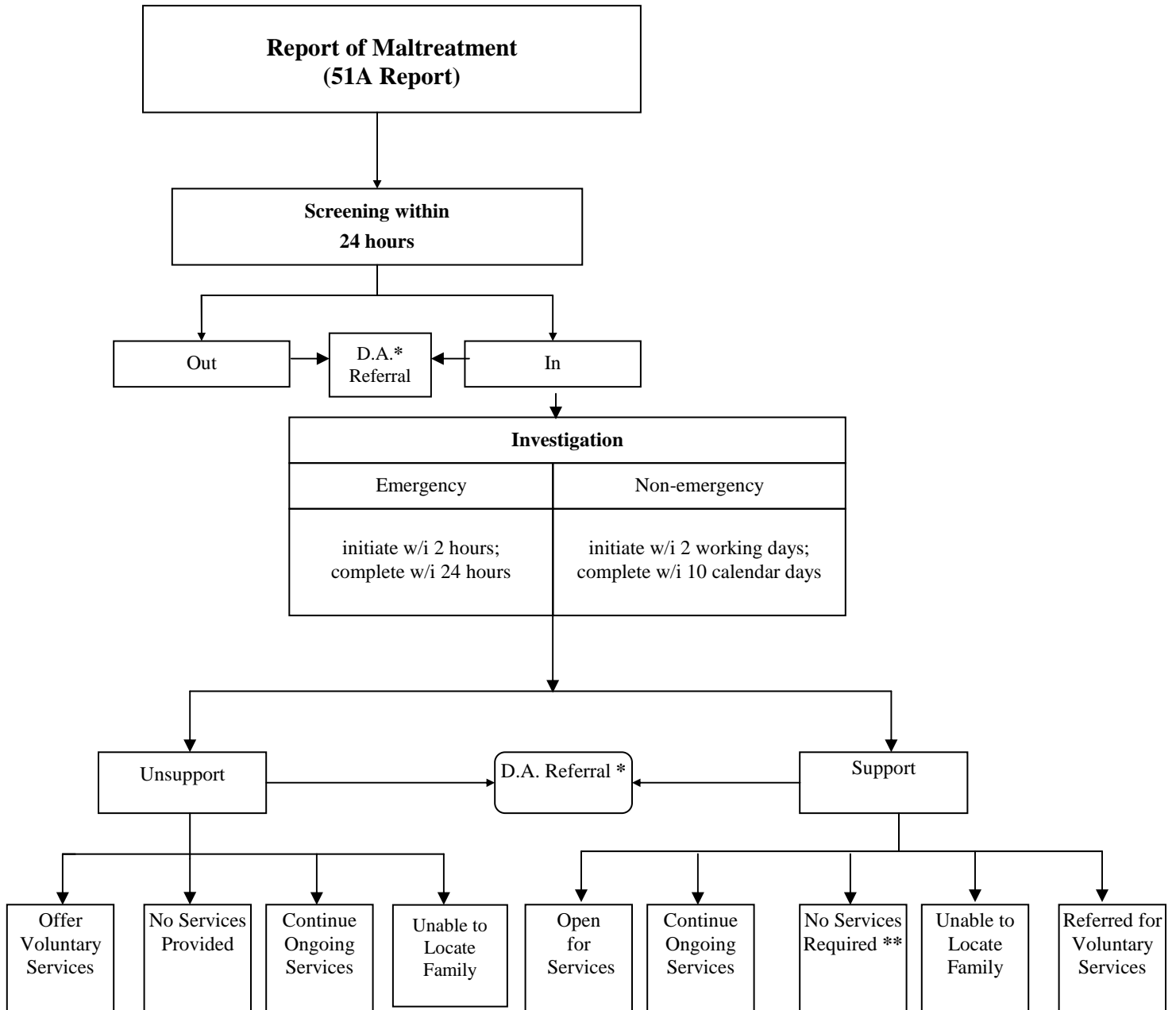
Neglect: Failure by a caretaker,³ either deliberately or through negligence or inability, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care; provided, however, that such inability is not due solely to inadequate economic resources or solely to the existence of a handicapping condition. This definition is not dependent upon location (in other words, neglect can occur while the child is at an out-of-home or in-home setting).

Physical Abuse: The non-accidental commission of any act by a caretaker upon a child under age eighteen which causes, or creates a substantial risk of physical injury. This definition is not dependent upon location. Physical Injury is defined as death;⁴ or fracture of a bone, a subdural hematoma, burns, impairment of any organ, and any other such non-trivial injury; or soft tissue swelling or skin bruising depending upon such factors as the child's age, circumstances under which the injury occurred, and the number and location of bruises. Not every injury, tissue swelling and/or bruise is proof of physical abuse. When, where, how, and why the injury occurred must be considered in making the clinical decision as to whether the injury resulted from abuse.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse occurs when an adult caretaker has any sexual contact with a child. Sexual exploitation and molestation are also considered abuse.

³ A child's parent, stepparent, guardian, any household member and any other person entrusted with the responsibility for a child's health or welfare, whether in the child's home, a relative's home, a school setting, a day-care setting (including baby-sitting), a foster home, a group-care facility, or any other comparable setting. As such, "caretaker" includes (but is not limited to) school teachers, baby-sitters, school bus drivers, camp counselors, etc. The "caretaker" definition is meant to be construed broadly and inclusively to encompass any person who is, at the time in question, entrusted with a degree of responsibility for the child. This specifically includes a caretaker who is a child (for example, a baby-sitter under age 18 years).

⁴ An analysis of child deaths from abuse and neglect can be found in a separate DCF annual report, "Analysis of Child Fatalities." (See DCF website www.mass.gov/dcf)



* Mandatory referrals must be made to the District Attorneys (and local law enforcement authorities) within 5 working days of the supported decision (sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or death). Mandatory referrals are also made when a maltreatment report is either screened-out or unsupported because the alleged perpetrator did not meet the definitions of caretaker, but the allegation did match one of the maltreatment types. Discretionary referrals are made to the DAs in the following situations: DCF may immediately report cases of serious physical injury to the DA and may refer other matters involving possible criminal conduct (including but not limited to cases of abuse or neglect) to the DA, regardless of whether the maltreatment report is supported or unsupported.

** The case is not opened (child is no longer at risk).

The analyses in this report quantify the magnitude of the child maltreatment problem, its various forms and geographic distribution, and the characteristics of victims, perpetrators, and reporters. The report does not address what factors contribute to the risk of maltreatment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) present the following list of characteristics found to increase the risk of being maltreated.⁵ These factors are associated with child maltreatment; they may not be direct causes.

Risk Factors for Perpetration

Individual Risk Factors

- Parents' lack of understanding of children's needs and child development, and parenting skills
- Parents' history of child abuse in family of origin
- Substance abuse in the family
- Young, single non-biological parents
- Parental thoughts and emotions supporting maltreatment behaviors
- Parental stress and distress, including depression or other mental health conditions

Family Risk Factors

- Social isolation of families
- Poverty and other socioeconomic disadvantage such as unemployment or lack of education
- Family disorganization, dissolution, and violence, including intimate partner violence
- Poor parent-child relationships and negative interactions

Community Risk Factors

- Community violence

Risk Factors for Victimization

Individual Risk Factors

- Children younger than 4 years are at greatest risk for severe injury or death
- Disabilities or mental retardation in children that may increase caregiver burden

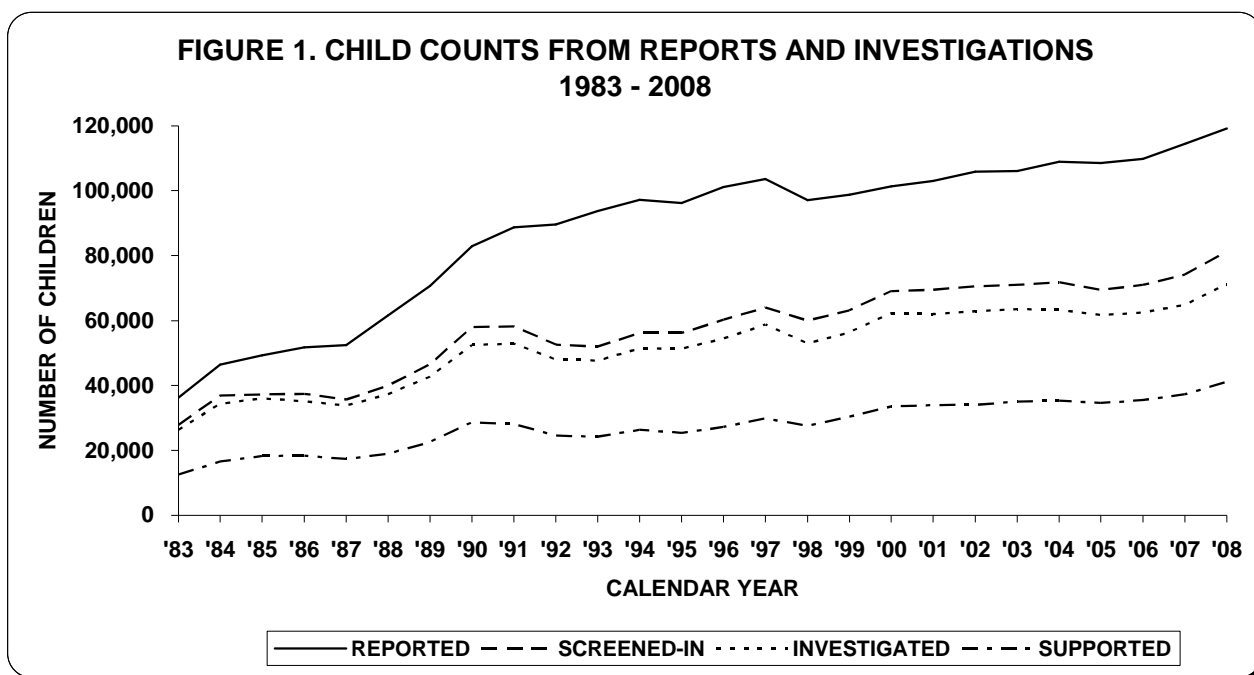
⁵ Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/cmp/cmp-risk-p-factors.htm)

CHILD MALTREATMENT STATISTICS

I. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations: 1983-2008

A. Statewide Trends

During 2008, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) received 78,745 reports of abuse and neglect. A total of 119,247 children were identified in these reports.⁶ Compared to 2007, this is a 4% increase in reported children (Fig.1, Table 1). There were also increases in the numbers of children in screened-in reports (9%), investigations (10%), and supported investigations (11%).⁷ The 9% gain in reported children from 2006 to 2008 followed an eight-year period (1998-2006) of slow but steady growth (13%) in reported children (Fig. 1, Table 1).



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

⁶This is a duplicated count since a child may have been reported more than once during 2008. Much of the duplication is due to multiple reports on the same incident. Removing duplication reduces the number of children by 33% to 79,392. The duplication percentage has ranged from 27-33% over the past 23 years. Appendix Table A1 provides duplicated and unduplicated counts of reported children by maltreatment type. Counts of reports by type of maltreatment are also included.

⁷ Please note that the number of children with investigations is lower than the number of children with screened-in reports. This occurs because an investigation may be associated to multiple reports on the same incident or by reports received on separate but closely occurring incidents.

Figure 1 discloses six periods of differing growth rates in the numbers of reported children. The most accelerated periods of growth occurred in 1983-1984 and 1987-1991 (Fig. 1). Increases in the numbers of reported children during the six growth periods were 28% from 1983-1984; 13% from 1984-1987; 69% from 1987-1991; 17% from 1991-1997; 13% from 1998-2006; and 9% from 2006-2008 (Table 1).

Table 1. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations: 1983 - 2008

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Annual		Annual		Annual		Annual	
	Reported No.	Change %	Screened-In No.	Change %	Investigated No.	Change %	Supported No.	Change %
1983	36,258	--	27,740 (E)	--	26,204	--	12,518	--
1984	46,393	28%	36,869	33%	34,326	31%	16,515	32%
1985	49,320	6%	37,168	1%	35,971	5%	18,203	10%
1986	51,759	5%	37,429	1%	35,085	-2%	18,291	*
1987	52,391	1%	35,673	-5%	33,832	-4%	17,356	-5%
1988	61,506	17%	39,848	12%	37,229	10%	18,957	9%
1989	70,713	15%	46,456	17%	42,590	14%	22,532	19%
1990	82,831	17%	57,983	25%	52,492	23%	28,621	27%
1991	88,748	7%	58,218	*	52,853	1%	28,048	-2%
1992	89,592	1%	52,581	-10%	47,960	-9%	24,601	-12%
1993	93,752	5%	51,941	-1%	47,587	-1%	24,186	-2%
1994	97,210	4%	56,178	8%	51,452	8%	26,325	9%
1995	96,255	-1%	56,175	*	51,285	*	25,375	-4%
1996	101,180	5%	60,199	7%	54,403	6%	27,219	7%
1997	103,533	2%	64,008	6%	58,743	8%	29,815	10%
1998 **	97,108	-6%	59,939	-6%	52,899	-10%	27,559	-8%
1999	98,799	2%	63,128	5%	56,335	6%	30,349	10%
2000	101,364	3%	69,009	9%	62,234	10%	33,520	10%
2001	103,029	2%	69,505	1%	61,942	*	33,858	1%
2002	105,787	3%	70,531	1%	62,891	2%	34,011	*
2003	105,988	*	70,954	1%	63,505	1%	35,011	3%
2004	108,865	3%	71,741	1%	63,329	*	35,344	1%
2005	108,581	*	69,470	-3%	61,658	-3%	34,596	-2%
2006	109,785	1%	70,993	2%	62,483	1%	35,439	2%
2007	114,421	4%	74,143	4%	64,799	4%	37,209	5%
2008	119,247	4%	81,150	9%	71,264	10%	41,125	11%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

** The decline in reported and investigated children in CY'1998 was partly related to data conversion problems that arose when DCF implemented a new management information system (FamilyNet) in February 1998.

(E) = Estimate

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is a subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Reporting groups that contributed the most to the 2007-2008 rise in reports of allegedly maltreated children were: law enforcement personnel, school personnel, medical professionals, and "other" mandated reporters (Appendix Table A2). DCF social workers reported fewer children than the major reporting groups, but these children were more likely to be screened-in (80% screen-in rate vs. 70-74% for the major reporting groups) (Appendix Table A2).

Neglect accounted for the majority of reports to DCF. In 2008, 101,243 children were reported as alleged victims of neglect, 21,717 as physical abuse victims, and 7,581 as sexual abuse victims (Appendix Table A1). As a proportion of all children reported maltreated (119,247), neglect represented 85% of all reported children, physical abuse represented 18%, and sexual abuse represented 6%.⁸ From 2007 to 2008, the number of children with reported allegations in each maltreatment type (neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse) rose 4% (Appendix Tables A3-A5).

B. Screening and Support Rates

In Massachusetts, there are two stages in the report/investigation process where decisions are made that affect the influx of children to DCF (see chart on page xiv). At the first stage, a decision is made whether to screen-in a child based on information gathered from the reporter, DCF files, and any collateral contacts. The purpose of screening is to identify children at risk of abuse or neglect from a caretaker,⁹ and to determine the need for an emergency or non-emergency response.¹⁰

To ensure an appropriate response to reports, DCF employs staff who have undergone training to prepare them as “screeners and investigators.” Screening decisions must be made as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours after receiving a report. Before making a final decision, screeners are required to consult with their supervisor on all reports. As a further safeguard, any decision to screen out a report must be signed by the Area Director or designee.

Screen-in rates were at their highest level from 1983-1986; fluctuations ranged from 72-79% (see table on next page). The rates dipped to the 55-59% range during 1992-1996. From 1997 to 2008, the screen-in rate has ranged from 62-68%. Although the screening rate may decline from one year to the next, it does not necessarily mean a drop in the number of children screened-in since the number of children reported has continued to climb (Table 1).

⁸ The summation of counts (and percentages) for the different types of maltreatment do not sum to the total for all maltreatment since a child subjected to more than one type of maltreatment is counted in each maltreatment category, e.g., a neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused child would be counted once under the “all” maltreatment category, and once in each of the neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse categories.

⁹ DCF staff screen out reports where the alleged perpetrator is identified and is clearly a non-caretaker. However, DCF refers such cases to the DA if the allegations contained in the report fall into one of the categories under M.G.L. c. 119, sec. 51B (4). DCF also provides the reporter with the name, address, and telephone number of the local police and/or the appropriate DA.

¹⁰ In an emergency report, the screener has determined the reported condition poses a threat of immediate danger to the life, health, or physical safety of the child.

Calendar Year	Screen-In Rate	Calendar Year	Screen-In Rate
1983	77%	1996	59%
1984	79%	1997	62%
1985	75%	1998	62%
1986	72%	1999	64%
1987	68%	2000	68%
1988	65%	2001	67%
1989	66%	2002	67%
1990	70%	2003	67%
1991	66%	2004	66%
1992	59%	2005	64%
1993	55%	2006	65%
1994	58%	2007	65%
1995	58%	2008	68%

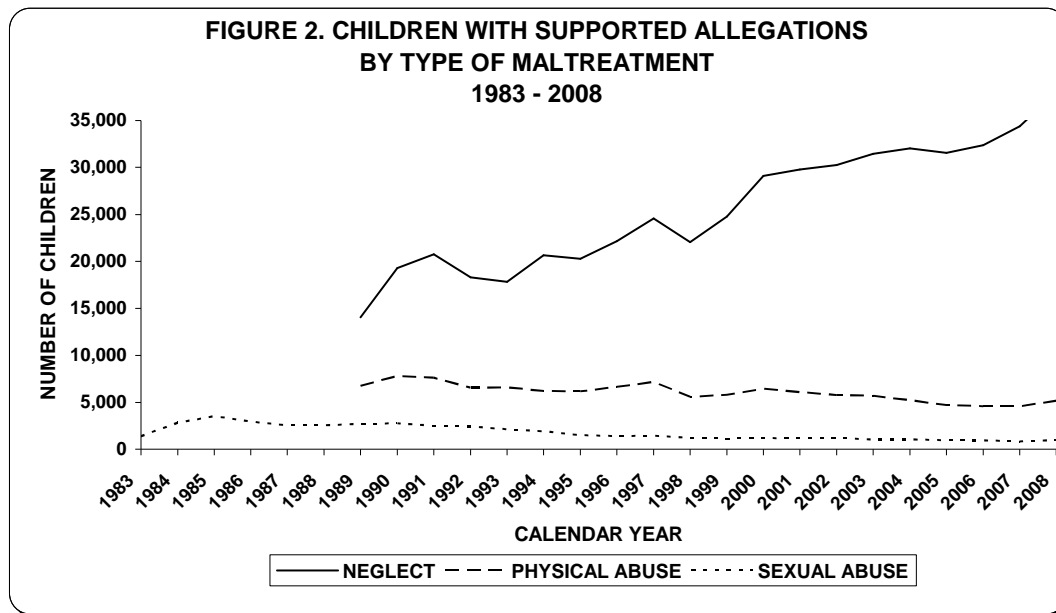
At the second stage, a decision is made whether to support the report of alleged maltreatment based on information collected during the investigation. The investigator determines: (1) the existence, nature, extent, and cause of the alleged abuse or neglect; (2) the identity of the person(s) alleged to be responsible, if possible; (3) the name, age, and condition of all other children in the same household; and (4) all other pertinent facts or matters which are deemed necessary to support or unsupport the allegation which was reported to DCF.

From 1983 to 2008, the percentage of children with investigations that resulted in a decision to support rose from 48% to 58% (see table below). This translates to 12,518 children with supported allegations of maltreatment in 1983 and 41,125 children with supported allegations in 2008 (Table 1 on page 2). There does not appear to be any relationship between support and screen-in rates. Over the years, the screen-in rate has fluctuated while the support rate has slowly increased.

Calendar Year	Support Rate	Calendar Year	Support Rate
1983	48%	1996	50%
1984	48%	1997	51%
1985	51%	1998	52%
1986	52%	1999	54%
1987	51%	2000	54%
1988	51%	2001	55%
1989	53%	2002	54%
1990	55%	2003	56%
1991	53%	2004	56%
1992	51%	2005	56%
1993	51%	2006	57%
1994	51%	2007	57%
1995	49%	2008	58%

C. Type of Maltreatment Supported

Victimized children are the subjects of investigations where it has been determined that they have been maltreated (supported allegations). Figure 2 displays counts of victimized children by type of maltreatment from 1983 to 2008.¹¹ Neglect is clearly the driving force behind the sustained growth in child maltreatment over the years. Physical abuse and sexual abuse have been declining for most of the past 18 and 23 years, respectively. (Appendix Tables A3-A5)



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year. Data for neglect and physical abuse are not available prior to 1989 due to a change in definitions partway through 1988.

The continued decline in sexual abuse is a national phenomenon (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004).¹² Escalating numbers of sexually abused children during the 1980s were followed by declining numbers during the 1990s (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004). Researchers believe that multiple factors are responsible for the decrease in reports and substantiations of sexual abuse. However, there is no clear consensus as to which factors are involved and to what degree they contributed to the decline. One factor may be an actual decline in the incidence of sexual abuse (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004). Other factors may be changes in the practices of mandated reporters and the child protective system (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004).

¹¹ See duplicated child counts in Appendix Tables A3-A5.

¹² Jones, L. and D. Finkelhor. 2001. The Decline in Child Sexual Abuse Cases. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* (January). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. 12pp.

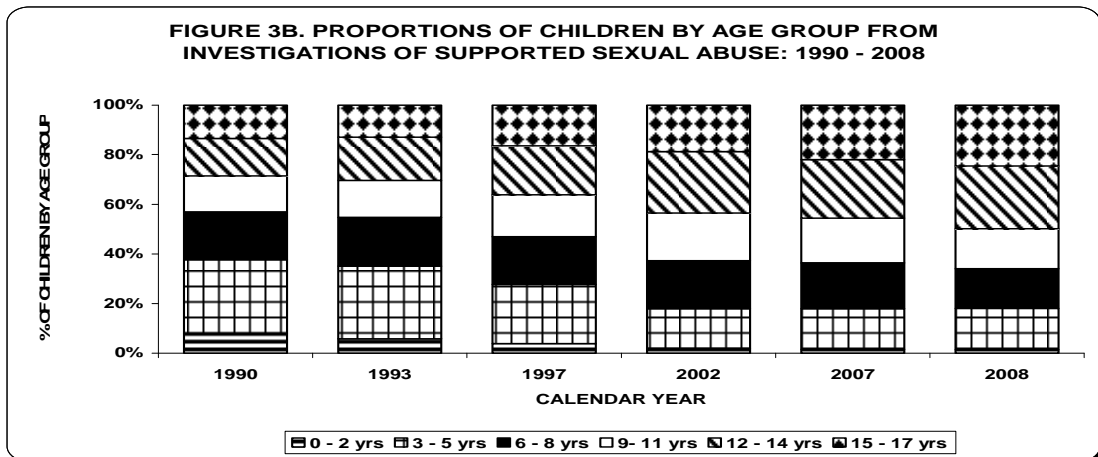
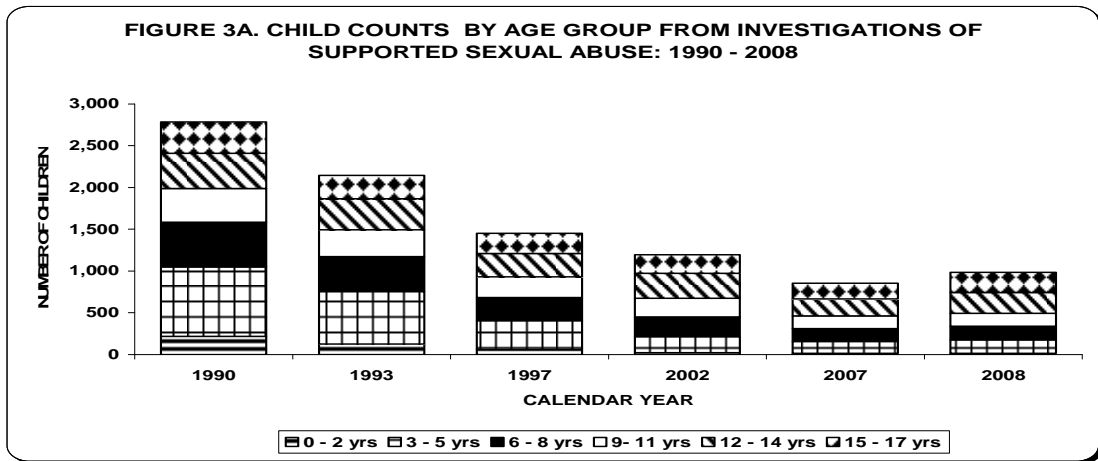
Finkelhor, D. and L. Jones. 2004. Explanations for the Decline in Child Sexual Abuse Cases. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* (January). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. 24pp.

In Massachusetts, there has also been a dramatic decline in the number of children found to be sexually abused (Fig. 3A). From 1990 to 2007, the number of children with supported allegations of sexual abuse dropped 69% (Fig. 3A, Appendix Table A5). Substantial declines occurred across all ages, but most significantly among the youngest children (table below and Fig. 3A). As a result, the largest age group among sexually abused children shifted from 3-5 years in 1990-1997 to 12-14 years in 2002-2007 (Figure 3B). From 2007 to 2008, the number of sexually abused children increased 16%. The most significant gains occurred in the 12-17 year age range (see below and Figs. 3A-3B).

Sexually Abused Children

Age Group (years)	%Change 1990 to 2007	%Change 2007 to 2008
0 – 2	-94%	8%
3 – 5	-83%	16%
6 – 8	-71%	0%
9 – 11	-62%	4%
12 – 14	-52%	24%
15 – 17	-50%	29%
Total	-69%	16%

Children with supported allegations of sexual abuse following an investigation.



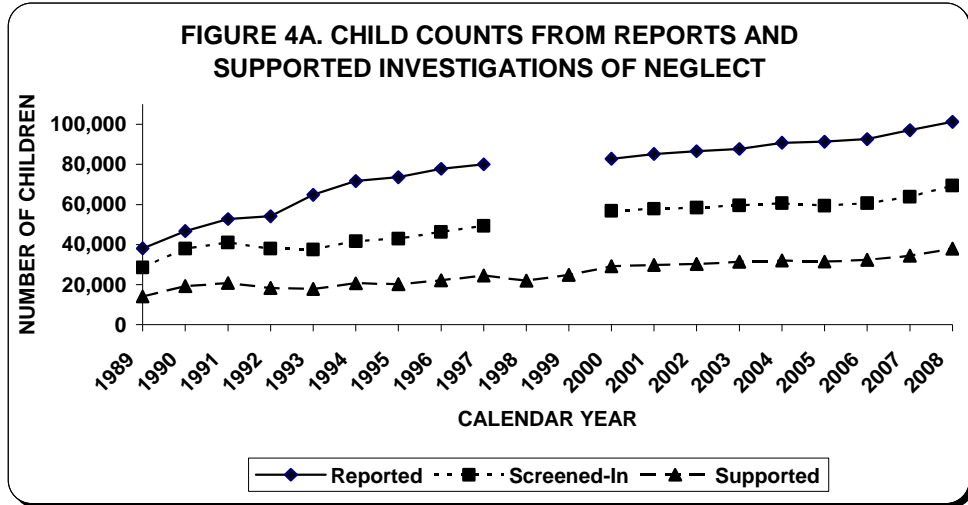
Nationally, Finkelhor and Jones (2004) reported a 40% decline in identified sexual abuse cases from 1992 to 2000. Thirty-nine of 49 states had a decline of 30% percent or more in substantiated cases of sexual abuse from their peak year to 2000. Nineteen of these states had declines of more than 50% in their sexual abuse caseloads.

Figures 4A – 4C (on page 8) display annual counts of children from reports, screened-in reports, and supported investigations of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse spanning the 1980s to 2008. For both neglect and physical abuse, annual counts of children reported and screened-in mirror the counts of children supported—upward trend for neglect and downward trend for physical abuse. However, annual counts of children with reported allegations of sexual abuse are not a reflection of children with screened-in and supported investigations. Over the years, children with screened-in reports and children with supported investigations of sexual abuse clearly show a downward trend while the number of children with reported allegations was either increasing or constant. Consequently, the decline in children with supported allegations of sexual abuse was not due to a decrease in reporting. The drop in sexually abused children seems to be related to a change in the screening and investigation processes. Although there was a decrease in sexually abused children of all ages, the decline was greatest for the youngest children (Figs. 3A and 3B).

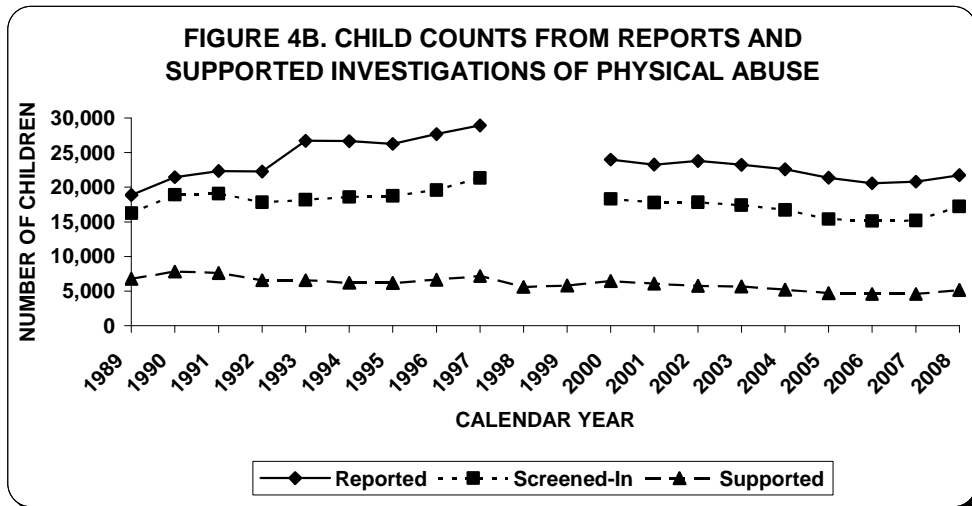
The table below contains a complete set of statistics for the years 2000 to 2008 (Appendix Table A5). The number of reported children fluctuated over the nine year period while the screen-in rate dropped from 55% in 2000 to 41% in 2007. The declining screen-in rate resulted in declining numbers of investigated children. The support rate was stable over the period, so the declining number of children with supported allegations was the result of the dwindling screen-in rate. From 2007 to 2008, an increase in reported children coupled with a higher screen-in rate resulted in a 16% rise in children with supported allegations.

Children with Sexual Abuse Allegations Reported, Screened-In, Investigated, & Supported

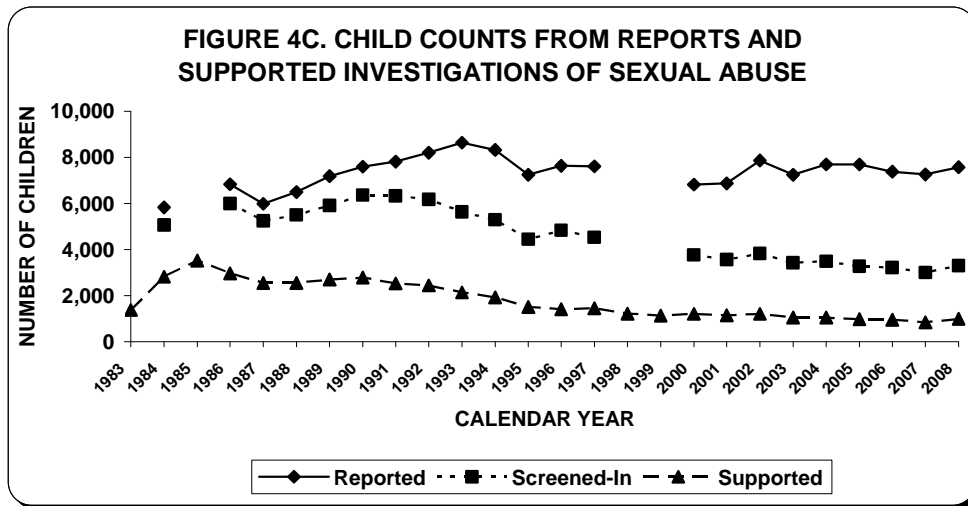
Year	Reported	Screen-in Rate	Screened-In	Investigated	Support Rate	Supported
2000	6826	55%	3772	3496	35%	1216
2001	6874	52%	3559	3221	36%	1152
2002	7865	49%	3835	3470	35%	1210
2003	7243	47%	3430	3066	34%	1057
2004	7693	45%	3489	3090	34%	1052
2005	7692	43%	3272	2956	33%	976
2006	7381	44%	3223	2804	34%	956
2007	7260	41%	3003	2605	33%	853
2008	7581	44%	3304	2924	34%	988



NOTE: Data were not available for children reported and screened-in during 1998 and 1999.

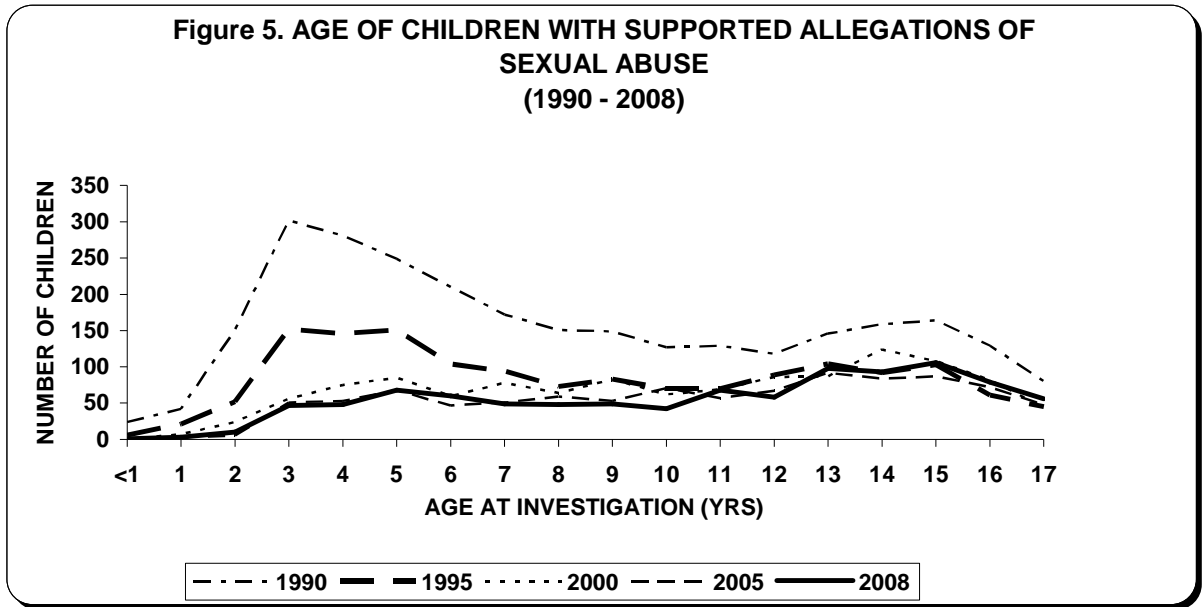


NOTE: Data were not available for children reported and screened-in during 1998 and 1999.



NOTE: Data were not available for children reported and screened-in during 1983, 1985, 1998 and 1999.

Figure 5 displays the number and age of children sexually abused in 1990-2008. From 1990 to 1995, there was a reduction in the numbers of sexually abused children across all ages. This decline was most distinct among younger children, especially those age 2 to 8 years. From 1995 to 2000, the numbers of children 7 years or older showed little change, while the numbers of children between 2 and 6 years old continued to drop significantly. From 2000 to 2005, the overall numbers of sexually abused children continued to decline but at a much lower rate. From 2005 to 2008, there was an increase in the total number of children sexually abused; the gain was primarily among teenagers.



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

The drop in children with supported allegations of sexual abuse (especially among 2 to 7 year old children) may be due in part to the difficulty in proving it has occurred (unless there is physical evidence). A young child’s inability to adequately verbalize what had occurred, the fear of punishment from threatening adults, the anxiety from the investigation process, and other factors may cause a child to recant or stop talking about the incident. A study by Smith and colleagues (1995)¹³ showed that the outcome of sexual abuse cases was highly dependent on the victim’s testimony. In most cases, sexual abuse is not seen by witnesses. Furthermore, family members and relatives are often in disbelief and denial that sexual abuse has occurred. There is also little physical evidence in many incidents of sexual molestation. Under such circumstances, Smith and colleagues found there was greater difficulty substantiating cases involving younger children.

¹³ Smith, S.L., Q.E. Sullivan, and A.H. Cohen. 1995. Factors Associated with the Indication of Child Abuse Reports. *Journal of Social Service Research* 21:15-34.

In January 1998, the DCF Office of the General Counsel issued guidelines for investigators in response to increased judicial scrutiny of children's statements and the expectation that (DCF) investigations meet high standards of reliability. The guidelines enumerate factors pertinent to the credibility of the child's disclosures that should be documented in all child sexual abuse investigations.¹⁴

¹⁴ From "Office of the General Counsel provides sexual abuse investigations guidelines," a news item appearing in "Moving Forward," Vol. 7, No. 2 (January 22, 1998)—a DCF publication.

II. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations: 2008

A. Report Disposition: DCF Regions and Statewide

Of the 119,247 reported children in 2008, 68% were screened-in, 8% as needing an emergency response and 60% as non-emergencies (Table 2). The percentage of screened-in children ranged from 62% in the Metro DCF Region¹⁵ to 74% in the Boston Region (Table 2). Boston had the highest proportion of reported children who were screened-in as an emergency (11%). An analysis of emergency screen-ins by reporting group indicated that law enforcement personnel encountered more children in high-risk situations. Nineteen percent of the children reported to DCF by law enforcement personnel had their reports screened-in as emergencies. “Self-reporting children” was the only other reporting group with a higher percentage of emergency screen-ins—23%. Seventeen percent of the children reported by medical professionals were screened-in as emergencies.

Table 2. Counts of Children in Reports by DCF Region and Screening Decision during January 1 - December 31, 2008

DCF Service Region	Child Counts ¹								Total Children Reported	
	Screened-In Non-Emergency		Screened-In Emergency		Screened-Out		Screened-Out DA Referral		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
West	16,947	58%	1,719	6%	9,821	34%	557	2%	29,044	100%
Central	9,753	58%	1,488	9%	5,044	30%	531	3%	16,816	100%
Northeast	11,738	63%	1,580	8%	4,673	25%	648	3%	18,639	100%
Metro	9,160	53%	1,521	9%	6,266	36%	493	3%	17,440	100%
Southeast	15,940	64%	2,056	8%	6,557	26%	266	1%	24,819	100%
Boston	7,692	63%	1,383	11%	2,853	23%	361	3%	12,289	100%
Unspecified	141	71%	32	16%	24	12%	3	2%	200	100%
Total	71,371	60%	9,779	8%	35,238	30%	2,859	2%	119,247	100%

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

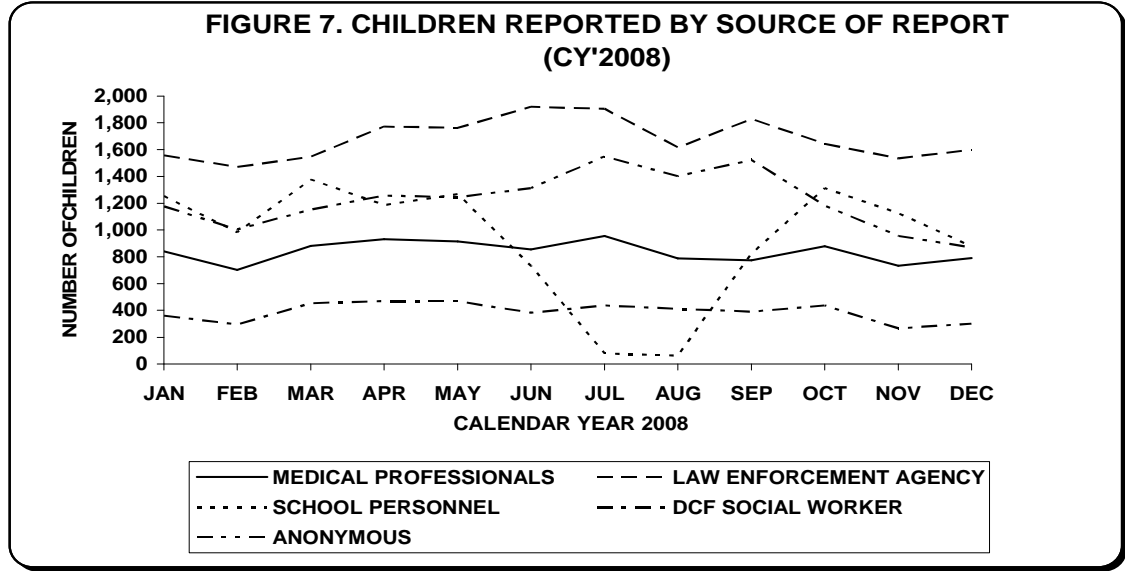
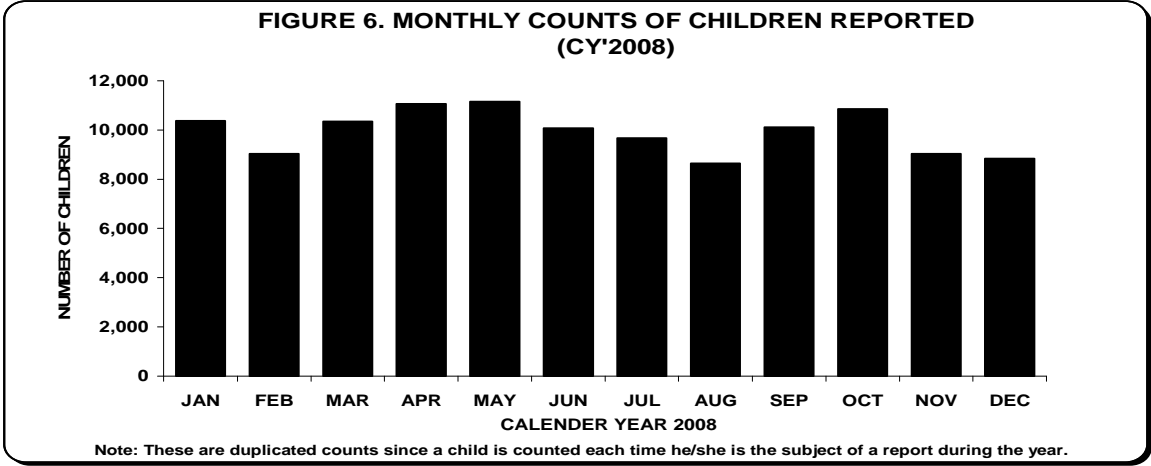
In 2008, 71% of the children reported by mandated¹⁶ sources were screened-in compared to 60% for nonmandated and 57% for anonymous (Appendix Table A2). Reporting groups with the highest screen-in rates were: DCF social workers (80%), victimized children (76%), law enforcement agency personnel (74%), day-care providers (73%), medical personnel (72%), school personnel (70%), and foster parents (70%) (Appendix Table A2).

¹⁵ Massachusetts is divided into six DCF service regions: West, Central, Northeast, Metro, Southeast, and Boston.

¹⁶ Refer to M.G.L. c. 119, s. 51A for a description of mandated reporters.

Anonymous sources reported a high number of children (14,625), but they had relatively low screen-in rate (57%) (Appendix Table A2). Mothers out-of-home had the lowest screen-in rate—42%. Mothers and fathers in-home and out-of-home (and stepparents) had the lowest screen-in rates (ranged from 42% to 54%). The number of children reported by law enforcement agencies (20,150) exceeded the number reported by anonymous callers (see above). Other reporting groups who reported high numbers of children were school personnel (11,074), medical professionals (10,044), and “other” mandated reporters (10,047).

Reports of maltreatment were highest in April, May, and October (Fig. 6). The major reporting groups during these three months were law enforcement agencies, school personnel, and anonymous callers (Fig. 7). July and August were distinguishable by a virtual absence of reporting from schools. Although the level of reporting by medical professionals and DCF social workers was lower than the other reporting groups, it was fairly stable throughout the year (Fig. 7).



B. Investigation Disposition: DCF Regions and Statewide

In CY'2008, DCF conducted 45,097 investigations¹⁷ of alleged maltreatment involving 71,264 children. Of these children, 41,125 (58%) were found to have been victimized (children with supported allegations).¹⁸ The Western and Southeastern Regions had the highest numbers of children who were subjects of investigations (Table 3, Fig. 8 on next page). Among regions, Boston had the lowest volume of children with allegations investigated (and reported). Support rates ranged from 54% in the Northeast to 60% in Central (Table 3).

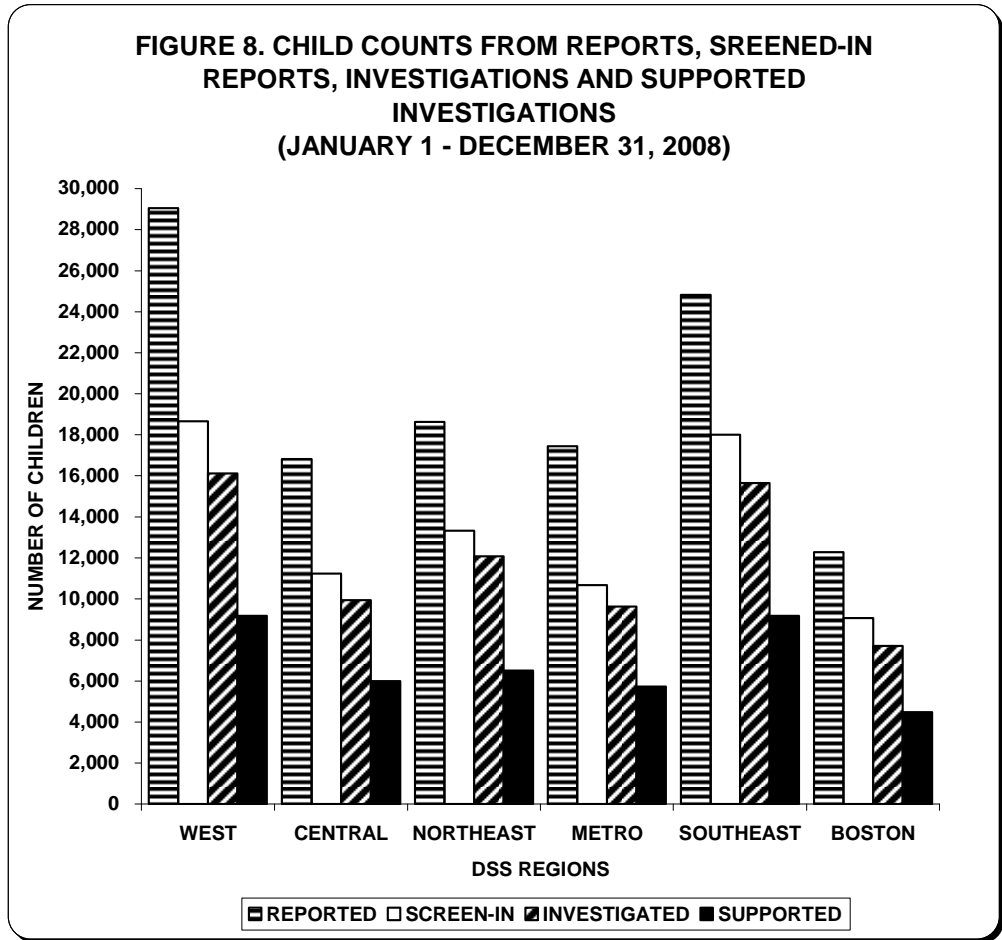
Table 3. Counts of Children in Investigations by DCF Region and Investigation Decision during January 1 - December 31, 2008

DCF Service Region	Child Counts ¹				Total Children Investigated	
	Supported		Unsupported		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
West	9,180	57%	6,946	43%	16,126	100%
Central	5,994	60%	3,940	40%	9,934	100%
Northeast	6,505	54%	5,569	46%	12,074	100%
Metro	5,723	59%	3,911	41%	9,634	100%
Southeast	9,176	59%	6,479	41%	15,655	100%
Boston	4,478	58%	3,230	42%	7,708	100%
Unspecified	69	52%	64	48%	133	100%
Total	41,125	58%	30,139	42%	71,264	100%

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

¹⁷ Ten percent of these investigations were emergencies and 90% were non-emergencies. Investigations of emergency reports must be completed within 24 hours. Investigations of non-emergency reports must be completed within 10 calendar days.

¹⁸ These are **duplicated counts** since a child is counted each time he/she was the subject of an investigation during 2008. Removing duplication reduces the number of children with supported investigations by 11% to 36,617. The duplication percentage has ranged from 7-11% over the past 23 years. Appendix Table A1 provides duplicated and unduplicated counts of children who were the subjects of investigations by type of maltreatment. NOTE: The term "supported" is equivalent to "substantiated" which was used in statistical reports produced before 1988.



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

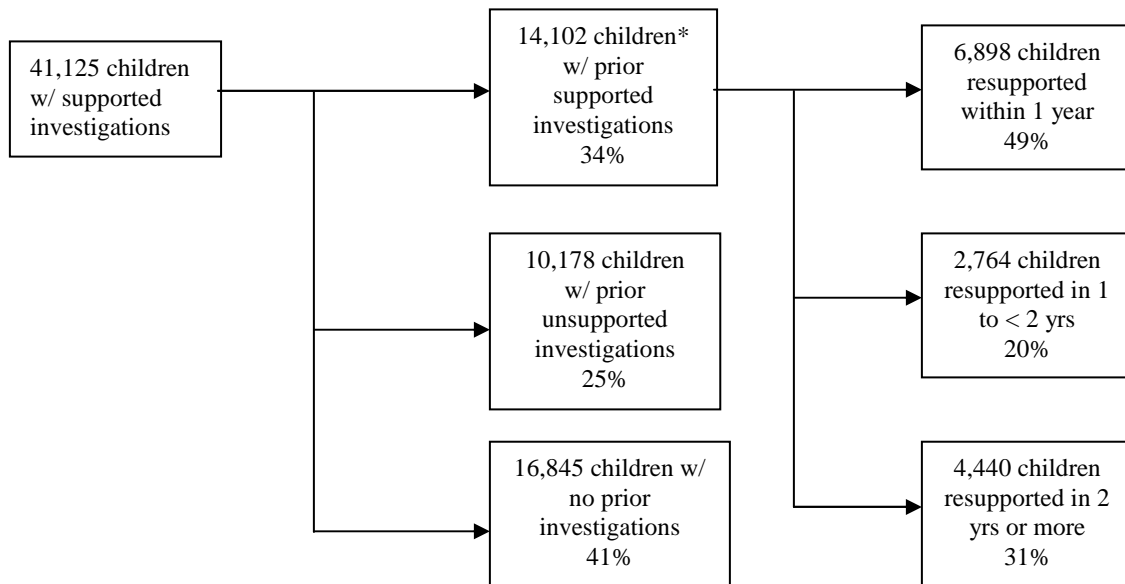
C. Recidivism: Children with Supported Allegations

There were 26,020 supported investigations involving 41,125 children in 2008.¹⁹ Forty-one percent of these children had no prior investigation, 34% had a prior supported investigation, and 25% had a prior unsupported investigation (see diagram on next page). The table on the following page displays the time that elapsed from the prior investigation to the current supported investigation. The recidivism distribution over the specified time periods showed little difference for children with prior supported or unsupported investigations. Recidivism time does not appear to be affected by whether a child had a prior supported investigation or an unsupported investigation.

¹⁹ A duplicated count since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a supported investigation during 2008.

		Children with Supported Investigations			
Maltreatment Recidivism		Prior Support		Prior Unsupport	
Time from Prior Support/Unsupport to Current Support		No.	%	No.	%
1 to < 30 days		781	6%	844	8%
30 to < 60 days		869	6%	640	6%
60 to < 90 days		726	5%	574	6%
90 days to < 6 months		1902	13%	1336	13%
6 months to < 1 year		2620	19%	1827	18%
1 to < 1.5 years		1631	12%	1131	11%
1.5 to < 2 years		1133	8%	793	8%
2 to < 5 years		3066	22%	2211	22%
5 or more years		1374	10%	822	8%
Total		14102	100%	10178	100%

Note: The summation of relative percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding-off.



* 14,102 children with prior supported investigations represent 12,448 unique individuals

D. Geographic Distribution of Child Maltreatment

1. Reporting and Victimization Rates by Incorporated City and Town

The numbers of reported children by city and town of residence are presented in Appendix Tables A6 to A8.²⁰ To compare the incidence of maltreatment among cities and towns of differing population sizes, unduplicated counts of reported children were converted to rates--number of reported children per 1,000 children less than 18 years old residing in a particular area.²¹ Reported incidence unlike substantiated (supported) incidence is more likely to represent a consistent portion of true incidence (Zuravin and Taylor 1987).²²

In 1997, the maltreatment reporting rate for Massachusetts was 50.4 reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old (Felix 1998).²³ The statewide reporting rate for Massachusetts was 51.2 in 2007 and 52.9 in 2008. The victimization rate in Massachusetts was 22.3 victimized children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old in 2007 and 24.4 in 2008. Victimized children were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment.

The top 10 municipalities with the highest reporting rates also had the highest victimization rates (see below and Appendix Table A8):

City/Town	Reporting Rate	Victimization Rate	City/Town	Reporting Rate	Victimization Rate
North Adams	156.9	68.3	New Bedford	119.3	70.9
Pittsfield	142.2	57.2	Southbridge	111.7	57.9
Holyoke	137.7	71.8	Greenfield	108.2	52.8
Athol	126.6	51.5	Webster	103.8	48.7
Springfield	121.3	59.1	Chicopee	97.3	55.6

The municipalities²⁴ listed on the next page (and Appendix Table A6) had more than 300 (unduplicated count) resident children reported as maltreated in 2008. In 2008, nine municipalities had reporting rates over 100. North Adams had the highest reporting rate, followed by Pittsfield and Holyoke. The reporting rates of 34 cities/towns were higher than the statewide reporting rate (see table on next page). Although high reporting rates indicate a high incidence of maltreatment, they may also reflect a high public awareness within the geographic area.

²⁰ **Selected cities had more than 300 (unduplicated count) children reported as having been maltreated.**

²¹ City/town population of resident children less 18 years old in Massachusetts from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov).

²² Zuravin, S.J. and R. Taylor. 1987. The Ecology of Child Maltreatment: Identifying and Characterizing High Risk Neighborhoods. Child Welfare 66:497-506.

²³ Felix, A.C. , III. 1998. Massachusetts Child Maltreatment Statistics, January 1 – December 31, 1997. Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Boston, MA. 73pp.

²⁴ Data are compiled by incorporated cities and towns. Within each incorporated city/town, the counts of maltreated children from all villages and sections were combined.

Municipality Reporting Rates

North Adams	156.9	Lynn	77.1	STATE	52.9
Pittsfield	142.2	Everett	75.3	Milford	51.8
Holyoke	137.7	Lowell	75.1	Marlborough	51.0
Athol	126.6	Worcester	74.3	Randolph	49.8
Springfield	121.3	Chelsea	73.0	Attleboro	48.7
New Bedford	119.3	Wareham	71.0	Falmouth	48.6
Southbridge	111.7	Leominster	69.8	Peabody	47.9
Greenfield	108.2	Salem	67.8	Waltham	47.6
Webster	103.8	Taunton	66.5	Beverly	47.4
Chicopee	97.3	Westfield	65.2	Framingham	46.7
Fall River	90.9	West Springfield	64.5	Weymouth	46.1
Fitchburg	90.5	Barnstable	58.9	Plymouth	45.7
Haverhill	88.4	Boston	57.1	Methuen	45.5
Gardner	85.0	Quincy	56.8	Somerville	45.0
Brockton	80.8	Gloucester	55.9	Woburn	40.4
Malden	79.6	Middleborough	55.1	Medford	38.1
Lawrence	77.3	Revere	54.8	Cambridge	34.7
				Newton	19.1

NOTE: Cities/towns with more than 300 reported children.

2. Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors

City/town reporting rates are listed in Appendix Tables A6 and A7 relative to some demographic and socioeconomic factors that have been associated with child maltreatment by various researchers. To further examine the relationship between these demographic/socioeconomic variables and maltreatment reporting, statistics are displayed below for two groups. One group is comprised of 10 municipalities²⁵ with the highest reporting rates in the above table. The second group represents 10 cities/towns²⁶ with the lowest reporting rates in the above table (excluding Newton).

INDICATOR	10 CITIES/TOWNS w/HIGHEST REPORTING RATES		10 CITIES/TOWNS w/LOWEST REPORTING RATES	
	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE
Reporting Rate ²⁷	97.3 - 156.9	122.5	34.7 - 47.6	43.7
%Households w/Public Assistance Income ²⁸	2.9% - 11.2%	6.0%	1.6% - 2.8%	2.1%
Median Family Income	\$35,708 - \$48,898	\$41,436	\$51,243 - \$67,420	\$62,512
Below Poverty Level: %Families w/Children ²⁹	11.2% - 33.9%	20.9%	4.1% - 13.0%	8.2%
Below Poverty Level: %Families w/Single Female & Children ³⁰	27.5% - 55.1%	43.0%	15.4% - 35.1%	25.3%
%Unemployed	5.3% - 9.3%	7.1%	3.4% - 6.5%	4.7%
Teen Birth Rate ³¹	37.0 - 95.4	58.2	6.4 - 29.4	15.0

²⁵ Highest: North Adams, Pittsfield, Holyoke, Athol, Springfield, New Bedford, Southbridge, Greenfield, Webster, Chicopee

²⁶ Lowest: Cambridge, Medford, Woburn, Somerville, Methuen, Plymouth, Weymouth, Framingham, Beverly, Waltham

²⁷ Number of reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old

²⁸ Households with public assistance income as a percent of all households

²⁹ Percent of all families with related children less than 18 years old who were below poverty level

³⁰ Percent of all families with female householder and no husband present with related children less than 18 years old who were below poverty level

These factors should not be viewed as causes of child maltreatment but as indicators of potential risk.

The reporting rates on the preceding page (and Appendix Tables A6-A8) are computed from combined counts of all types of reported maltreatment. Since 87% (69,249 of 79,392 from Appendix Table A1)³² of the children reported in 2008 were allegedly neglected,³³ these rates are more a reflection of neglect than the less frequently occurring physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Among the cities and towns listed in Appendix Tables A6 and A7, those with the most extreme poverty/stress indicator values are:

- Families with related children less than 18 years old that were below poverty level (10.1% statewide and 13.6% nationwide): Holyoke 33.9%, Springfield 29.4%, Lawrence 26.7%, North Adams 25.9%, and New Bedford 25.3%
- Families with female householder and no husband present with related children less than 18 years that were below poverty level (31.2% statewide and 34.3% nationwide): Holyoke 55.1%, North Adams 53.1%, New Bedford 49.6%, Springfield 47.5%, and Greenfield 46.8%
- Live births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years (22.0 statewide): Holyoke 95.4, Springfield 84.3, Chelsea 82.0, Southbridge 77.1, Lawrence 76.0, and New Bedford 66.7
- Households that were receiving public assistance (2.9% statewide and 3.4% nationwide): Holyoke 11.2%, Lawrence 9.0%, Springfield 8.6%, and Chelsea 7.3%, and New Bedford 7.1%
- Labor force unemployment rate (5.3% statewide and 5.8% nationwide): Lawrence 10.7%, Fall River 9.5%, New Bedford 9.3%, Springfield 7.9%, and Holyoke 7.8%
- Family median income (\$61,664 statewide and \$50,046 nationwide): Lawrence \$31,809, Chelsea \$32,130, New Bedford \$35,708, Holyoke \$36,130, and Springfield \$36,285

Socioeconomic and demographic factors strongly influence child maltreatment rates. At the city/town level of analysis, the degree to which these indicators are masked (including the maltreatment rate) is dependent on the diversity of the communities--the mixture of affluent and poor neighborhoods.

³¹ Number of births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years

³² Unduplicated counts of reported children from Appendix Table A1

³³ Neglect was recorded as one of the reported maltreatment conditions.

E. Type of Child Maltreatment Reported and Investigated

1. Report and Investigation Disposition by Type of Maltreatment

Of the 119,247 children with reports of alleged maltreatment during 2008, 68% had their reports screened-in. Screen-in rates varied for specific types of maltreatment: 79% for physical abuse, 69% for neglect, and 44% for sexual abuse (see table below). A total of 71,264 children were the subjects of investigations of alleged maltreatment; 58% of these children were victimized (supported allegations). As with screen-in rates, support rates differed by type of maltreatment: 60% for neglect, 34% for sexual abuse, and 32% for physical abuse.

Screening and Support Rates by Type of Maltreatment

<i>Type of Maltreatment</i>	Child Counts	
	<i>Children Reported % w/Screened-In Allegations</i>	<i>Children Investigated % w/Supported Allegations</i>
All	68%	58%
Neglect	69%	60%
Physical Abuse	79%	32%
Sexual Abuse	44%	34%

Screen-in and support rates differed by 9% for neglect and 10% for sexual abuse (above table). The difference in the rates was significantly greater for physical abuse—47%. Compared to other forms of maltreatment, a child with a reported allegation of physical abuse was more likely to be screened-in. At the investigation level, allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse were much less likely than neglect to be supported.

2. Report Source and Type of Maltreatment Reported

Counts of children reported by type of maltreatment and reporter are presented in Appendix Table A9. Neglect was the major form of maltreatment with 101,243 reported children compared to 21,717 for physical abuse, and 7,581 for sexual abuse (duplicated and unduplicated counts are presented in Appendix Table A1).

Children reported by mandated sources exceeded children reported by nonmandated for all forms of maltreatment (Appendix Table A9). Mandated sources reported 71%, 79%, and 86% of all children reported as neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused, respectively (Table A9). Medical professionals were the primary reporters of sexual abuse (Table A9). Physical abuse was most frequently reported by school personnel. Law enforcement agencies were the leading reporters of neglect. Several factors contributed to the greater numbers of children reported by mandated sources: (1) they are required by law to report incidents of child maltreatment, (2) they have more opportunities to observe children because of the nature of their jobs, and (3) they are more likely to have received training in the recognition and reporting of maltreated children.

Reports are screened-in when there is reason to believe that a child has been maltreated or may be at risk of maltreatment by a caretaker. Depending on the urgency, a screened-in report is designated an emergency or non-emergency. For screened-in emergency reports, an investigation must be completed within 24 hours after receiving the report. Investigations prompted by non-emergency reports must be completed within 10 calendar days.

As expected, the mandated reporting group had higher screen-in rates for neglect and physical abuse than the nonmandated and anonymous reporting groups (Appendix A9 and table below). However, nonmandated and anonymous reporters had higher screen-in rates for sexual abuse than mandated reporters. Screen-in rates for the major reporting groups are presented below (and Appendix Table A9).

<i>Report Source</i>	<i>Neglect</i>	<i>Physical Abuse</i>	<i>Sexual Abuse</i>
Mandated	73%	81%	42%
Nonmandated	59%	74%	51%
Anonymous	57%	74%	52%
All Sources	69%	79%	44%

<i>Neglect</i>		<i>Physical Abuse</i>		<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	
DCF Social Worker	82%	School Personnel	86%	DCF Social Worker	56%
Law Enforcement Agency	75%	DCF Social Worker	84%	Law Enforcement Agency	46%
Medical Professional	75%	Medical Professional	81%	Other Mandated Reporter	49%
School Personnel	70%	Law Enforcement Agency	78%	Medical Professional	40%

3. Biological Mothers of Reported Children and Type of Maltreatment Reported

Of the 119,247 children reported to DCF, the relationship to their mother (biological, adoptive, step, and foster) was known for 82,578 of the children. Ninety-nine percent of these identified mothers were biological mothers. Only the children with bio-mothers (81,383) were used in the following analysis.

Comparing the age³⁴ and marital status distributions of bio-mothers by type of alleged maltreatment, showed a tendency towards younger, single mothers of neglected children (Appendix Table A10 and table below). For neglect, a greater proportion of mothers were in the 20 to 29 year age group. Other maltreatment types had greater proportions of mothers in the 30 to 39 year age range (Table A10).

Alleged Maltreatment	Bio-Mother	
	Age	Marital Status
Neglect	34% were 20-29 years old	59% were single
Physical Abuse	29% were 20-29 years old	55% were single
Sexual Abuse	24% were 20-29 years old	52% were single

Race and Hispanic origin by type of alleged maltreatment did not reveal any tendencies (Appendix Table A10).

Restricting this analysis to mother's age at the time of the maltreatment is deceptive. If the age of mothers at the birth of their oldest child is examined, teenage mothers become a major component. Zuravin (1988)³⁵ pointed out that the risk of teenage mothers maltreating their children was not an immediate risk but a delayed risk. A mother's progression from "young age at first birth" to child maltreatment has been linked to chronic stressors such as: low economic status, low self-esteem, single parenthood, lack of social support, unemployment, low educational achievement, and an unmanageable number of children.

Depending on the type of maltreatment, up to 3% of the mothers with allegedly maltreated children in 2008 were teenagers (12-19 years old) (Appendix Table A11 and table below). However, the teenage component rose to 43-46% when age was determined at the birth of their oldest child (Table A11). Median age of mothers went from 32-35 years in 2008 to 20 years when their oldest child was born. These data appear to support the observations of others that child maltreatment by teenage mothers may be delayed rather than immediate.

Alleged Maltreatment	% Teen Mothers	
	2008	At Birth of Oldest Child
Neglect	3%	47%
Physical Abuse	1%	45%
Sexual Abuse	1%	43%

³⁴ Age of mother at time of report

³⁵ Zuravin, S.J. 1988. Child Maltreatment and Teenage First Births: A Relationship Mediated by Chronic Sociodemographic Stress? American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 58:91-103

F. Type of Child Maltreatment Supported

1. Distribution of Victimized Children: DCF Regions and Statewide

After one or more reports dealing with a particular incident are screened-in for a child, an investigation of the alleged maltreatment is conducted. A decision to “support” is reached if DCF finds reason to believe that a child was maltreated or was at high risk of maltreatment by a caretaker. After a determination to support, a protective case is opened for each family requiring services that was not in the DCF caseload at the time of the report. These newly opened cases include families unknown to DCF as well as families with previously closed cases. A description of investigation outcomes for children with supported investigations is provided on page 28.

Neglect was the most prevalent form of maltreatment. A total of 37,973 children (92% of all maltreated children)³⁶ were found to have been neglected (Table 4). There were 5,167 physically abused children and 988 sexually abused children (13% and 2% of all maltreated children, respectively).³⁷ Among DCF Regions, the West and Southeast had greater numbers of neglected children (Table 4). This is expected since the West and Southeast conduct the most investigations. Sexually abused children were also more concentrated in the Southeast and West. Physically abused children were more prominent in the Central Region.

Table 4. Victimized Children¹ by Type of Supported Maltreatment and DCF Service Region during January 1 - December 31, 20

DCF Service Region	Child Counts by Type of Supported Maltreatment ²					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
West	8,773	23%	719	14%	209	21%
Central	5,413	14%	1,119	22%	178	18%
Northeast	5,891	16%	901	17%	131	13%
Metro	5,394	14%	629	12%	122	12%
Southeast	8,567	23%	950	18%	235	24%
Boston	3,870	10%	843	16%	111	11%
Unspecified	65	*	6	*	2	*
Total	37,973	100%	5,167	100%	988	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

Note: Summation of relative percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding-off.

¹ Children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment.

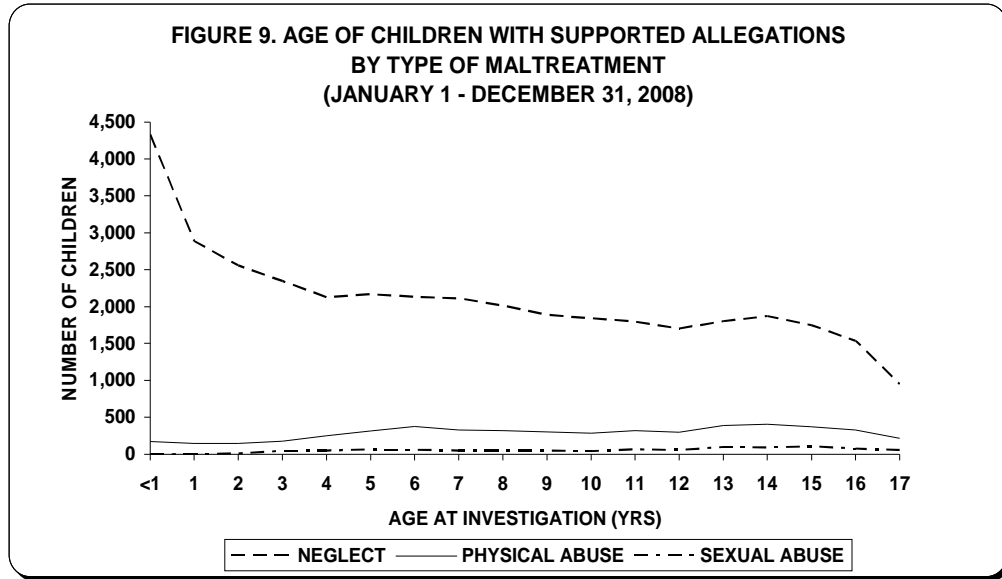
² These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

³⁶ 37,973 neglected children out of 41,125 total maltreated children (children with supported allegations following an investigation)

³⁷ Adding the percentages for neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse does not yield 100% since children subjected to more than one form of maltreatment are counted in each maltreatment category.

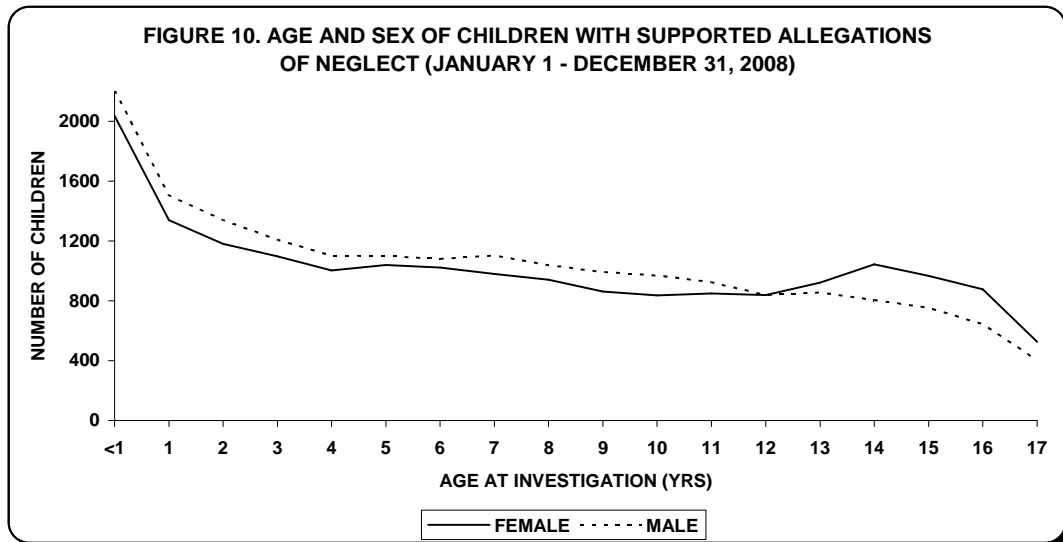
2. Age, Gender, and Race of Victimized Children

Figure 9 displays the age distributions of neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused children. It depicts the high volume of neglected children compared to physically abused and sexually abused children.

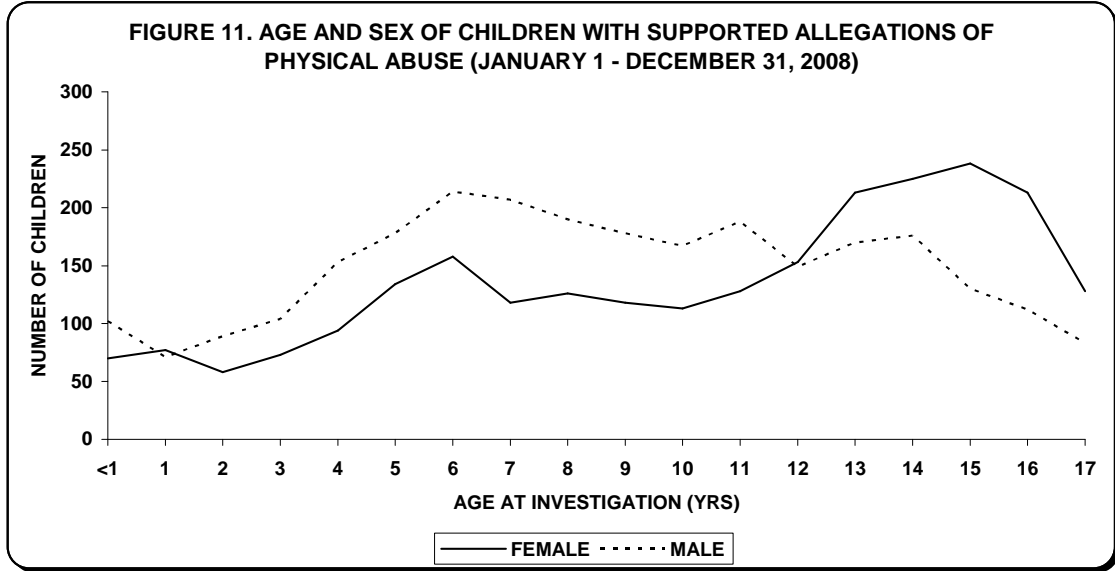


NOTE: Child counts from investigations that resulted in supported allegations.

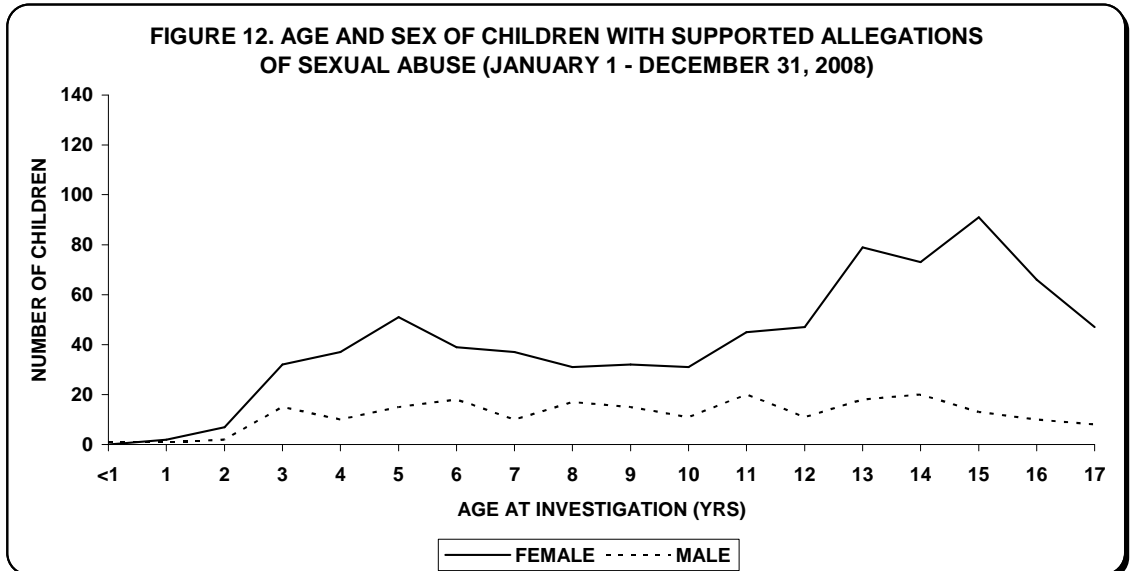
Males accounted for 50% of the children with supported allegations of neglect (48% females, 2% unknown). The distributions of girls and boys across all ages were similar--highest at ages under one year and gradually diminishing with increasing age (Fig. 10). However, there was a resurgence in the number of girls during the teen years while the number of boys continued to decline. Fifty-five percent of neglected children were White and 14% were Black; 23% were of Hispanic origin (Appendix Table A12).



Fifty-two percent of physically abused children were male (47% female, 1% unknown). Boys outnumbered girls at ages 11 years and younger (Fig. 11). At ages 12 and older, girls were more numerous than boys. The number of female victims peaked at 15 years old. Male victims were highest at 6 years. Forty-seven percent of physically-abused children were White and 19% were Black; 28% were of Hispanic origin (Appendix Table A12).



Sexually abused children were mostly female—76% (22% male, 2% unknown). The number of girls with supported allegations exceeded the number of boys at all ages (Fig. 12). Female victims were most numerous at ages 13-16 years. Among younger girls, there was also a peak at 5 years old. Fifty-two percent of sexually abused children were White and 11% were Black; 24% were of Hispanic origin (Table A12).



- Comparing the age distributions of victimized boys and girls showed that during the teen years significantly more girls than boys were physically abused, sexually abused, or neglected (Figs. 10-12).
- Approximately equal numbers of boys and girls were neglected and physically abused. Seventy-six percent of sexually abused children were female.
- The proportion of children with supported allegations by type of maltreatment, race, and Hispanic origin:

Race and Hispanic Origin			
Type of Maltreatment	White	Black	Hispanic Origin
Neglect	55%	14%	23%
Physical Abuse	47%	19%	28%
Sexual Abuse	52%	11%	24%

Grouping maltreated children in Massachusetts by the age classes used in national studies, yields the following relative percentages.³⁸

Children with Supported Allegations				
Type of Maltreatment	Year	Age Groups (yrs.)		
		0-5	6-11	12-17
Sexual Abuse:	1989	35%	35%	30%
	1997	28%	36%	36%
	2007	18%	36%	46%
	2008	18%	32%	50%
Physical Abuse:	1989	32%	35%	33%
	1997	26%	40%	33%
	2007	22%	38%	40%
	2008	23%	37%	39%
Neglect:	1989	54%	30%	16%
	1997	44%	36%	21%
	2007	44%	31%	25%
	2008	43%	31%	25%

Over the years, the 0 to 5 age group has been declining for all types of maltreatment (see above). Yearly fluctuations in the 6 to 11 age group have resulted in little change overall. From 1989 to 2008, the 12 to 17 age group has increased 6% for physical abuse, 9% for neglect, and 20% for sexual abuse. For whatever reasons, there has been a shift in victimized children from younger to older, regardless of the type of maltreatment.

³⁸ Relative percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding-off.

3. Age, Gender, and Relationship of Perpetrator by Type of Maltreatment Supported

The following characteristics are presented for only those perpetrators who were found to have victimized a child. A perpetrator who committed more than one type of maltreatment on a child was counted in each maltreatment category. For each maltreatment category the counts represent the number of victimized children.

Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to be female (57% female vs. 41% male). Most perpetrators of sexual abuse were male (85% male). There were approximately equal proportions of male and female perpetrators of physical abuse (50% male vs. 47% female). (Appendix Table A13)

The majority of perpetrators, regardless of the type of maltreatment, were in the 30-39 year age group—37% of neglect perpetrators, 40% of physical abuse perpetrators, and 28% of sexual abuse perpetrators. Another 28% of sexual abuse perpetrators were in the 40-49 year age group. Compared to physical abuse and neglect, there were greater proportions sexual abuse perpetrators who were teenagers or 50 years or older. (Appendix Table A13)

Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to have been identified as a perpetrator in a prior supported investigation. The prior supported finding may have been for a different type of maltreatment. This higher proportion of repeat offenders may be an indicator of chronic neglect—a major problem confronting child protective service agencies. (Appendix Table A13)

The perpetrator’s relationship to the victimized child is displayed by the type of supported maltreatment in the following table. Only those relationship categories with the highest proportions of victims are shown. Biological parents are the leading perpetrators of neglect and physical abuse. The proportion of mothers is greater than the proportion of fathers, especially for neglect. Fathers are the most significant perpetrators of sexual abuse. They are followed by Other Relative, Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home, and Stepfather. (Appendix Table A13)

<i>Neglect</i>		<i>Physical Abuse</i>		<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	
Biological Mother	52%	Biological Mother	40%	Biological Father	18%
Biological Father	30%	Biological Father	32%	Other Relative	13%
Mother’s Partner in Home	6%	Mother’s Partner in Home	8%	Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home	13%
Stepfather	2%	Stepfather	5%	Stepfather	10%
Mother’s Partner Out-of-Home	2%	Mother’s Partner Out-of-Home	2%	Mother’s Partner in Home	6%
		Other Relative	2%	Mother’s Partner Out-of-Home	5%
				Sibling Brother	5%

4. DCF Area Offices: 2007 to 2008 Changes in Victimizations by Type of Maltreatment Supported

From 2007 to 2008, the number of children with supported allegations of neglect rose 10% statewide. Over the same period, physically abused children increased 12% and sexually abused children rose 16% (Appendix Tables A14-A16).

Annual changes in the numbers of victimized children within DCF regions mask fluctuations at the area-office level. Consequently, the following analysis is directed at those area offices (“catchment areas”) with appreciable 2007-2008 increases in children with supported allegations. Appendix Tables A14-A16 display statistics for all DCF areas and regions.

The Plymouth (43%), Lowell (34%), and Lynn (29%) DCF Areas exhibited the largest growth in neglected children (Table A14). For physical abuse, the most significant increases were recorded at the Lowell (50%), Arlington (45%), Lynn (41%), and Plymouth (39%) Offices (Table A15). Area offices with relatively large increases in sexually abused children were Lowell (185%), Haverhill (160%), Malden (156%), and Hyde Park (115%) (Table A16).³⁹

Neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse as a percentage of all maltreatment were highest in the DCF areas presented below. Statistics for all DCF areas and regions appear in Appendix Tables A14-A16. For each DCF office, the tables show how common a particular form of maltreatment is relative to other types of maltreatment.

Type of Allegation Supported as a Percentage of All Maltreatment Supported at DCF Areas

<i>Neglect</i>		<i>Physical Abuse</i>		<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	
Greenfield	99%	North Central	26%	Worcester East	4%
Pittsfield	97%	Lawrence	25%	11 Other Areas	3%
Van Wart	96%	Dimock Street	20%		
Haverhill	96%	Park Street	19%		
Framingham	96%	Harbor	18%		
3 Other Areas	95%	Hyde Park	18%		
Statewide	92%	Statewide	13%	Statewide	2%

Neglect was the predominant form of maltreatment throughout the area offices (92% statewide) (see above table). Physical and sexual abuse accounted for 13% and 2% of all children with supported allegations, respectively. Ranking area offices within each maltreatment category revealed that neglect was prominent throughout the area offices (ranged from 82% in Lawrence to 99% in Greenfield). Physical abuse was most

³⁹ The large increases from 2007 to 2008 for sexual abuse represent small numbers of children: 13 to 37 (Lowell), 5 to 13 (Haverhill), 16 to 41 (Malden), and 13 to 28 (Hyde Park). For the four areas combined, the unduplicated count of sexually-abused children in 2008 was 117 (duplicated count was 119). In 2007, there was no duplication; none of the 47 sexually-abused children had more than one supported investigation.

prevalent in the North Central and Lawrence Area Offices. Sexual abuse was equally common among the area offices, ranging from 1% in both Haverhill and Coastal to 4% in Worcester East.

5. Investigation Outcomes for Children with Supported Allegations by Type of Maltreatment

Based on the information gathered during an investigation, the investigator and supervisor decide on the outcome of the case. Outcomes for the family of a child with supported allegations in 2008 are presented below by type of maltreatment.

Investigation Outcomes for Children with Supported Allegations of Maltreatment

Type of Maltreatment	Open for Services	Continue Ongoing Services	No Services Required ⁴⁰	Referred for Voluntary Services ⁴¹	Unable to Locate Family	Total
Neglect	24805 (65%)	9261 (24%)	3874 (10%)	8 (*)	25 (*)	37973
Physical Abuse	3268 (63%)	1352 (26%)	541 (10%)	2 (*)	4 (*)	5167
Sexual Abuse	376 (38%)	285 (29%)	322 (33%)	5 (*)	---	988

Note: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year. Also, a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category.

(*) Less than 1% after rounding-off

Investigation outcomes for neglected and physically abused children were similar, 63-65% had their cases opened for services (new cases) and 24-26% had their services continued (ongoing cases). Sexually abused children had a significantly lower “open for services” outcome—38%. This disparity in investigation outcomes occurred because sexually abused children were more likely to have an outcome of “no services required”—33% vs. 10% for both neglect and physical abuse (see first footnote below).

The type of maltreatment had no effect on the percentage of children receiving placement services within 90 days following an investigation disposition to support an allegation: 12% of neglected, 14% of physically abused, and 13% of sexually abused children entered placement.

⁴⁰ The case is not opened. Examples are: (1) the alleged perpetrator was not a family member (baby sitter, bus driver, etc.) and the parent(s) or parent substitute(s) acted appropriately when the situation was identified; (2) the alleged perpetrator is out of the home and poses no current or potential threat to the reported child(ren), and the parent(s) or parent substitute(s) had dealt with the situation appropriately.

⁴¹ Families are offered supportive services.

G. Child Maltreatment and the DCF Caseload

- Child maltreatment is the driving force behind the DCF caseload. On the 31st of December 2008, 82% of 8,729 children less than 18 years old in placement had their case opened by a supported report of maltreatment. The remaining children in placement entered DCF care via a voluntary request for services, CHINS referral, and other means (court referral, institutional abuse/neglect).
- Of 36,455 children not in placement (active case status with an assessment for services or a service plan) less than 18 years old, 86% had case openings via a supported report.
- On the last day of 2008, DCF had 25,866 open cases representing 86,371 consumers.⁴² A total of 41,187 adults and 45,184 children were being served.

⁴² Total consumers include all individuals with an active case status on the last day of the year and were in a case with an assessment for services or a service plan. These selection criteria exclude consumers not in placement who have an active case status that is pending the outcome of an investigation.

VI. Appendix
Additional Tables
A1 to A16

Table A1. Duplicated and Unduplicated Child Maltreatment Counts by Type of Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2008 ¹

Counts ²	Type of Maltreatment						
	All ³ Maltreatment	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Maltreatment	Congenital Drug Addiction	Failure to Thrive
Duplicated Count of Reported Children	119,247	101,243	21,717	7,581	204	38	7
Reports	78,745	63,475	18,138	6,919	159	37	7
Children per Report	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.3	1	1
Unduplicated Count of Reported Children	79,392	69,249	17,988	6,079	199	38	6
Duplicated Count of Investigated Children	71,264	63,075	16,066	2,924	144	35	9
Investigations	45,097	38,434	13,065	2,577	119	35	9
Children per Investigation	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	1	1
Unduplicated Count of Investigated Children	59,786	53,523	14,887	2,778	142	35	9
Duplicated Count of Supported Children	41,125	37,973	5,167	988	52	29	7
Supported Investigations	26,020	23,476	4,359	902	44	29	7
Children per Supported Investigation	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	1	1
Unduplicated Count of Supported Children	36,617	33,936	4,985	977	52	29	7

¹ Duplicated means that a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation, whereas with unduplicated counts, a child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

² For children reported, additional allegations can be included during the investigation that were not on the screened-in report (for example, counts of children reported and investigated for failure to thrive)

³ Total counts for all maltreatment do not equal the summation of specific maltreatment counts due to children with more than one type of maltreatment alleged or supported.

Table A2. Counts of All Reported Children by Report Source during January 1 - December 31, 2008

Report Source	Child Counts ¹				
	2007 to 2008			2008	
	2008 Reported No.	2007 Reported No.	Annual Change %	Screened-In No.	%
Law Enforcement Agency	20,150	18,761	7%	14,883	74%
School Personnel	11,074	10,227	8%	7,801	70%
Medical Professionals	10,044	10,128	-1%	7,270	72%
DCF Social Worker	4,672	4,044	16%	3,725	80%
Court	2,183	2,219	-2%	1,445	66%
Private Social Service Agency	1,512	1,592	-5%	1,026	68%
Day-Care Provider	802	776	3%	583	73%
Other Mass. State Agency	769	816	-6%	489	64%
Out-of-State Agency	268	327	-18%	177	66%
Foster Parent	125	138	-9%	88	70%
Other Substitute-Care Provider	142	168	-15%	96	68%
Other Mandated Reporter	10,047	9,179	9%	6,799	68%
Missing ²	25,918	24,246	7%	18,303	71%
Total Mandated	87,706	82,621	6%	62,685	71%
Self (Victim)	114	136	-16%	87	76%
Father in Home	351	383	-8%	189	54%
Father Out of Home	2,267	2,368	-4%	1,149	51%
Mother in Home	1,054	1,011	4%	540	51%
Mother Out of Home	852	686	24%	357	42%
Stepparent	103	103	*	53	51%
Sibling	117	92	27%	78	67%
Other Relative	2,431	2,475	-2%	1,600	66%
Other Nonmandated Reporter	3,393	3,617	-6%	2,143	63%
Missing ²	6,234	6,585	-5%	3,890	62%
Total Nonmandated	16,916	17,456	-3%	10,086	60%
Anonymous	14,625	14,344	2%	8,379	57%
All Sources	119,247	114,421	4%	81,150	68%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

² Type of reporter was not recorded.

Table A3. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations of Neglect: 1989 - 2008

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Reported	Annual	Screened-In	Annual	Investigated	Annual	Supported	Annual
	No.	Change %	No.	Change %	No.	Change %	No.	Change %
1989	38,010	---	28,625	---	N/A	N/A	14,048	---
1990	46,766	23%	37,921	32%	N/A	N/A	19,293	37%
1991	52,681	13%	41,029	8%	N/A	N/A	20,763	8%
1992	54,161	3%	37,963	-7%	N/A	N/A	18,307	-12%
1993	64,768	20%	37,457	-1%	N/A	N/A	17,840	-3%
1994	71,723	11%	41,743	11%	N/A	N/A	20,664	16%
1995	73,582	3%	42,897	3%	N/A	N/A	20,283	-2%
1996	77,845	6%	46,314	8%	N/A	N/A	22,148	9%
1997	80,091	3%	49,319	6%	N/A	N/A	24,538	11%
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,052	-10%
1999	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24,782	12%
2000	82,781	---	56,715	---	52,640	---	29,114	17%
2001	85,206	3%	57,908	2%	53,078	1%	29,770	2%
2002	86,560	2%	58,436	1%	53,817	1%	30,262	2%
2003	87,714	1%	59,492	2%	54,962	2%	31,430	4%
2004	90,733	3%	60,680	2%	55,294	1%	32,043	2%
2005	91,266	1%	59,330	-2%	54,236	-2%	31,555	-2%
2006	92,545	1%	60,681	2%	55,001	1%	32,367	3%
2007	97,096	5%	63,913	5%	57,564	5%	34,398	6%
2008	101,243	4%	69,477	9%	63,075	10%	37,973	10%

NA = Not Available

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Table A4. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations of Physical Abuse: 1989 - 2008

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Reported	Annual	Screened-In	Annual	Investigated	Annual	Supported	Annual
	No.	Change %	No.	Change %	No.	Change %	No.	Change %
1989	18,873	---	16,257	---	N/A	N/A	6,768	---
1990	21,461	14%	18,927	16%	N/A	N/A	7,822	16%
1991	22,350	4%	19,053	1%	N/A	N/A	7,630	-2%
1992	22,273	*	17,832	-6%	N/A	N/A	6,562	-14%
1993	26,691	20%	18,170	2%	N/A	N/A	6,590	*
1994	26,657	*	18,606	2%	N/A	N/A	6,213	-6%
1995	26,235	-2%	18,757	1%	N/A	N/A	6,166	-1%
1996	27,676	5%	19,607	5%	N/A	N/A	6,650	8%
1997	28,898	4%	21,328	9%	N/A	N/A	7,182	8%
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,603	-22%
1999	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,805	4%
2000	23,972	---	18,313	---	17,582	---	6,432	11%
2001	23,254	-3%	17,763	-3%	16,887	-4%	6,103	-5%
2002	23,778	2%	17,805	*	16,908	*	5,777	-5%
2003	23,218	-2%	17,426	-2%	16,662	-1%	5,698	-1%
2004	22,581	-3%	16,738	-4%	15,677	-6%	5,218	-8%
2005	21,355	-5%	15,402	-8%	14,515	-7%	4,727	-9%
2006	20,581	-4%	15,105	-2%	14,048	-3%	4,597	-3%
2007	20,821	1%	15,189	1%	14,080	*	4,593	*
2008	21,717	4%	17,237	13%	16,066	14%	5,167	12%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

NA = Not Available

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Table A5. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations of Sexual Abuse: 1983 - 2008

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Reported No.	Annual Change %	Screened-In No.	Annual Change %	Investigated No.	Annual Change %	Supported No.	Annual Change %
1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,386	--
1984	5,834	---	5,065	---	4,056	---	2,826	104%
1985	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,533	25%
1986	6,838	---	6,002	---	N/A	N/A	2,965	-16%
1987	5,992	-12%	5,245	-13%	N/A	N/A	2,554	-14%
1988	6,499	8%	5,503	5%	N/A	N/A	2,557	*
1989	7,184	11%	5,913	7%	N/A	N/A	2,707	6%
1990	7,605	6%	6,358	8%	N/A	N/A	2,784	3%
1991	7,824	3%	6,322	-1%	N/A	N/A	2,538	-9%
1992	8,204	5%	6,180	-2%	N/A	N/A	2,450	-3%
1993	8,640	5%	5,641	-9%	N/A	N/A	2,149	-12%
1994	8,331	-4%	5,299	-6%	N/A	N/A	1,930	-10%
1995	7,243	-13%	4,454	-16%	N/A	N/A	1,516	-21%
1996	7,638	5%	4,832	8%	N/A	N/A	1,415	-7%
1997	7,607	*	4,532	-6%	N/A	N/A	1,451	3%
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,220	-16%
1999	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,136	-7%
2000	6,826	---	3,772	---	3,496	---	1,216	7%
2001	6,874	1%	3,559	-6%	3,221	-8%	1,152	-5%
2002	7,865	14%	3,835	8%	3,470	8%	1,210	5%
2003	7,243	-8%	3,430	-11%	3,066	-12%	1,057	-13%
2004	7,693	6%	3,489	2%	3,090	1%	1,052	*
2005	7,692	*	3,272	-6%	2,956	-4%	976	-7%
2006	7,381	-4%	3,223	-1%	2,804	-5%	956	-2%
2007	7,260	-2%	3,003	-7%	2,605	-7%	853	-11%
2008	7,581	4%	3,304	10%	2,924	12%	988	16%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

NA = Not Available

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Table A6. Child Maltreatment Reporting Rate and Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors by Incorporated City and Town

City/Town ¹	2008 ² Reporting Rate (per 1,000)	2007 ³ Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	1999 ⁴ % Families w/Related Children <18 Below Poverty Level	
			Families w/Female Householder and No Husband Present	
			Families	
North Adams	156.9	40.7	25.9%	53.1%
Pittsfield	142.2	52.7	16.2%	40.1%
Holyoke	137.7	95.4	33.9%	55.1%
Athol	126.6	37.0	11.3%	27.5%
Springfield	121.3	84.3	29.4%	47.5%
New Bedford	119.3	66.7	25.3%	49.6%
Southbridge	111.7	77.1	20.7%	41.8%
Greenfield	108.2	45.6	18.9%	46.8%
Webster	103.8	39.0	11.2%	33.3%
Chicopee	97.3	43.7	16.0%	34.9%
Fall River	90.9	59.0	21.7%	44.5%
Fitchburg	90.5	45.4	18.5%	42.1%
Haverhill	88.4	35.1	11.3%	32.3%
Gardner	85.0	50.4	10.5%	28.7%
Brockton	80.8	47.0	17.3%	35.6%
Malden	79.6	25.9	10.7%	22.8%
Lawrence	77.3	76.0	26.7%	43.8%
Lynn	77.1	56.7	19.1%	40.2%
Everett	75.3	40.6	14.3%	31.7%
Lowell	75.1	54.2	19.2%	41.8%
Worcester	74.3	35.7	20.9%	43.6%
Chelsea	73.0	82.0	24.9%	42.0%
Wareham	71.0	37.4	13.2%	32.4%
Leominster	69.8	36.7	10.4%	27.1%
Salem	67.8	23.9	12.1%	26.7%
Taunton	66.5	33.7	12.1%	35.8%
Westfield	65.2	20.3	12.1%	34.1%
West Springfield	64.5	32.5	15.8%	38.8%
Barnstable	58.9	19.1	11.1%	31.6%
Boston	57.1	29.7	22.2%	37.4%
Quincy	56.8	18.3	9.1%	24.9%
Gloucester	55.9	16.7	10.8%	37.1%
Middleborough	55.1	21.8	4.8%	17.4%
Revere	54.8	45.6	17.8%	36.3%
Milford	51.8	25.2	8.3%	31.9%
Marlborough	51.0	24.6	6.8%	27.8%
Randolph	49.8	19.3	3.6%	10.8%
Attleboro	48.7	30.9	5.0%	15.9%
Falmouth	48.6	15.1	7.6%	20.6%
Peabody	47.9	15.4	4.8%	15.5%
Waltham	47.6	13.2	4.1%	15.4%
Beverly	47.4	6.6	6.1%	21.5%
Framingham	46.7	20.5	10.8%	35.1%
Weymouth	46.1	17.2	6.6%	22.8%
Plymouth	45.7	20.9	6.0%	25.4%
Methuen	45.5	29.4	9.3%	30.9%
Somerville	45.0	11.1	13.0%	31.6%
Woburn	40.4	13.3	7.8%	27.3%
Medford	38.1	11.8	5.4%	19.1%
Cambridge	34.7	6.4	12.6%	24.3%
Newton	19.1	NA ⁵	3.9%	11.9%
MASSACHUSETTS	52.9	22.0	10.1%	31.2%
NATIONWIDE	---	---	13.6%	34.3%

¹ Residence of reported children at time of the report. Selected municipalities had more than 300 (unduplicated count) children in residence who were reported maltreated. A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times reported during the year.

² Reporting Rate for all maltreatment = number of reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. Resident children less than 18 years old in Massachusetts from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov)

³ Number of Births per 1,000 Females ages 15 - 19 years (Source: Teen Births (15 - 19 year old mothers) during 2007; Females 15 - 19 years old residing in Massachusetts in 2005 from Births Vital Records Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile (MassCHIP V3.0, r323), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, rupdate: July 3, 2009 (masschip.state.ma.us)

⁴ % of all Families with related children less than 18 years old who were below poverty level. % of all families with female householder and no husband present with related children less than 18 years who were below poverty level (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, DP - 3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) - Sample Data (factfinder.census.gov)

⁵ NA = DPH excludes calculations based on 1 to 4 teen births

Table A7. Child Maltreatment Reporting Rate and Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors by Incorporated City and Town

City/Town ¹	2008 ² Reporting Rate (per 1,000)	1999 ³ % Households w/Public Assistance Income	1999 ⁴ Median Family Income	2008 ⁵ % Unemployed Annual Average
North Adams	156.9	5.7%	\$37,635	6.7%
Pittsfield	142.2	3.6%	\$46,228	5.3%
Holyoke	137.7	11.2%	\$36,130	7.8%
Athol	126.6	2.9%	\$41,061	7.1%
Springfield	121.3	8.6%	\$36,285	7.9%
New Bedford	119.3	7.1%	\$35,708	9.3%
Southbridge	111.7	6.8%	\$41,863	7.6%
Greenfield	108.2	5.4%	\$46,412	5.6%
Webster	103.8	4.5%	\$48,898	6.9%
Chicopee	97.3	4.2%	\$44,136	6.5%
Fall River	90.9	6.5%	\$37,671	9.5%
Fitchburg	90.5	5.9%	\$43,291	7.3%
Haverhill	88.4	3.0%	\$59,772	5.9%
Gardner	85.0	3.2%	\$47,164	7.6%
Brockton	80.8	5.6%	\$46,235	6.8%
Malden	79.6	2.4%	\$55,557	5.2%
Lawrence	77.3	9.0%	\$31,809	10.7%
Lynn	77.1	6.3%	\$45,295	6.3%
Everett	75.3	3.6%	\$49,876	5.7%
Lowell	75.1	5.8%	\$45,901	6.9%
Worcester	74.3	6.0%	\$42,988	6.3%
Chelsea	73.0	7.3%	\$32,130	6.3%
Wareham	71.0	4.1%	\$45,750	6.6%
Leominster	69.8	3.4%	\$54,660	6.4%
Salem	67.8	2.9%	\$55,635	5.2%
Taunton	66.5	3.7%	\$52,433	6.2%
Westfield	65.2	3.7%	\$55,327	5.3%
West Springfield	64.5	4.7%	\$50,282	6.0%
Barnstable	58.9	1.7%	\$54,026	5.1%
Boston	57.1	4.1%	\$44,151	5.1%
Quincy	56.8	2.1%	\$59,735	5.1%
Gloucester	55.9	2.5%	\$58,459	6.4%
Middleborough	55.1	2.1%	\$59,173	6.6%
Revere	54.8	3.1%	\$45,865	5.7%
Milford	51.8	2.9%	\$61,029	5.1%
Marlborough	51.0	2.0%	\$70,385	4.2%
Randolph	49.8	2.1%	\$61,942	5.7%
Attleboro	48.7	2.3%	\$59,112	6.3%
Falmouth	48.6	1.5%	\$57,422	5.1%
Peabody	47.9	1.5%	\$65,483	5.0%
Waltham	47.6	1.9%	\$64,595	4.2%
Beverly	47.4	2.7%	\$66,486	4.6%
Framingham	46.7	2.4%	\$67,420	3.9%
Weymouth	46.1	1.6%	\$64,083	5.3%
Plymouth	45.7	1.7%	\$63,266	5.9%
Methuen	45.5	2.8%	\$59,831	6.5%
Somerville	45.0	2.2%	\$51,243	3.8%
Woburn	40.4	1.7%	\$66,364	4.6%
Medford	38.1	1.7%	\$62,409	4.7%
Cambridge	34.7	2.2%	\$59,423	3.4%
Newton	19.1	1.4%	\$105,289	3.4%
MASSACHUSETTS	52.9	2.9%	\$61,664	5.3%
NATIONWIDE	---	3.4%	\$50,046	5.8%

¹ Residence of child at time of the report. Selected municipalities had more than 300 (unduplicated count) children in residence who were reported maltreated. A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times reported during the year.

² Reporting Rate for all maltreatment = number of reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. Resident children less than 18 years old in Massachusetts from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov)

³ Households with public assistance income as a percent of all households (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, DP - 3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) - Sample Data, (factfinder.census.gov)

⁴ Median family income (Source: same as Footnote 3)

⁵ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The Official Website of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development: Labor Force and Unemployment Data by City and Town, Calendar Year 2008 (Not Seasonally Adjusted Data) (lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lur_a.asp). Nationwide rate from U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, New England Information Office (www.bls.gov/ro1/unneaa.htm)

Table A8. CY'2008 Child Maltreatment Reporting and Victimization Rates by Incorporated City/Town

City/Town ¹	All Maltreatment			
	Reported Children ² No.	Reporting Rate ³ (per 1,000)	Victimized Children ⁴ No.	Victimization Rate ⁵ (per 1,000)
North Adams	515	156.9	224	68.3
Pittsfield	1,508	142.2	607	57.2
Holyoke	1,617	137.7	843	71.8
Athol	364	126.6	148	51.5
Springfield	5,342	121.3	2,604	59.1
New Bedford	2,782	119.3	1,654	70.9
Southbridge	488	111.7	253	57.9
Greenfield	430	108.2	210	52.8
Webster	396	103.8	186	48.7
Chicopee	1,204	97.3	688	55.6
Fall River	2,015	90.9	962	43.4
Fitchburg	914	90.5	426	42.2
Haverhill	1,340	88.4	604	39.9
Gardner	419	85.0	195	39.6
Brockton	2,121	80.8	1,097	41.8
Malden	894	79.6	470	41.8
Lawrence	1,780	77.3	803	34.9
Lynn	1,854	77.1	945	39.3
Everett	620	75.3	307	37.3
Lowell	2,129	75.1	1,196	42.2
Worcester	3,024	74.3	1,547	38.0
Chelsea	698	73.0	370	38.7
Wareham	354	71.0	157	31.5
Leominster	736	69.8	357	33.9
Salem	553	67.8	194	23.8
Taunton	925	66.5	402	28.9
Westfield	622	65.2	288	30.2
West Springfield	422	64.5	213	32.6
Barnstable	618	58.9	231	22.0
Boston	6,652	57.1	3,141	26.9
Quincy	874	56.8	346	22.5
Gloucester	372	55.9	143	21.5
Middleborough	304	55.1	139	25.2
Revere	544	54.8	238	24.0
Milford	344	51.8	172	25.9
Marlborough	430	51.0	185	21.9
Randolph	359	49.8	139	19.3
Attleboro	520	48.7	202	18.9
Falmouth	329	48.6	124	18.3
Peabody	513	47.9	190	17.7
Waltham	437	47.6	184	20.1
Beverly	410	47.4	146	16.9
Framingham	669	46.7	303	21.1
Weymouth	547	46.1	217	18.3
Plymouth	610	45.7	257	19.3
Methuen	493	45.5	202	18.7
Somerville	517	45.0	247	21.5
Woburn	318	40.4	159	20.2
Medford	381	38.1	177	17.7
Cambridge	466	34.7	242	18.0
Newton	341	19.1	128	7.2
MASSACHUSETTS	79,392	52.9	36,617	24.4

¹ Residence of reported children at time of the report. Selected municipalities are those with more than 300 (unduplicated count) children in residence who were reported maltreated.

² A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times reported during the year.

³ Reporting Rate for all maltreatment = number of reported children per 1,000 resident children under 18 years old. Resident children less than 18 years old in Massachusetts from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov)

⁴ Children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment. A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times he/she was the subject of an investigation during the year.

⁵ Victimization Rate for all maltreatment = number of victimized children per 1,000 resident children under 18 years old

Table A9. Reported Children by Report Source, Screening Decision, and Type of Alleged Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2008

Report Source	Reported Children by Type of Alleged Maltreatment ¹					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	Reported	% Screened-In	Reported	% Screened-In	Reported	% Screened-In
Law Enforcement Agency	18,311	75%	2,023	78%	823	46%
Medical Professionals	8,116	75%	1,728	81%	1,058	40%
School Personnel	8,040	70%	3,850	86%	761	31%
DCF Social Worker	3,992	82%	693	84%	398	56%
Court	1,997	67%	275	76%	47	28%
Private Social Service Agency	1,145	71%	390	73%	175	40%
Day-Care Provider	580	73%	251	81%	52	54%
Other Mass. State Agency	603	65%	152	79%	79	30%
Out-of-State Agency	208	72%	50	70%	47	43%
Foster Parent	88	72%	32	84%	30	67%
Other Substitute-Care Provider	108	71%	31	52%	20	45%
Other Mandated Reporter	7,911	69%	2,247	77%	872	41%
Missing ²	20,904	72%	5,416	80%	2,161	44%
Total Mandated	72,003	73%	17,138	81%	6,523	42%
Self (Victim)	96	79%	42	76%	4	100%
Father in Home	306	54%	64	64%	18	50%
Father Out of Home	2,082	50%	345	70%	47	47%
Mother in Home	803	51%	236	67%	135	42%
Mother Out of Home	758	42%	198	56%	40	40%
Stepparent	92	50%	18	72%	7	57%
Sibling	106	66%	24	83%	5	100%
Other Relative	2,306	65%	356	81%	75	72%
Other Nonmandated Reporter	3,069	63%	532	78%	166	44%
Missing ²	5,610	62%	990	76%	249	56%
Total Nonmandated	15,228	59%	2,805	74%	746	51%
Anonymous	14,012	57%	1,774	74%	312	52%
All Sources	101,243	69%	21,717	79%	7,581	44%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

² Type of reporter was not recorded.

**Table A10. Bio-Mother's Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Marital Status by Type of Alleged Maltreatment of Children
Reported during January 1 - December 31, 2008**

Bio-Mother's Characteristics	Counts of Reported Children by Type of Alleged Maltreatment ¹					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Age: ²						
12 - 17	544	1%	40	*	14	*
18 - 19	1,467	2%	152	1%	22	1%
20 - 29	23,892	34%	4,144	29%	1,030	24%
30 - 39	29,621	42%	6,472	45%	2,058	48%
40 - 49	13,278	19%	3,052	21%	1,040	24%
50 - 59	1,486	2%	391	3%	134	3%
60 & older	48	*	9	*	6	*
Unspecified	156	*	48	*	17	*
Total	70,492	100%	14,308	100%	4,321	100%
Race:						
White	44,196	63%	8,071	56%	2,689	62%
Black	9,613	14%	2,350	16%	565	13%
Asian	998	1%	298	2%	65	2%
Native American	194	*	46	*	14	*
Pacific Islander	27	*	6	*	---	---
Multi-Racial	776	1%	135	1%	31	1%
Unable to Determine	7,092	10%	1,767	12%	456	11%
Missing ³	7,596	11%	1,635	11%	501	12%
Total	70,492	100%	14,308	100%	4,321	100%
Hispanic Origin:						
Yes	13,769	20%	3,284	23%	853	20%
No	42,192	60%	8,003	56%	2,445	57%
Unspecified	14,531	21%	3,021	21%	1,023	24%
Total	70,492	100%	14,308	100%	4,321	100%
Marital Status:						
Married	17,222	24%	3,866	27%	1,192	28%
Single	41,625	59%	7,830	55%	2,257	52%
Separated	4,098	6%	911	6%	275	6%
Divorced	4,904	7%	1,049	7%	392	9%
Widowed	364	1%	68	*	15	*
Missing	2,279	3%	584	4%	190	4%
Total	70,492	100%	14,308	100%	4,321	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child allegedly subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

² Age of mother at time of report

³ Race was not recorded.

Table A11. Age of Bio-Mothers in 2008 and at Birth of Their Oldest Child by Type of Alleged Maltreatment of Children Reported during January 1 - December 31, 2008

Bio-Mother's Age in 2008 (yrs)	Counts of Reported Children by Type of Alleged Maltreatment ¹					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12 - 17	544	1%	40	*	14	*
18 - 19	1,467	2%	152	1%	22	1%
20 - 29	23,892	34%	4,144	29%	1,030	24%
30 - 39	29,621	42%	6,472	45%	2,058	48%
40 - 49	13,278	19%	3,052	21%	1,040	24%
50 - 59	1,486	2%	391	3%	134	3%
60 & older	48	*	9	*	6	*
Unspecified	156	*	48	*	17	*
Total	70,492	100%	14,308	100%	4,321	100%
Median Age	32 years		34 years		35 years	
Age at Birth of Oldest Child (yrs)						
12 - 17	15,753	22%	3,097	22%	949	22%
18 - 19	17,240	24%	3,396	24%	928	21%
20 - 29	30,432	43%	6,220	43%	1,937	45%
30 - 39	5,983	8%	1,373	10%	404	9%
40 - 49	390	1%	88	1%	34	1%
50 - 59	---	---	---	---	---	---
60 & older	---	---	---	---	---	---
Unspecified	694	1%	134	1%	69	2%
Total	70,492	100%	14,308	100%	4,321	100%
Median Age	20 years		20 years		20 years	

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

Note: Summation of relative percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding-off.

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child allegedly subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

Table A12. Race of Victimized Children ¹ by Type of Supported Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31,

Race/Ethnicity	Child Counts by Type of Supported Maltreatment ²					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	17,253	45%	1,848	36%	423	43%
Black	4,698	12%	896	17%	96	10%
Hispanic ³	8,535	22%	1,439	28%	236	24%
Asian	598	2%	132	3%	22	2%
Native American	40	*	8	*	5	*
Pacific Islander	15	*	4	*	---	---
Multi-Racial	1,158	3%	134	3%	17	2%
Unable to determine	1,440	4%	211	4%	30	3%
Missing ⁴	4,236	11%	495	10%	159	16%
All Sources	37,973	100%	5,167	100%	988	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

⁽¹⁾ Children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment.

⁽²⁾ These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

⁽³⁾ Hispanic includes all races.

⁽⁴⁾ Race was not recorded.

Table A13. Perpetrator Characteristics by Type of Supported Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2008

Perpetrator Characteristics	Counts of Victimized Children ¹					
	Type of Maltreatment Supported					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Gender						
Male	20,465	41%	2,777	50%	812	85%
Female	28,461	57%	2,630	47%	59	6%
Unknown	1,168	2%	181	3%	79	8%
Total	50,094	100%	5,588	100%	950	100%
Age Group (yrs.)						
10 - 11	4	*	---	---	1	*
12 - 17	344	1%	31	1%	62	7%
18 - 19	1,168	2%	50	1%	21	2%
20 - 29	16,110	33%	1,349	25%	161	19%
30 - 39	18,301	37%	2,176	40%	243	28%
40 - 49	10,655	22%	1,364	25%	240	28%
50 - 59	2,283	5%	357	7%	72	8%
60 - 69	457	1%	82	2%	46	5%
70 or older	103	*	14	*	12	1%
Unknown	669	---	165	---	92	---
Total	50,094	100%	5,588	100%	950	100%
Identified as Perpetrator in a Prior Supported Investigation²						
Yes	23,287	46%	2,266	41%	234	25%
No ³	26,807	54%	3,322	59%	716	75%
Total	50,094	100%	5,588	100%	950	100%
Relationship						
Biological Mother	26,142	52%	2,249	40%	23	2%
Biological Father	15,181	30%	1,786	32%	170	18%
Stepmother	222	*	47	1%	2	*
Stepfather	1,148	2%	259	5%	93	10%
Adoptive Mother	144	*	32	1%	---	---
Adoptive Father	101	*	29	1%	7	1%
Mom's Partner in Home	2,809	6%	420	8%	61	6%
Mom's Partner out of Home	779	2%	110	2%	49	5%
Dad's Partner in Home	200	*	38	1%	1	*
Dad's Partner out of Home	41	*	12	*	1	*
Grandmother Maternal	534	1%	60	1%	1	*
Grandmother Paternal	148	*	18	*	1	*
Grandfather Maternal	167	*	24	*	27	3%
Grandfather Paternal	50	*	16	*	24	3%
Sibling Brother	103	*	50	1%	51	5%
Sibling Sister	85	*	25	*	---	---
Other Relative	517	1%	117	2%	124	13%
Unrelated Caretaker in Home	172	*	26	*	22	2%
Unrelated Caretaker out of Home	332	1%	44	1%	127	13%
Foster Mother	99	*	11	*	2	*
Foster Father	26	*	7	*	6	1%
Legal Guardian	515	1%	71	1%	8	1%
Day Care (Family Based)	40	*	7	*	1	*
Day Care (Center Based)	30	*	4	*	---	---
Residential Program	135	*	14	*	14	1%
Public School	38	*	19	*	2	*
Private School	1	*	1	*	1	*
After School Program	2	*	1	*	---	---
Other Institution	24	*	4	*	3	*
Other Person	240	*	48	1%	112	12%
Unknown	69	*	39	1%	17	2%
Total	50,094	100%	5,588	100%	950	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year. Also, a child subjected to more than one type of maltreatment is counted in each maltreatment category.

² The prior supported finding may have been for a different type of maltreatment.

³ No prior supported investigation was found. However, the individual may not have been identified in a previous supported investigation.

Table A14. Children with Supported Allegations: All Maltreatment and Neglect by DCF Area Office and Region during January 1 - December 31, 2008

DCF Area Office/Region	Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹				
	2008 All Maltreatment No.	% Change All 2007 - 2008	2008 Neglect No.	% Change Neglect 2007 - 2008	Neglect as % of All Maltreatment
Pittsfield	1,437	4%	1,394	4%	97%
Greenfield	1,292	9%	1,276	10%	99%
Holyoke	1,886	10%	1,780	11%	94%
Van Wart Center	2,300	1%	2,219	*	96%
Springfield	2,260	11%	2,101	10%	93%
West	9,175	7%	8,770	7%	96%
North Central	1,522	9%	1,381	10%	91%
South Central	1,674	22%	1,516	23%	91%
Worcester East ²	2,698	NA	2,426	NA	90%
Worcester West ²	100	NA	90	NA	90%
Central	5,994	17%	5,413	18%	90%
Lowell	1,805	36%	1,621	34%	90%
Lawrence	1,327	-11%	1,084	-13%	82%
Haverhill	1,138	16%	1,098	15%	96%
Cape Ann	969	-16%	923	-16%	95%
Lynn	1,266	28%	1,165	29%	92%
Northeast	6,505	9%	5,891	9%	91%
Malden	1,371	12%	1,275	9%	93%
Framingham	1,209	8%	1,160	9%	96%
Cambridge	853	-2%	788	-2%	92%
Arlington	1,119	15%	1,057	13%	94%
Coastal	1,171	3%	1,114	2%	95%
Metro	5,723	7%	5,394	6%	94%
Attleboro	1,017	5%	933	4%	92%
Brockton	1,752	17%	1,597	18%	91%
Fall River	1,279	-1%	1,194	*	93%
New Bedford	2,415	14%	2,270	15%	94%
Cape & Islands	1,178	19%	1,113	21%	94%
Plymouth	1,535	43%	1,460	43%	95%
Southeast	9,176	16%	8,567	16%	93%
Hyde Park	1,056	3%	907	-2%	86%
Dimock Street	820	14%	686	12%	84%
Park Street	1,394	4%	1,215	6%	87%
Harbor	1,208	9%	1,062	7%	88%
Boston	4,478	7%	3,870	5%	86%
Contracted Agencies	5	---	3	---	---
Unspecified	69	---	65	---	---
STATE	41,125	11%	37,973	10%	92%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year.

² Worcester East screens reports for both area offices. Any reports from Worcester West were filed by their investigator during their own investigation.

Table A15. Children with Supported Allegations: All Maltreatment and Physical Abuse by DCF Area Office and Region during January 1 - December 31, 2008

DCF Area Office/Region	Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹				
	2008	% Change	2008	% Change	Physical Abuse
	All Maltreatment No.	All 2007 - 2008	Physical Abuse No.	Physical Abuse 2007 - 2008	as % of All Maltreatment
Pittsfield	1,437	4%	87	-1%	6%
Greenfield	1,292	9%	64	-24%	5%
Holyoke	1,886	10%	173	15%	9%
Robert Van Wart	2,300	1%	158	1%	7%
Springfield	2,260	11%	237	23%	10%
West	9,175	7%	719	7%	8%
North Central	1,522	9%	395	18%	26%
South Central	1,674	22%	250	15%	15%
Worcester East ²	2,698	NA	459	NA	17%
Worcester West ²	100	NA	15	NA	15%
Central	5,994	17%	1,119	27%	19%
Lowell	1,805	36%	256	50%	14%
Lawrence	1,327	-11%	332	-14%	25%
Haverhill	1,138	16%	69	3%	6%
Cape Ann	969	-16%	70	-46%	7%
Lynn	1,266	28%	174	41%	14%
Northeast	6,505	9%	901	3%	14%
Malden	1,371	12%	225	30%	16%
Framingham	1,209	8%	88	-10%	7%
Cambridge	853	-2%	88	-10%	10%
Arlington	1,119	15%	135	45%	12%
Coastal	1,171	3%	93	8%	8%
Metro	5,723	7%	629	15%	11%
Attleboro	1,017	5%	96	-14%	9%
Brockton	1,752	17%	240	26%	14%
Fall River	1,279	-1%	138	1%	11%
New Bedford	2,415	14%	247	-2%	10%
Cape & Islands	1,178	19%	114	20%	10%
Plymouth	1,535	43%	115	39%	7%
Southeast	9,176	16%	950	10%	10%
Hyde Park	1,056	3%	195	22%	18%
Dimock Street	820	14%	162	14%	20%
Park Street	1,394	4%	266	4%	19%
Harbor	1,208	9%	220	17%	18%
Boston	4,478	7%	843	13%	19%
Contracted Agencies	5	---	---	---	---
Unspecified	69	---	6	---	---
STATE	41,125	11%	5,167	12%	13%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year.

² Worcester East screens reports for both area offices. Any reports from Worcester West were filed by their investigator during their own investigation.

Table A16. Children with Supported Allegations: All Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse by DCF Area Office and Region during January 1 - December 31, 2008

DCF Area Office/Region	Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹				
	2008	% Change	2008	% Change	Sexual Abuse
	All Maltreatment No.	All 2007 - 2008	Sexual Abuse No.	Sexual Abuse 2007 - 2008	as % of All Maltreatment
Pittsfield	1,437	4%	28	17%	2%
Greenfield	1,292	9%	28	-26%	2%
Holyoke	1,886	10%	46	7%	2%
Van Wart Center	2,300	1%	37	-10%	2%
Springfield	2,260	11%	69	68%	3%
West	9,175	7%	208	11%	2%
North Central	1,522	9%	29	-49%	2%
South Central	1,674	22%	49	7%	3%
Worcester East ²	2,698	NA	98	NA	4%
Worcester West ²	100	NA	2	NA	2%
Central	5,994	17%	178	-6%	3%
Lowell	1,805	36%	37	185%	2%
Lawrence	1,327	-11%	40	-5%	3%
Haverhill	1,138	16%	13	160%	1%
Cape Ann	969	-16%	20	-9%	2%
Lynn	1,266	28%	21	*	2%
Northeast	6,505	9%	131	27%	2%
Malden	1,371	12%	41	156%	3%
Framingham	1,209	8%	20	-9%	2%
Cambridge	853	-2%	24	9%	3%
Arlington	1,119	15%	22	29%	2%
Coastal	1,171	3%	15	36%	1%
Metro	5,723	7%	122	39%	2%
Attleboro	1,017	5%	33	83%	3%
Brockton	1,752	17%	32	-9%	2%
Fall River	1,279	-1%	33	38%	3%
New Bedford	2,415	14%	60	33%	2%
Cape & Islands	1,178	19%	37	-10%	3%
Plymouth	1,535	43%	40	100%	3%
Southeast	9,176	16%	235	28%	3%
Hyde Park	1,056	3%	28	115%	3%
Dimock Street	820	14%	27	0%	3%
Park Street	1,394	4%	26	-24%	2%
Harbor	1,208	9%	30	15%	2%
Boston	4,478	7%	111	11%	2%
Contracted Agencies	5	---	1	-50%	20%
Unspecified	69	---	2	---	---
STATE	41,125	11%	988	16%	2%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year.

² Worcester East screens reports for both area offices. Any reports from Worcester West were filed by their investigator during their own investigation.