

**MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**



**2009
CHILD MALTREATMENT
STATISTICS**

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

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**MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

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CHILD MALTREATMENT
STATISTICS**

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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 are primarily 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 2009 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 2009 are:

Reporting

- During 2009, DCF received 77,420 reports of abuse and neglect. A total of 115,814 children were identified in these reports. Compared to 2008, this was a 3% decrease in the number of children identified.
- There were also decreases in the numbers of children in reports screened-in for investigation (-14%), investigations (-16%), and supported investigations (-20%). These declines in child counts reversed an upward trend that extended back to 1983.
- Neglect accounted for the majority of reports to DCF in 2009. As a proportion of all children reported (115,814), neglect accounted for 84%, physical abuse 18%, and sexual abuse 6%.
- From 2008 to 2009, the number of children with reported allegations of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse fell 3%, 5%, and 2%, respectively.
- In 2009, DCF initiated a new system for handling reports of child maltreatment. The “Differential Response” system allows reports to be screened-in for investigation or for an initial assessment response. The assessment response is not selected for reports where there has been an allegation of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or serious neglect.

- The major reporters of alleged child maltreatment in 2009 were: law enforcement personnel, medical professionals, school personnel, and “other” mandated reporters. DCF social workers reported fewer children than the other major reporting groups; however, children reported by DCF were more likely to be screened-in (77% screen-in rate for social workers vs. 69-72% for medical professionals, law enforcement personnel, and school reporters)

Screening, Investigation, and Initial Assessment Decisions

All Maltreatment

- Of all children with reported allegations of maltreatment (115,814), 64% were screened-in during 2009 (60% screened-in for investigation and 4% screened-in for initial assessment). From 1997 to 2008, screen-in rates ranged from 62% to 68%.
- The use of the differential response system resulted in a 7% decrease in the number of children in reports screened-in for investigation. Of the 74,949 children in screened-in reports, 70,011 (93%) were screened-in for investigation and 4,938 (7%) were screened-in for initial assessment.
- The new screening option also resulted in fewer children being involved in investigations. There were 59,925 (95%) children involved in investigations and 3,465 (5%) children involved in initial assessments.
- At the completion of an initial assessment, a DCF social worker must determine whether there is a substantiated “concern” for future abuse or neglect or “minimal or no concern” for future abuse or neglect. In 2009, DCF completed 2,317 initial assessments involving 3,465 children. There was a finding of concern for 32% of the children in initial assessments and a finding of low or no concern for 68% of the children in initial assessments.
- Initial assessment counts should be significantly greater in 2010 as recording this screening option became available in August 2009, but was not regularly selected until October-December 2009.
- In 2009, DCF conducted 38,498 investigations of alleged maltreatment involving 59,925 children. Of these children, 32,789 (55%) were found to have been victimized (supported allegations). Compared to 2008, there was a decrease of 16% in children who were the subjects of investigations and a decrease of 20% in children with allegations supported following an investigation.
- The percentage of children with an investigation that resulted in a decision to support was 55% in 2009. From 1997 to 2008, support rates 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 for investigation (72% vs. 60% for neglect and 42% for sexual abuse). At the investigation level, allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse were much less likely than neglect to be supported (57% for neglect vs. 33% for sexual abuse and 30% for physical abuse).

City/Town Reporting Rates

All Maltreatment

- In 2009 the maltreatment reporting rate for Massachusetts was 51.9 reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. There were 33 cities/towns with a higher reporting rate than the state.¹ The maltreatment reporting rate was 50.4 in 1997, 51.2 in 2007, and 52.9 in 2008.
- North Adams, Pittsfield, and Holyoke had the highest reporting rates among cities in 2009. Thirty-one 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.

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 head of household with related children less than 18 below poverty level; %unemployed; teen birth rate; and the lowest median family income. Lawrence and Chelsea also had high values for most of the preceding indicators.

City/Town Victimization Rates

- In 2009, the victimization rate in Massachusetts was 19.9 victimized children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. The victimization rate was 22.3 in 2007 and 24.4 in 2008. Victimized children were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment. The municipalities with the highest reporting rates typically had the highest victimization rates.

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

Maltreatment Trends (Supported Allegations) 1983 - 2009

Types of Maltreatment

- Neglect has been the driving force behind the sustained growth in child maltreatment over the years (1983-2008). From 2008 to 2009, children with supported allegations of neglect decreased 21% while physical abuse decreased 22%, and sexual abuse decreased 12%. Physical abuse and sexual abuse have been declining for most of the past 19 and 24 years, respectively.
- 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 2009, the number of sexually-abused children fluctuated—up 16% then down 12%. The most significant gains occurred in the 12-17 year age range. Over the same period, counts of neglected children and physically abused children displayed similar fluctuations.

Recidivism (Supported Allegations)

All Maltreatment

- There were 21,716 supported investigations involving 32,789 children in 2009. Forty-one percent of these children had no prior investigation, 35% had a prior supported investigation, and 24% 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 11,465 children with a previous supported investigation, 48% were “resupported” within 1 year, 22% within 1-2 years, and 30% in 2 or more years.

DCF Region and Area Statistics

All Maltreatment (Screening and Investigation Decisions)

- Boston had the highest screen-in for investigation rate (70%) and Metro had the lowest (53%). Central and the Southeast had the highest support rates (57% each) and the Northeast had the lowest support rate (51%). Statewide, 60% of reported children were screened-in for investigation and 55% of investigated children had a supported maltreatment finding.

Types of Maltreatment (Supported Allegations)

- From 2008 to 2009, the number of children with supported allegations of neglect dropped 21% statewide. Over the same period, physically abused children decreased 22%, and sexually abused children declined 12%.
- Neglect was the predominant form of maltreatment throughout the area offices (92% statewide). Physical abuse and sexual abuse accounted for 12% and 3% of all children with supported allegations, respectively.
- As a percentage of all maltreatment supported, neglect ranged from 79% in Lawrence to 98% in Greenfield. Physical abuse was most prevalent in the North Central (28%) and Lawrence (24%) Area Offices. Sexual abuse was equally common among the area offices, ranging from 1% at both Framingham and Cambridge to 5% at Dimock Street.

Reporters

All Maltreatment

- In 2009, 69% of the children reported by mandated sources were screened-in for investigation or initial assessment compared to 55% for nonmandated and 52% for anonymous. Reporting groups with the highest screen-in rates were: DCF social workers (77%), medical professionals (72%), law enforcement personnel (70%), and school personnel (69%).
- Mothers and fathers in-home and out-of-home had the lowest screen-in rates (ranged from 39% to 50%).
- 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. Eighteen percent of the children reported by medical professionals were screened-in as emergencies. Statewide, 8% of all children reported were screened-in as emergencies.

- The number of children reported by law enforcement agencies (19,594) exceeded the number reported by anonymous callers (14,490). Other reporting groups who reported high numbers of children were school personnel (10,176), medical professionals (10,242), and “other” mandated reporters (10,347).
- Reports of maltreatment were highest in March through June. 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%, 81%, and 87% 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 2009 were teenagers. However, the teenage component rose to 45-47% 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-eight 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 16 years old. Male victims were highest at 6 years old.
- 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 were peaks at 3-4, 6-7, and 9 years old.
- Of all children physically abused, 44% were White and 22% were Black. Sexually-abused children were 48% White and 11% Black. Neglected children were 52% White and 15% Black.
- Hispanic origin was identified for 29% of physically-abused children, 26% of sexually-abused children, and 23% of neglected children.
- From 1989 to 2009, the proportion of victimized children in the 0 to 5 year age group decreased 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 5% for physical abuse, 8% for neglect, and 22% 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)

- In 2009, there were 32,789 children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment. Sixty-nine percent of the children were victimized by one perpetrator.

Types of Maltreatment

- Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to be female (57% vs. 43% male). Most perpetrators of sexual abuse were male (94%). There were more male than female perpetrators of physical abuse (53% male vs. 47% female).

- The majority of perpetrators, regardless of the type of maltreatment, were in the 30-39 year age group. Perpetrators of neglect tended to be younger than physical-abuse and sexual-abuse perpetrators. 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 (48% of neglect perpetrators vs. 44% for physical abuse and 29% 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 Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home and Other Relative. Other notable perpetrators of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse are Stepfathers and Mother's Partners In-Home and Out-of-Home.

Investigation Outcomes

Types of Maltreatment

- Investigation outcomes for neglected and physically abused children were similar, 63-64% had their cases opened for services (new cases) and 24-27% had their services continued (ongoing cases). Sexually abused children had a significantly lower “open for services” outcome—37%.
- The disparity in investigation outcomes occurred because sexually abused children were more likely to have an outcome of “no services required”—37% vs. 10-11% for 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: 13% of neglected, 13% 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 2009, 83% of 8,024 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 32,071 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 2009, DCF had 23,454 open cases representing 77,200 consumers. A total of 37,105 adults and 40,095 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.

The new “Differential Response” system 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.

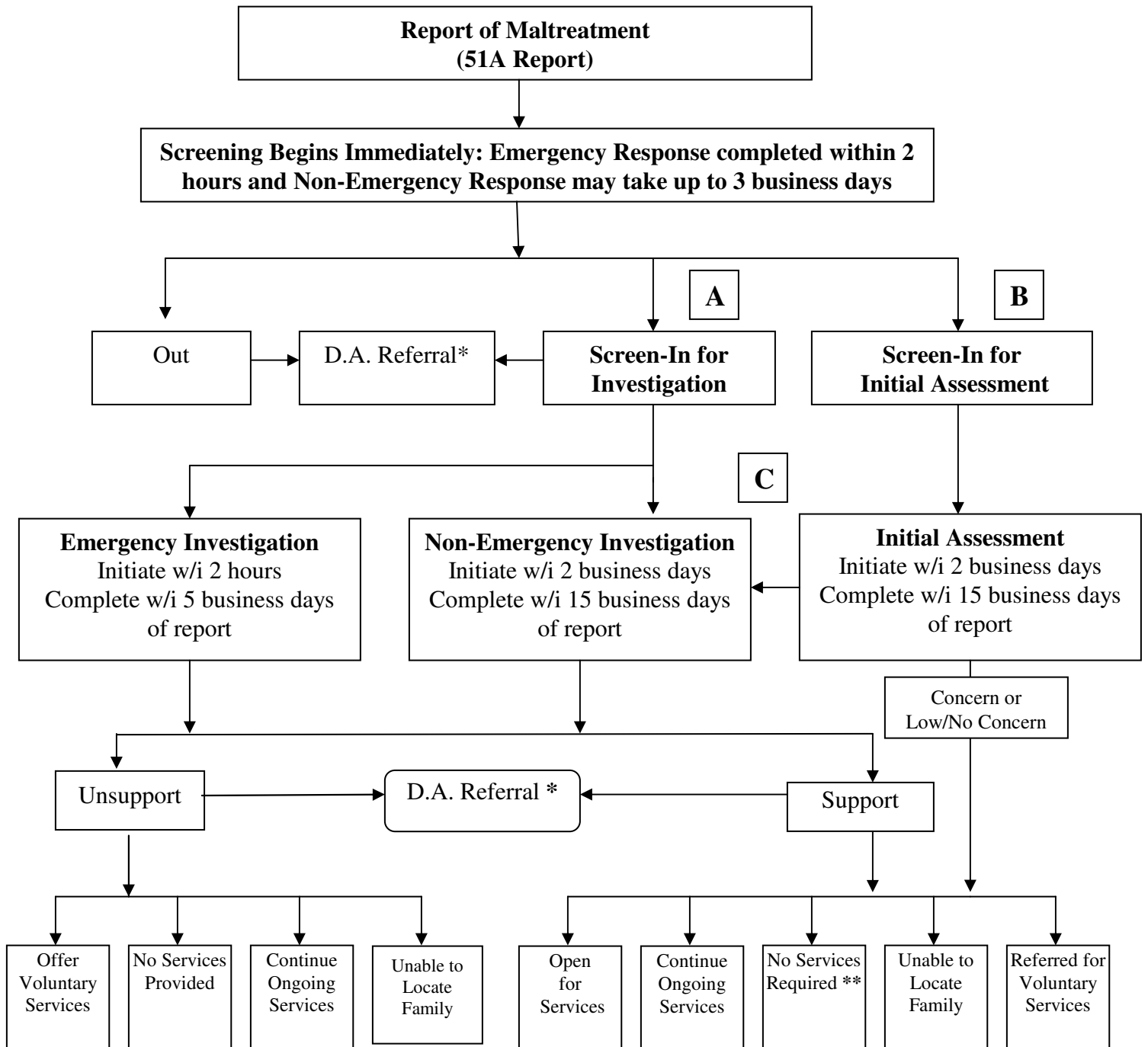
Neglect: Failure by a caretaker,² either deliberately or through negligence or inability, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care; provided, however, that such 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;³ 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.

² 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).

³ 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 business 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, unsupported, or screened-out. These discretionary referrals may be made at any point in DCF's involvement with a family.

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

(A) Allegations of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or serious neglect are investigated to determine the current safety and potential risk to the reported child and if DCF intervention is necessary. (B) Moderate or lower risk allegations of neglect or physical abuse are assessed to determine if DCF involvement is necessary and to engage and support families. (C) Conversion from initial assessment to investigation: (1) if during the initial assessment DCF receives another child maltreatment report on the family; or (2) upon completion of the initial assessment DCF social worker files a report on the family.

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.⁴ 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

⁴ 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, Investigations, and Initial Assessments 1983-2009

A. Statewide Trends

During 2009, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) received 77,420 reports of abuse and neglect. A total of 115,814 children were identified in these reports.⁵ Compared to 2008, this is a 3% decrease in reported children (Fig.1 on page 2, Table 1A on page 3). There were also decreases in the numbers of children in screened-in reports for investigation (-14%), investigations (-16%), and supported investigations (-20%).⁶ These declines in child counts reversed an upward trend that extends back to 1983 (Fig. 1, Tables 1A and 1B on page 3).

Declines in children who were the subject of a report or investigation have also been noted in recent national studies of child maltreatment (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System 2008;⁷ Fourth National Incidence Study⁸). These studies are purely statistical in nature and do not present reasons for the changes. In Massachusetts, a small portion of the decline in investigations in 2009 is due to the implementation of a differential response for reports of abuse or neglect.⁹

The differential response allows reports to be screened-in for an investigation response or an initial assessment response. Initial assessments were made available as an alternative to investigations in August 2009 in the DCF case management information system. Not all reports of abuse or neglect require the same type of intervention. An initial assessment response provides an alternative to a CPS investigation. DCF is able to engage families more quickly in an initial assessment when the reported concern does not warrant the formal investigation of an allegation. An investigation is required when there has been an allegation of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or serious neglect.

⁵This is a duplicated count since a child may have been reported more than once during 2009. Much of the duplication is due to multiple reports on the same incident. Removing duplication reduces the number of children by 33% to 77,802. The duplication percentage has ranged from 27-33% over the past 24 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.

⁶ Please note that the number of children with investigations is lower than the number of children with screened-in reports for investigation. 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.

⁷ National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS): Child Maltreatment 2008. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can

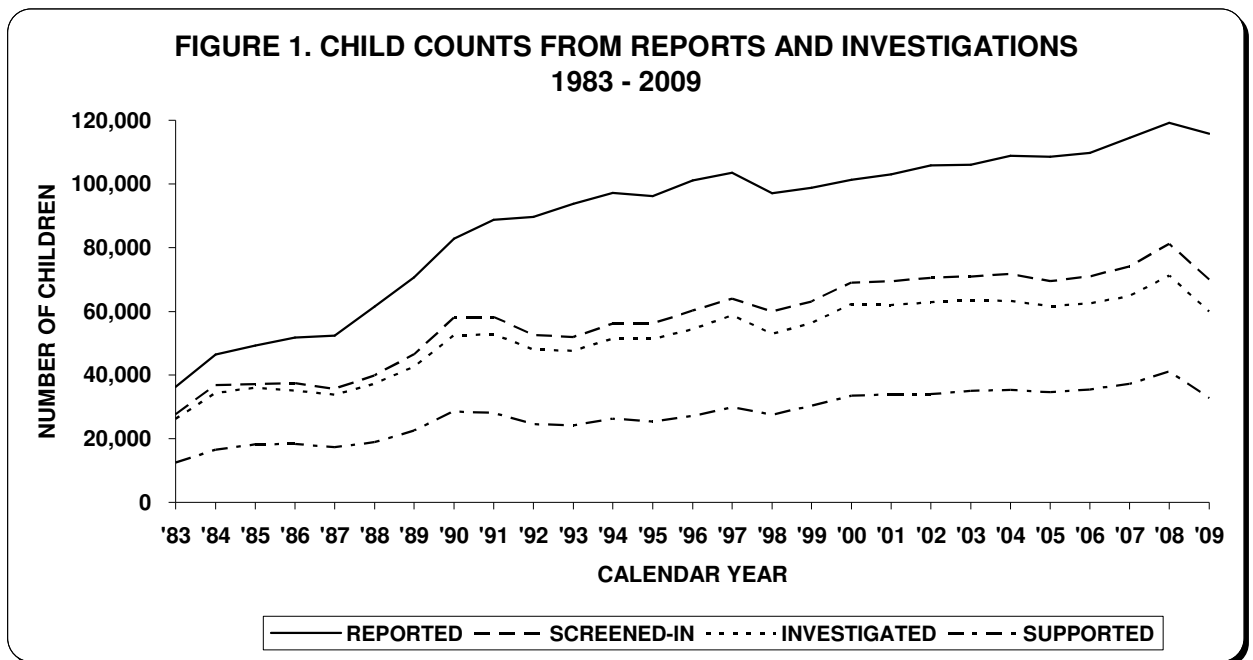
⁸ Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4): Report to Congress (2010). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/natl_incid/index.html

⁹ See DCF website at www.mass.gov/def [select Integrated Case Practice Model (ICPM)].

There are six periods of differing growth rates in the numbers of reported children (Fig. 1). 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 1A).

From 2008 to 2009, there was 3% drop in reported children. The new “Differential Response” system had no impact on the count of reported children; however, it did reduce the number of children in reports screened-in for investigation by 7%. Of the 74,949 children in screened-in reports, 70,011 (93%) were screened-in for investigation and 4,938 (7%) were screened-in for initial assessment (Tables 1A and 1B on page 3).

The new screening option resulted in fewer children being involved in investigations. There were 59,925 (95%) children in investigations and 3,465 (5%) children in initial assessments (Table 1B). Initial assessment counts should be significantly greater in 2010 as the option was only made available in August 2009 and was not routinely selected until October-December 2009.



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.

Table 1A. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations: 1983 - 2009

| Calendar Year | Child Counts ¹ | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | Annual | | Screened-In | Annual | | Annual | | Annual |
| | Reported | Change | for Investigation | Change | Investigated | Change | Supported | Change |
| No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| 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% |
| 2009 | 115,814 | -3% | 70,011 | -14% | 59,925 | -16% | 32,789 | -20% |

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

** The decline in reported and investigated children in CY1998 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.

Table 1B. Child Counts from Reports, Investigations, and Initial Assessments

| Calendar Year | Reported | Screened-in for Investigation | Screened-in for Initial Assessment | Investigated | Assessed |
|---------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 2009 | 115,814 | 70,011 | 4,938 | 59,925 | 3,465 |

* The number of investigated children is lower than the summation of screened-in children; 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.

The major reporters of alleged child maltreatment in 2009 were: law enforcement personnel, medical professionals, school personnel, and “other” mandated reporters (Appendix Table A2 on page 35). DCF social workers reported fewer children than the major reporting groups; however, children reported by DCF were more likely to be screened-in (77% screen-in rate for social workers vs. 69-72% for medical, law enforcement, and school reporters) (Appendix Table A2).

Neglect accounted for the majority of reports to DCF. In 2009, 97,776 children were reported as alleged victims of neglect, 20,526 as physical abuse victims, and 7,393 as sexual abuse victims (Appendix Table A1 on page 34). As a proportion of all children reported maltreated (115,814), neglect represented 84% of all reported children, physical abuse represented 18%, and sexual abuse represented 6%.¹⁰ From 2008 to 2009, the number of children with reported allegations of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse fell 3%, 5%, and 2%, respectively (Appendix Tables A3-A5 on pages 36-38).

B. Screening, Investigation, and Initial Assessment

1. Screening

In late August 2009, the Massachusetts DCF began implementing a new system for handling reports and investigations of child maltreatment. The “Differential Response” system allows reports to be screened-in for an investigation response or an initial assessment response (see chart on page xv).

Reports of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, and severe neglect are screened-in for investigation. The severity of the situation determines whether the screened-in report requires emergency or non-emergency investigation.¹¹ An investigation response is initiated to determine the current safety and potential risk to the reported child, the validity of the allegation(s), the identification of the person(s) responsible, and whether DCF intervention is necessary.

Reports with moderate or low risk allegations of physical abuse and neglect can be screened-in for initial assessment. An assessment response is conducted to determine if DCF involvement is necessary and to engage and support families. The response includes a review of the reported allegation(s), an assessment of the child’s safety and risk, the identification of family strengths, and a determination of what, if any, supports and services are needed.

Screen-in rates were at their highest level from 1983-1986; fluctuations ranged from 72-79% (see 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 result in a drop in the number of children screened-in as the number of children reported may continue to climb (Table 1). In 2009, the screen-in rate for all reported maltreatment dropped to 64% (60% screen-in for investigation and 4% screen-in for initial assessment).

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

Proportion of Children Screened-in for Investigation

| Calendar Year | % Screened-in | Calendar Year | % Screened-in |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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% |

Proportion of Children Screened-in for Investigation and Initial Assessment

| Calendar Year | % Screen-In | % Screened-in | % Screened-in |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Total | for Investigation | for Initial Assessment |
| 2009 | 64% | 60% | 4% |

2. Investigation

At the end of an investigation, a decision is made whether to support the report of alleged maltreatment based on the information collected. 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 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 on next page). This translates to 12,518 children with supported allegations of maltreatment in 1983 and 41,125 children with supported allegations in 2008 (Table 1A on page 3). There does not appear to be any relationship between support rates and screen-in rates. Over the years, the screen-in rate has fluctuated while the support rate has slowly increased. In 2009, the support rate dropped to 55%.

Proportion of Children in Investigations w/Supported Allegations

| Calendar Year | % Supported | Calendar Year | % Supported |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1983 | 48% | 1997 | 51% |
| 1984 | 48% | 1998 | 52% |
| 1985 | 51% | 1999 | 54% |
| 1986 | 52% | 2000 | 54% |
| 1987 | 51% | 2001 | 55% |
| 1988 | 51% | 2002 | 54% |
| 1989 | 53% | 2003 | 56% |
| 1990 | 55% | 2004 | 56% |
| 1991 | 53% | 2005 | 56% |
| 1992 | 51% | 2006 | 57% |
| 1993 | 51% | 2007 | 57% |
| 1994 | 51% | 2008 | 58% |
| 1995 | 49% | 2009 | 55% |
| 1996 | 50% | | |

3. Initial Assessment

The purpose of an initial assessment is to engage a family in an immediate, collaborative, information-gathering effort to determine: (1) the safety of the child(ren); (2) the impact of parent action or inaction on the child; (3) the potential for any future abuse or neglect; and (4) whether DCF services are needed.

At the completion of the initial assessment, the DCF social worker must determine whether there is a substantiated “concern” for future abuse or neglect or “minimal or no concern” for future abuse or neglect. In 2009, there was a finding of concern for 32% of the children in initial assessments and a finding of low or no concern for 68% of the children in initial assessments (table below).

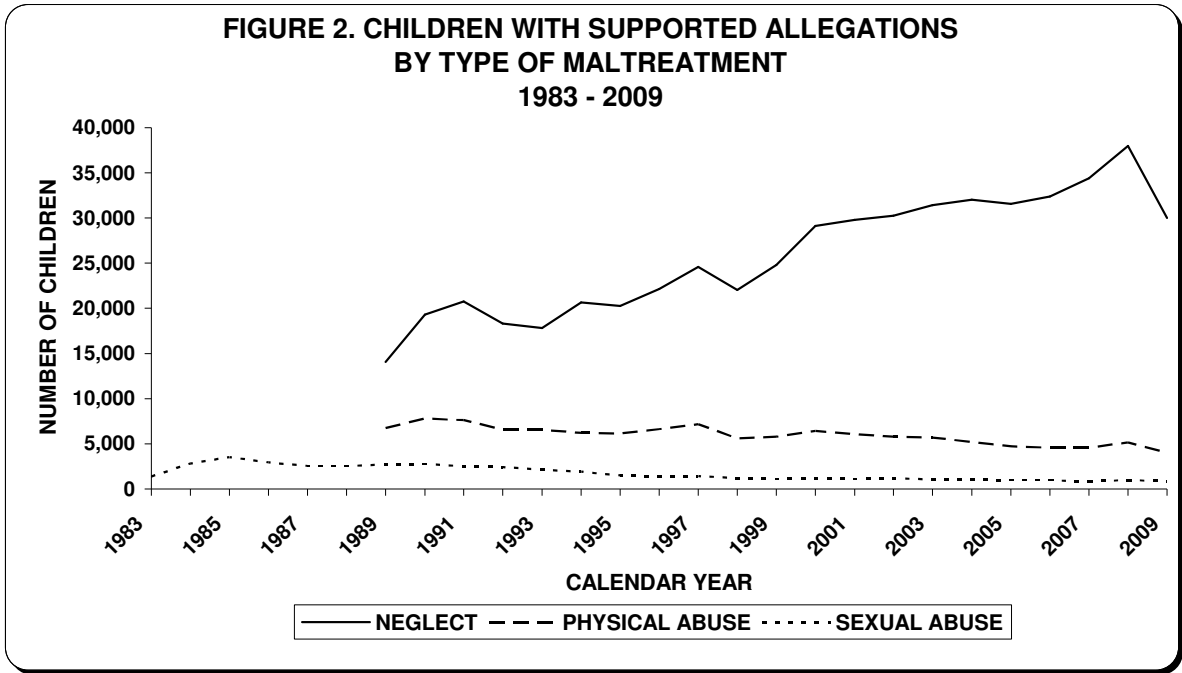
Proportion of Children in Initial Assessments w/Finding of Concern

| Calendar Year | % Concern | % Low or No Concern |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 2009 | 32% | 68% |

To summarize, initial assessments are conducted on cases where the level of severity of the allegations of abuse or neglect does not rise to the level requiring a DCF investigation response. The initial assessment provides a new, less intrusive way for DCF to become involved and engaged with families who may need help in addressing issues of neglect or safety for their children. By taking such an approach, DCF is better able to focus its efforts on strengthening families and keeping children safe and at home.

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 2009.¹² 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 19 and 24 years, respectively (Fig.2). From 2008 to 2009, children with supported allegations of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse decreased 21%, 22%, and 12%, respectively (Appendix Tables A3-A5 on pages 36-38). Declines in all types of maltreatment have been noted nationally (Fourth National Incidence Study¹³).



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 part way through 1988.

¹² See duplicated child counts in Appendix Tables A3-A5.

¹³ Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4): Report to Congress (2010). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/natl_incid/index.html

As noted on the previous page, the continued decline in sexual abuse is a national phenomenon (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004).¹⁴ 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).

In Massachusetts, there has also been a dramatic decline in the number of children found to be sexually abused (Fig. 3A on next page). From 1990 to 2007, the number of children with supported allegations of sexual abuse dropped 69% (Fig. 3A, Appendix Table A5 on page 38). 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 2002-2009 (Figure 3B on next page). From 2007 to 2009, the number of sexually abused children increased 2%. The most significant gains occurred in the 12-17 year age range (see below and Figs. 3A and 3B).

Sexually Abused Children*

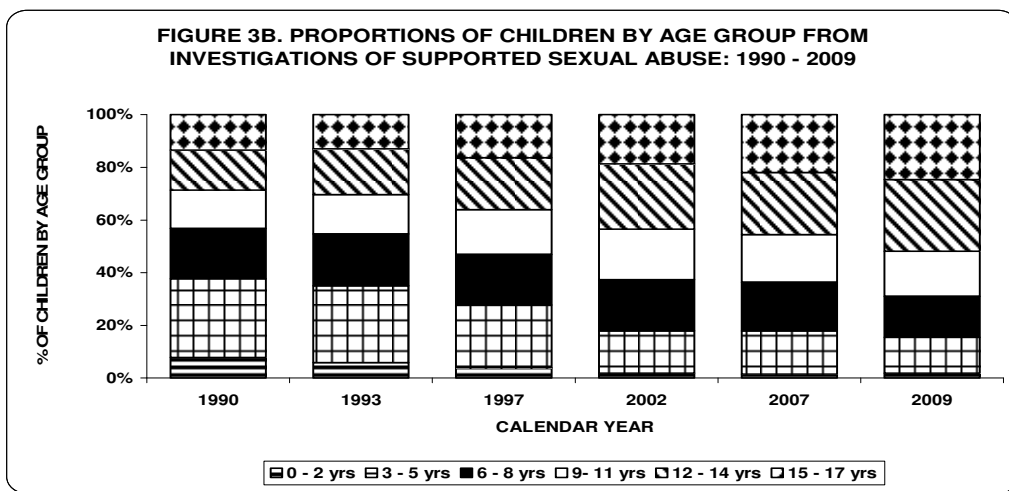
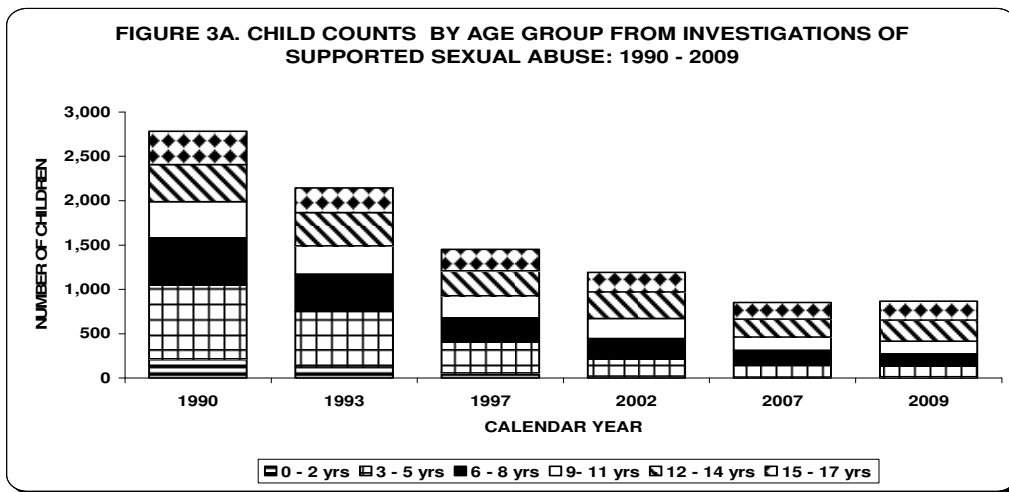
| Age Group (years) | % Change 1990 to 2007 | % Change 2007 to 2009 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0 – 2 | -94% | 23%** |
| 3 – 5 | -83% | -16% |
| 6 – 8 | -71% | -14% |
| 9 – 11 | -62% | -3% |
| 12 – 14 | -52% | 17% |
| 15 – 17 | -50% | 14% |
| Total | -69% | 2% |

* Children with supported allegations of sexual abuse following an investigation.

** The 23% increase resulted from small numbers for 0-2 year olds (from 13 children in 2007 to 16 in 2009) when compared to the 17% increase for 12-14 year olds (201 to 235 children) and 14% increase for 15-17 year olds (187 to 214 children).

¹⁴ 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.



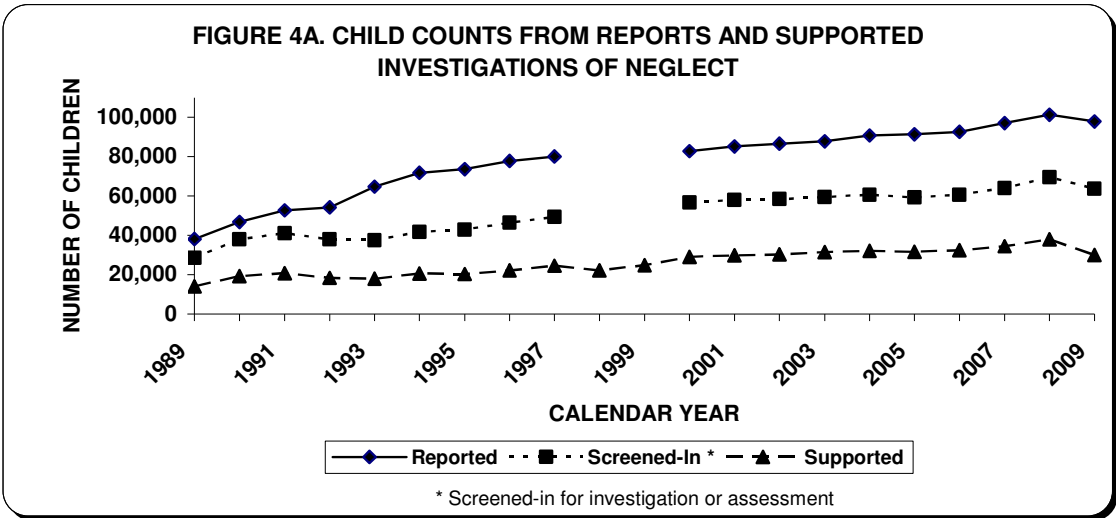
Nationally, Finkelhor and Jones (2004) reported a 40% decline in identified sexual abuse cases from 1992 to 2000. Thirty-nine of 49 states had a decline of 30% percent or more in substantiated cases of sexual abuse from their peak year to 2000. Nineteen of these states had declines of more than 50% in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

Figures 4A–4C (on page 11) display annual counts of children from reports, screened-in reports, and supported investigations of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse spanning the 1980s to 2009. 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 the finding of sexual abuse seems to be related to a change in the screening and investigation processes. Although there was a decrease in the findings of sexual abuse for children of all ages, the decline was greatest for the youngest children (Figs. 3A and 3B).

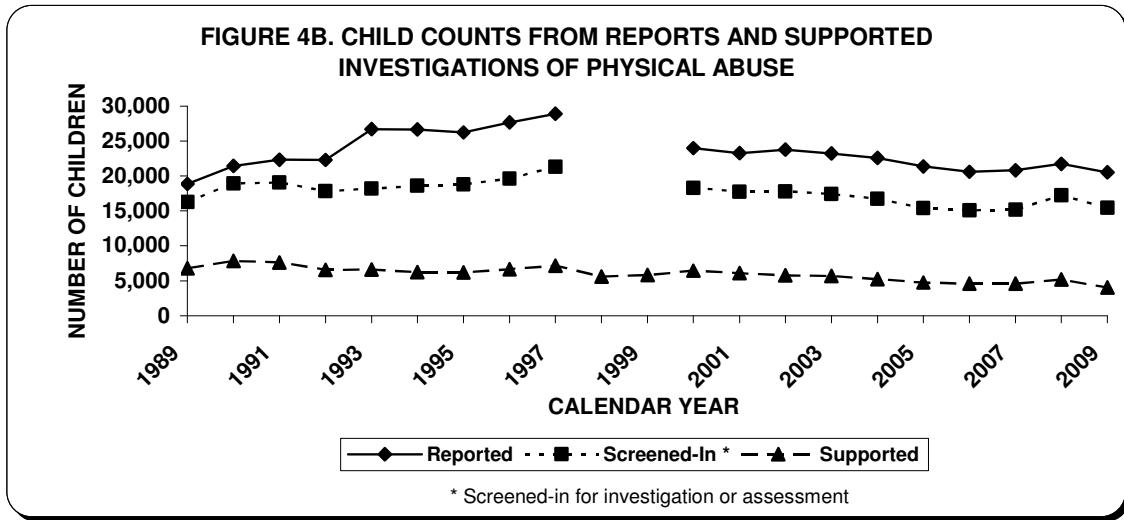
The table below (and Appendix Table A5) contains a complete set of sexual abuse statistics for the years 2000 to 2009. The number of reported children fluctuated over the 10 year period while the screen-in rate dropped from 55% in 2000 to 41% in 2007. The declining screen-in rate resulted in declining numbers of investigated children. The support rate was relatively stable over the period, so the decreasing number of children with supported allegations was the result of the declining screen-in rate. From 2008 to 2009, a decrease in reported children coupled with a lower screen-in rate resulted in a 12% drop in children with supported allegations of sexual abuse.

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

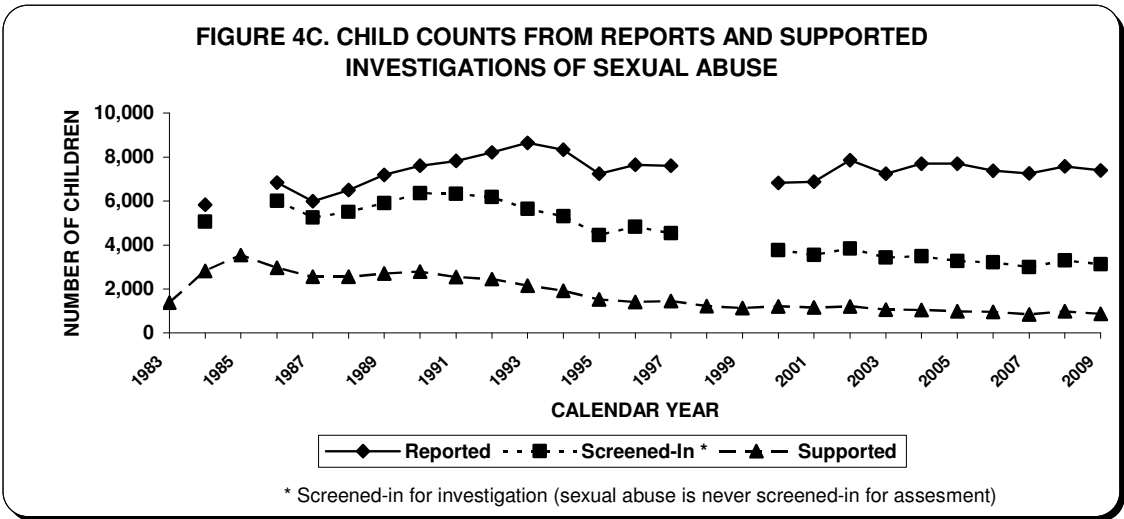
| Year | Reported No. | Screened-In for Investigation % | Screened-In for Investigation No. | Investigated No. | Supported % | Supported No. |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2000 | 6826 | 55% | 3772 | 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 |
| 2009 | 7393 | 42% | 3128 | 2617 | 33% | 874 |



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

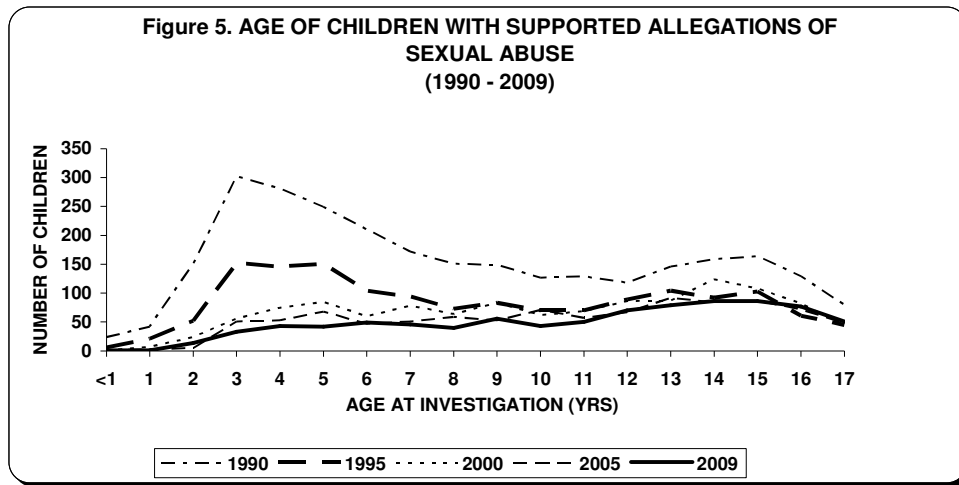


NOTE: Data were not available for children reported and screened-in during 1998 and 1999.



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 found to be sexually abused in 1990-2009. From 1990 to 1995, there was a reduction in the numbers of children found to be sexually abused 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 children found to be sexually abused continued to decline but at a much lower rate. From 2005 to 2009, there was a decrease in the total number of children found to be sexually abused; the most notable losses occurred among children 3-5, 8, and 10 years old.



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 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)¹⁵ 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.

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.¹⁶

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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, Investigations, and Initial Assessments 2009

A. Report Disposition: DCF Regions and Statewide

Of the 115,814 reported children in 2009, 60% were screened-in for investigation and 4% were screened-in for initial assessment (Table 2). Eight percent of all children reported were screened-in as needing an emergency response. The percentage of children screened-in ranged from 58% in the Metro DCF Region¹⁷ to 74% in the Boston Region (Table 2).

Boston had the highest proportion of reported children who were screened-in as an emergency (12%). An analysis of emergency screen-ins by reporting group indicated that law enforcement personnel and medical professionals 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. Eighteen 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, 2009

| DCF Service Region | Child Counts ¹ | | | | | | | | | | Children Reported | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Screened-Out | | Screened-Out | | Screened-In for Investigation | | | | Screened-In for Initial Assessment | | | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | Non-Emergency | | Emergency | | No. | % | No. | % |
| West | 9,881 | 35% | 544 | 2% | 14,587 | 52% | 1,835 | 7% | 1,104 | 4% | 27,951 | 24% |
| Central | 5,283 | 32% | 527 | 3% | 8,615 | 52% | 1,354 | 8% | 860 | 5% | 16,639 | 14% |
| Northeast | 6,153 | 34% | 692 | 4% | 8,673 | 48% | 1,491 | 8% | 994 | 6% | 18,003 | 16% |
| Metro | 6,660 | 39% | 529 | 3% | 7,484 | 43% | 1,660 | 10% | 882 | 5% | 17,215 | 15% |
| Southeast | 7,223 | 30% | 265 | 1% | 13,691 | 58% | 1,941 | 8% | 605 | 3% | 23,725 | 20% |
| Boston | 2,710 | 22% | 369 | 3% | 7,010 | 58% | 1,490 | 12% | 493 | 4% | 12,072 | 10% |
| Unspecified | 29 | 14% | --- | --- | 109 | --- | 71 | 34% | --- | --- | 209 | * |
| Total | 37,939 | 33% | 2,926 | 3% | 60,169 | 52% | 9,842 | 8% | 4,938 | 4% | 115,814 | 100% |

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

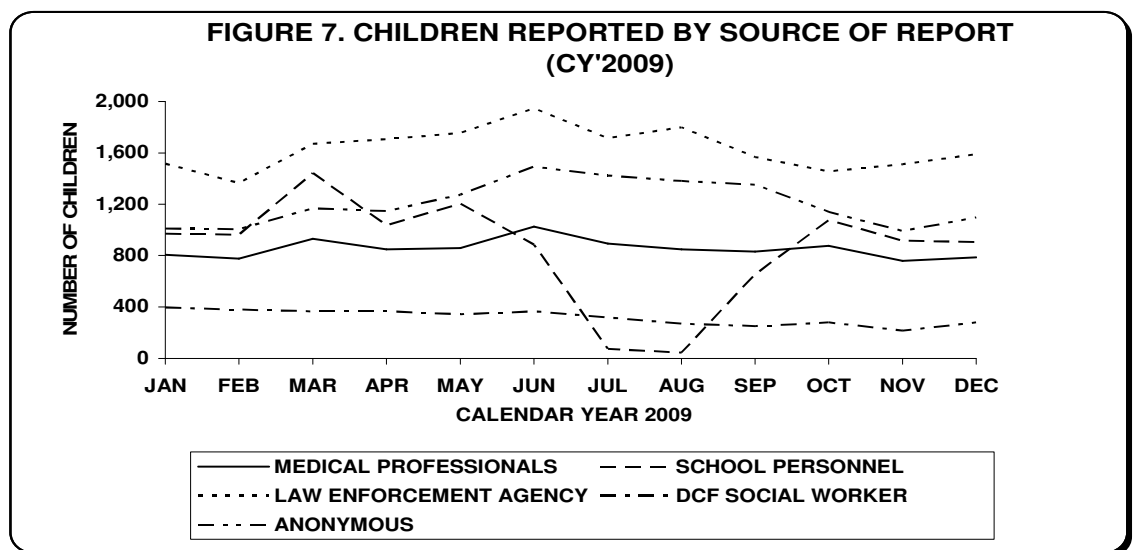
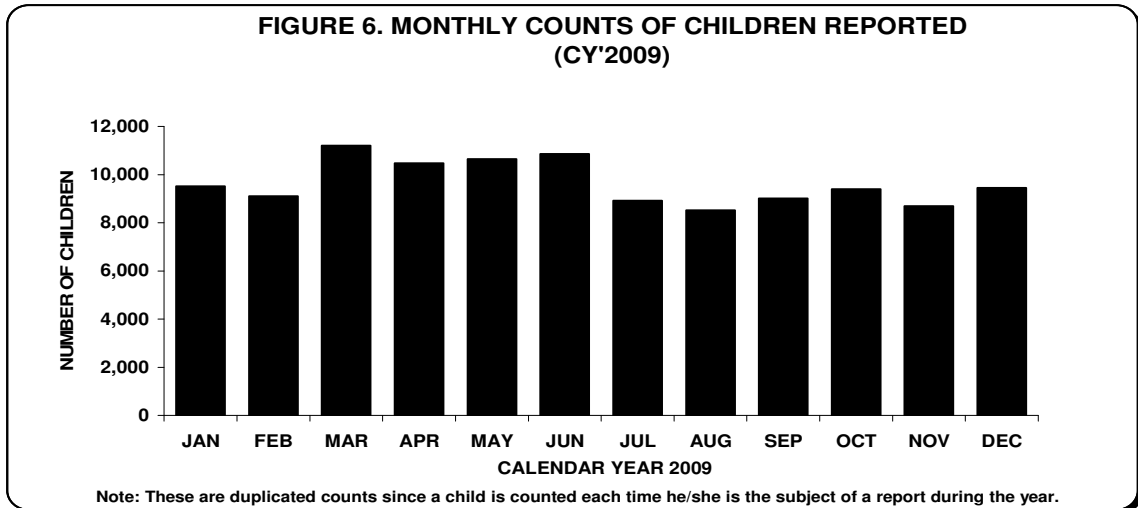
In 2009, 69% of the children reported by mandated¹⁸ sources were screened-in for investigation or initial assessment compared to 55% for nonmandated and 52% for anonymous (Appendix Table A2). Reporting groups with the highest screen-in rates were: DCF social workers (77%), medical personnel (72%), law enforcement agency personnel (70%), and school personnel (69%) (Appendix Table A2).

¹⁷ Massachusetts is divided into six DCF service regions: West, Central, Northeast, Metro, Southeast, and Boston.

¹⁸ Refer to M.G.L. c. 119, s. 51A for a description of mandated reporters.

Anonymous sources reported a high number of children (14,490), but they had relatively low screen-in rate (52%) (Appendix Table A2). Among nonmandated reporters, mothers and fathers in-home and out-of-home had the lowest screen-in rates (ranged from 39% to 50%). The number of children reported by law enforcement agencies (19,594) exceeded the number reported by anonymous callers (Appendix Table A2). Other reporting groups who reported high numbers of children were school personnel (10,176), medical professionals (10,242), and “other” mandated reporters (10,347).

Reports of maltreatment were highest in March through June (Fig. 6). The major reporting groups during these four 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 levels of reporting by medical professionals and DCF social workers were lower than the other reporting groups, they were fairly stable throughout the year (Fig. 7).



B. Investigation and Initial Assessment Disposition: DCF Regions and Statewide

In CY'2009, DCF conducted 38,498 investigations¹⁹ of alleged maltreatment involving 59,925 children (Table 3A). Of these children, 32,789 (55%) were found to have been victimized (children with supported allegations).²⁰ The Western and Southeastern Regions had the highest numbers of children who were subjects of investigations (Table 3A, Fig. 8 on next page). Among regions, Boston had the lowest number of children with allegations investigated (and reported). The proportion of children with supported allegations ranged from 51% in the Northeast to 57% in both Central and the Southeast (Table 3A).

Table 3A. Counts of Children in Investigations by DCF Region and Investigation Decision during January 1 - December 31, 2009

| DCF Service Region | Child Counts ¹ | | | | Total Children in Investigations | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Supported | | Unsupported | | No. | % |
| | No. | % | No. | % | | |
| West | 7,353 | 54% | 6,222 | 46% | 13,575 | 100% |
| Central | 4,886 | 57% | 3,741 | 43% | 8,627 | 100% |
| Northeast | 4,484 | 51% | 4,337 | 49% | 8,821 | 100% |
| Metro | 4,345 | 54% | 3,762 | 46% | 8,107 | 100% |
| Southeast | 7,632 | 57% | 5,829 | 43% | 13,461 | 100% |
| Boston | 4,028 | 56% | 3,136 | 44% | 7,164 | 100% |
| Unspecified | 61 | 36% | 109 | 64% | 170 | 100% |
| Total | 32,789 | 55% | 27,136 | 45% | 59,925 | 100% |

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

The investigation process is no longer the only response to reported allegations of neglect and physical abuse. With the new differential response system, there is now an assessment track for allegations of moderate or low risk neglect and physical abuse. The initial assessment response provides a new, less intrusive way for DCF to become involved and engaged with families who may need help in addressing issues of neglect or safety for their children.

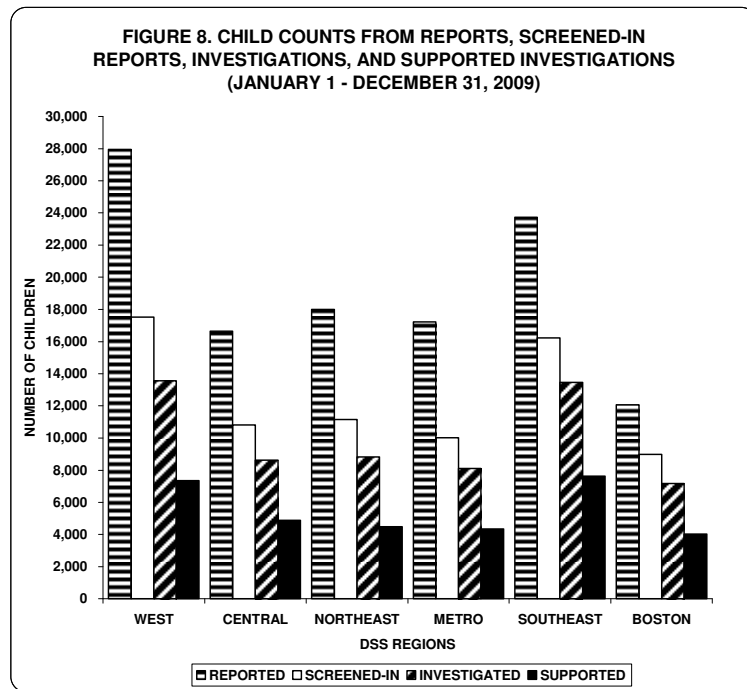
¹⁹ Thirteen percent of these investigations were emergencies and 87% were non-emergencies. From January to July 2009, emergency investigations were completed within 24 hours of the report while non-emergencies were completed within 10 calendar days. Under the new differential response system which became available in August 2009, emergency investigations were completed within 5 business days of the report while non-emergencies were completed within 15 business days (see chart on page xv).

²⁰ These are **duplicated counts** since a child is counted each time he/she was the subject of an investigation during 2009. Removing duplication reduces the number of children with supported investigations by 9% to 29,810. The duplication percentage has ranged from 7-11% over the past 24 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.

DCF conducted 2,317 initial assessments involving 3,465 children²¹ in 2009 (Table 3B). Most of these assessments occurred during October through December. Child counts were highest in the Western and Northeastern Regions. The proportion of children with findings of concern ranged from 28% in the Northeast to 39% in Boston (Table 3B).

TABLE 3B. Counts of Children in Initial Assessments by DCF Region and Assessment Decision during January 1 - December 31, 2009

| DCF Service Region | Assessment Decision | | | | Total Children in Assessments | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | Concern | | Low/No Concern | | No. | % |
| | No. | % | No. | % | | |
| West | 215 | 29% | 520 | 71% | 735 | 100% |
| Central | 184 | 32% | 385 | 68% | 569 | 100% |
| Northeast | 197 | 28% | 515 | 72% | 712 | 100% |
| Metro | 248 | 38% | 404 | 62% | 652 | 100% |
| Southeast | 135 | 31% | 298 | 69% | 433 | 100% |
| Boston | 142 | 39% | 222 | 61% | 364 | 100% |
| Total | 1,121 | 32% | 2,344 | 68% | 3,465 | 100% |



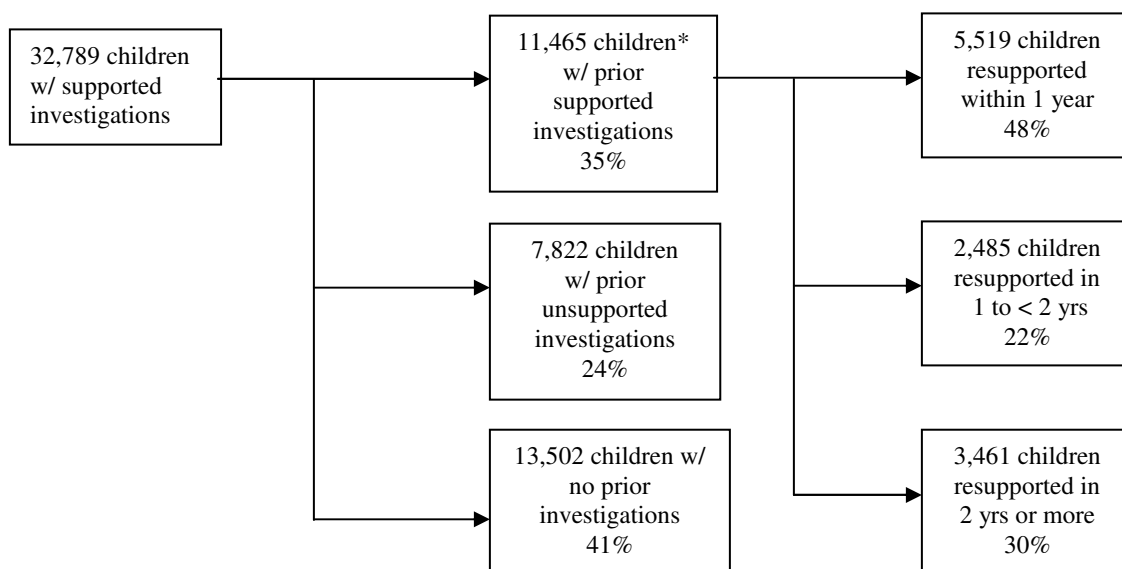
NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year. Screened-in includes children screened-in for investigation and children screened-in for initial assessment.

²¹ This is a duplicated count of children since a child is counted each time he/she was the subject of an initial assessment during 2009. Removing duplication reduces the number of children with initial assessments by 1% to 3,444 and the number of children with findings of concern by less than 1% to 1,119. See Appendix table A1 for duplicated and unduplicated counts of children with initial assessments by type of maltreatment.

C. Recidivism: Children with Supported Allegations

There were 21,716 supported investigations involving 32,789 children in 2009.²² Forty-one percent of these children had no prior investigation, 35% had a prior supported investigation, and 24% had a prior unsupported investigation (see diagram below).

The following table 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.



* 11,465 children with prior supported investigations represent 10,280 unique individuals

| Maltreatment Recidivism | Children with Supported Investigations | | | |
|--|--|------|-----------------|------|
| | Prior Support | | Prior Unsupport | |
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Time from Prior Support/Unsupport to Current Support | | | | |
| 1 to < 30 days | 540 | 5% | 434 | 6% |
| 30 to < 60 days | 686 | 6% | 473 | 6% |
| 60 to < 90 days | 583 | 5% | 419 | 5% |
| 90 days to < 6 months | 1502 | 13% | 998 | 13% |
| 6 months to < 1 year | 2208 | 19% | 1489 | 19% |
| 1 to < 1.5 years | 1525 | 13% | 921 | 12% |
| 1.5 to < 2 years | 960 | 8% | 627 | 8% |
| 2 to < 5 years | 2337 | 20% | 1746 | 22% |
| 5 or more years | 1124 | 10% | 715 | 9% |
| Total | 11465 | 100% | 7822 | 100% |

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

²² A duplicated count since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a supported investigation during 2009.

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 on pages 39-41.²³ 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.²⁴ Reported incidence unlike substantiated (supported) incidence is more likely to represent a consistent portion of true incidence (Zuravin and Taylor 1987).²⁵

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).²⁶ The statewide reporting rate for Massachusetts was 51.2 in 2007, 52.9 in 2008, and 51.9 in 2009. The victimization rate in Massachusetts was 22.3 victimized children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old in 2007, 24.4 in 2008, and 19.9 in 2009. Victimized children were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment.

The municipalities with the highest reporting rates typically 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 | 156.6 | 45.7 | New Bedford | 117.8 | 62.5 |
| Pittsfield | 138.5 | 46.2 | Southbridge | 105.1 | 39.2 |
| Holyoke | 125.9 | 47.8 | Greenfield | 100.7 | 34.7 |
| Athol | 121.4 | 42.1 | Chicopee | 100.3 | 40.7 |
| Springfield | 121.0 | 51.3 | Gardner | 95.6 | 29.0 |

The municipalities²⁷ listed in the following table (and Appendix Table A6) had more than 300 (unduplicated count) resident children reported as maltreated in 2009. In 2009, nine municipalities had reporting rates over 100. North Adams had the highest reporting rate, followed by Pittsfield and Holyoke. The reporting rates of 33 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.

²³ **Selected cities had more than 300 (unduplicated count) children reported as having been maltreated.**

²⁴ 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).

²⁵ Zuravin, S.J. and R. Taylor. 1987. *The Ecology of Child Maltreatment: Identifying and Characterizing High Risk Neighborhoods*. *Child Welfare* 66:497-506.

²⁶ Felix, A.C. , III. 1998. *Massachusetts Child Maltreatment Statistics, January 1 – December 31, 1997*. Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Boston, MA. 73pp.

²⁷ 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 | 156.6 | Chelsea | 74.9 | Randolph | 51.6 |
| Pittsfield | 138.5 | Lynn | 73.6 | Barnstable | 51.0 |
| Holyoke | 125.9 | Lawrence | 72.9 | Attleboro | 50.7 |
| Athol | 121.4 | Malden | 71.7 | Falmouth | 50.0 |
| Springfield | 121.0 | Wareham | 69.2 | Marlborough | 49.6 |
| New Bedford | 117.8 | Everett | 66.6 | Waltham | 49.6 |
| Southbridge | 105.1 | Taunton | 66.0 | Framingham | 48.9 |
| Greenfield | 100.7 | Salem | 64.6 | Methuen | 46.3 |
| Chicopee | 100.3 | West Springfield | 64.2 | Plymouth | 45.6 |
| Gardner | 95.6 | Leominster | 61.9 | Beverly | 44.5 |
| Webster | 94.1 | Westfield | 61.5 | Woburn | 42.7 |
| Fitchburg | 91.3 | Middleborough | 59.3 | Peabody | 42.6 |
| Fall River | 84.9 | Quincy | 58.1 | Weymouth | 41.7 |
| Haverhill | 78.4 | Gloucester | 57.2 | Somerville | 39.1 |
| Lowell | 78.1 | Boston | 55.9 | Cambridge | 35.9 |
| Worcester | 77.8 | Revere | 53.8 | Medford | 35.8 |
| Brockton | 77.7 | STATE | 51.9 | Newton | 20.1 |

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 municipalities²⁸ with the highest reporting rates in the above table. The second group represents 10 cities/towns²⁹ with the lowest reporting rates in the above table.

| INDICATOR | 10 CITIES/TOWNS w/HIGHEST REPORTING RATES | | 10 CITIES/TOWNS w/LOWEST REPORTING RATES | |
|--|---|----------|--|----------|
| | RANGE | AVERAGE | RANGE | AVERAGE |
| Reporting Rate ³⁰ | 95.6 - 156.6 | 118.3 | 20.1 - 46.3 | 39.4 |
| %Households w/Public Assistance Income ³¹ | 2.9% - 11.2% | 5.9% | 1.4% - 2.8% | 2.0% |
| Median Family Income | \$35,708 - \$47,164 | \$41,262 | \$51,243 - \$105,289 | \$66,388 |
| Below Poverty Level: %Families w/Children ³² | 10.5% - 33.9% | 20.8% | 3.9% - 13.0% | 7.6% |
| Below Poverty Level: %Families w/Single Female & Children ³³ | 27.5% - 55.1% | 42.5% | 11.9% - 31.6% | 23.0% |
| %Unemployed | 8.5% - 14.2% | 10.8% | 5.6% - 10.5% | 7.8% |
| Teen Birth Rate ³⁴ | 20.8 - 115.3 | 52.1 | 1.4 - 22.6 | 12.0 |

²⁸ Highest: North Adams, Pittsfield, Holyoke, Athol, Springfield, New Bedford, Southbridge, Greenfield, Chicopee, Gardner

²⁹ Lowest: Newton, Medford, Cambridge, Somerville, Weymouth, Peabody, Woburn, Beverly, Plymouth, Methuen

³⁰ Number of reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old

³¹ Households with public assistance income as a percent of all households

³² Percent of all families with related children less than 18 years old who were below poverty level

³³ Percent of all families with female householder and no husband present with related children less than 18 years old who were below poverty level

³⁴ Number of births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years

These factors should not be viewed as causes of child maltreatment but rather 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% (67,433 of 77,802 from Appendix Table A1)³⁵ of the children reported in 2009 were allegedly neglected,³⁶ 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%, New Bedford 25.3%, and Chelsea 24.9%
- 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 (20.1 statewide):³⁷ Holyoke 115.3, Chelsea 97.0, Lawrence 80.9, Gardner 63.9, New Bedford 62.9, Springfield 61.4, and Southbridge 60.9.
- Households that were receiving public assistance (2.9% statewide and 3.4% nationwide): Holyoke 11.2%, Lawrence 9.0%, Springfield 8.6%, Chelsea 7.3%, and New Bedford 7.1%
- Labor force unemployment rate (8.4% statewide and 9.3% nationwide): Lawrence 16.3%, Fall River 14.6%, New Bedford 14.2%, Springfield 11.7%, Holyoke 11.6%, Athol 11.5%, Gardner 11.3%, and Lowell 11.2%.
- 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.

³⁵ Unduplicated counts of reported children from Appendix Table A1

³⁶ Neglect was recorded as one of the reported maltreatment conditions.

³⁷ The 2009 nationwide rate is not available. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, in 2008 there were 41.5 births per 1,000 teenagers aged 15-19 years nationwide.

E. Type of Child Maltreatment Reported and Investigated

1. Report and Investigation Disposition by Type of Maltreatment

Of the 115,814 children with reports of alleged maltreatment during 2009, 60% had their reports screened-in for investigation and 4% for initial assessment. Screen-in for investigation rates varied for specific types of maltreatment: 72% for physical abuse, 60% for neglect, and 42% for sexual abuse (see table below). A total of 59,925 children were the subjects of investigations of alleged maltreatment; 55% of these children were victimized (supported allegations). As with screen-in rates, support rates differed by type of maltreatment: 57% for neglect, 33% for sexual abuse, and 30% for physical abuse.

Screening and Support Rates by Type of Maltreatment

| <i>Type of Maltreatment</i> | Child Counts | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| | <i>Children Reported</i> | | <i>Children Investigated</i> |
| | <i>% w/Screened-In Allegations for Investigation</i> | <i>% w/Screened-In Allegations for Initial Assessment*</i> | <i>% w/Supported Allegations</i> |
| All | 60% | 4% | 55% |
| Neglect | 60% | 5% | 57% |
| Physical Abuse | 72% | 3% | 30% |
| Sexual Abuse | 42% | NA | 33% |

* Moderate to low risk allegations of neglect and physical abuse

NA = Not Applicable (reports of sexual abuse may be screened-in for investigation, but not for initial assessment)

Comparing the proportion of children with reports screened-in for investigation to the proportion with supported investigations showed a difference 3% for neglect and 9% for sexual abuse (above table). The difference in proportions was significantly greater for physical abuse--42%. Compared to other forms of maltreatment, a child with a reported allegation of physical abuse was more likely to be screened-in for investigation. 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 on page 42. Neglect was the major form of maltreatment with 97,776 reported children compared to 20,526 for physical abuse, and 7,393 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%, 81%, and 87% of all children reported as neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused, respectively (Appendix Table A9). Medical professionals were the primary reporters of sexual abuse (Appendix 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. If there are allegations of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, and severe neglect, the report is screened-in for investigation. Reports with moderate or low risk allegations of physical abuse and neglect are screened-in for initial assessment.

Depending on the urgency, a report screened-in for investigation is designated an emergency or non-emergency. From January to July 2009, emergency investigations were completed within 24 hours of the report and non-emergencies were completed within 10 calendar days. Under the new differential response system which became available August 2009, emergency investigations were completed within 5 business days of the report while non-emergencies were completed within 15 business days. For reports screened-in for initial assessment, a determination is made if DCF involvement is necessary and what, if any, supports and services are needed to help the families. The initial assessment must be completed within 15 business days of the report.

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).

Report Source Screen-in Rates

| <i>Report Source</i> | <i>Neglect</i> | <i>Physical Abuse</i> | <i>Sexual Abuse</i> |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Mandated | 70% | 77% | 41% |
| Nonmandated | 54% | 68% | 48% |
| Anonymous | 52% | 66% | 51% |
| All Sources | 65% | 75% | 42% |

Reporter Screen-in Rates

| <i>Neglect</i> | | <i>Physical Abuse</i> | | <i>Sexual Abuse</i> | |
|------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| DCF Social Worker | 79% | School Personnel | 84% | DCF Social Worker | 48% |
| Medical Professional | 74% | DCF Social Worker | 82% | Law Enforcement Agency | 42% |
| Law Enforcement Agency | 72% | Medical Professional | 78% | Medical Professional | 40% |
| School Personnel | 68% | Law Enforcement Agency | 75% | School Personnel | 38% |

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

Of the 115,814 children reported to DCF, the identity of their mother (biological, adoptive, step, and foster) was recorded for 77,932 of the children. Ninety-nine percent of these identified mothers were biological mothers. Only those children whose mothers were identified as biological (76,801) were used in the following analysis.

Comparing the age³⁸ 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 on page 43 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 (Appendix Table A10).

| Alleged Maltreatment | Bio-Mother | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Age Group | Median Age | Marital Status |
| Neglect | 35% were 20-29 years old | 32 years old | 60% were single |
| Physical Abuse | 28% were 20-29 years old | 34 years old | 55% were single |
| Sexual Abuse | 22% were 20-29 years old | 35 years old | 55% were single |

There were minor variations in the type of maltreatment and proportion of mothers by race and Hispanic origin (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)³⁹ 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 2009 were teenagers (12-19 years old) (Appendix Table A11 on page 44 and table below). However, the teenage component rose to 45-47% when age was determined at the birth of their oldest child (Appendix Table A11). Median age of mothers went from 32-35 years in 2009 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 | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | 2009 | At Birth of Oldest Child |
| Neglect | 3% | 47% |
| Physical Abuse | 1% | 46% |
| Sexual Abuse | <1% | 45% |

³⁸ Age of mother at time of report

³⁹ 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 31.

Neglect was the most prevalent form of maltreatment. A total of 30,015 children (92% of all maltreated children)⁴⁰ were found to have been neglected (Table 4). There were 4,030 physically abused children and 874 sexually abused children (12% and 3% of all maltreated children, respectively).⁴¹ Among DCF Regions, the Southeast and West had greater numbers of neglected children (Table 4). This is expected since the Southeast and West 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 Region during January 1 - December 31, 2009

| DCF Service Region | Child Counts by Type of Supported Maltreatment ² | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Neglect | | Physical Abuse | | Sexual Abuse | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| West | 6,979 | 23% | 603 | 15% | 174 | 20% |
| Central | 4,366 | 15% | 884 | 22% | 161 | 18% |
| Northeast | 4,051 | 13% | 609 | 15% | 124 | 14% |
| Metro | 4,032 | 13% | 464 | 12% | 88 | 10% |
| Southeast | 7,090 | 24% | 727 | 18% | 201 | 23% |
| Boston | 3,441 | 11% | 737 | 18% | 122 | 14% |
| Unspecified | 56 | * | 6 | * | 4 | * |
| Total | 30,015 | 100% | 4,030 | 100% | 874 | 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.

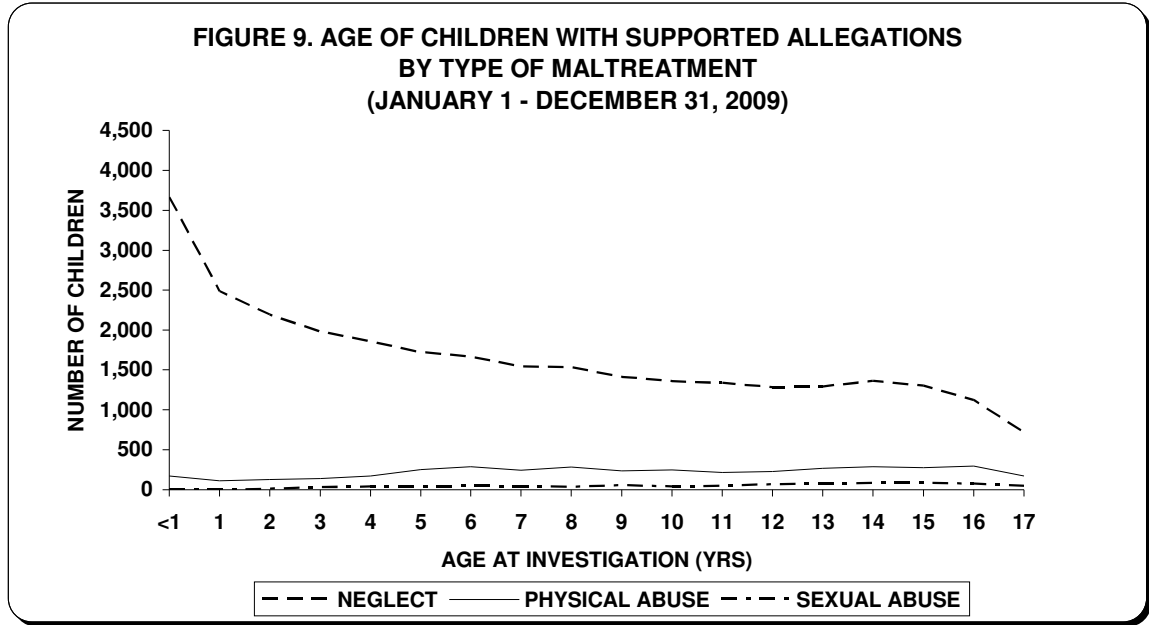
² These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

⁴⁰ 30,015 neglected children out of 32,789 total maltreated children (children with supported allegations following an investigation)

⁴¹ 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.

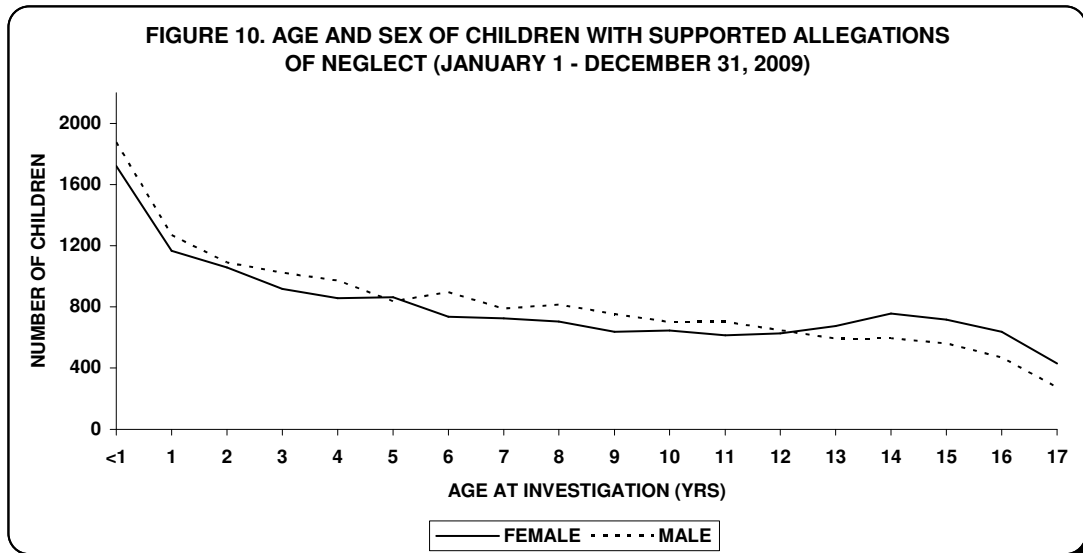
2. Age, Gender, and Race of Victimized Children

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.

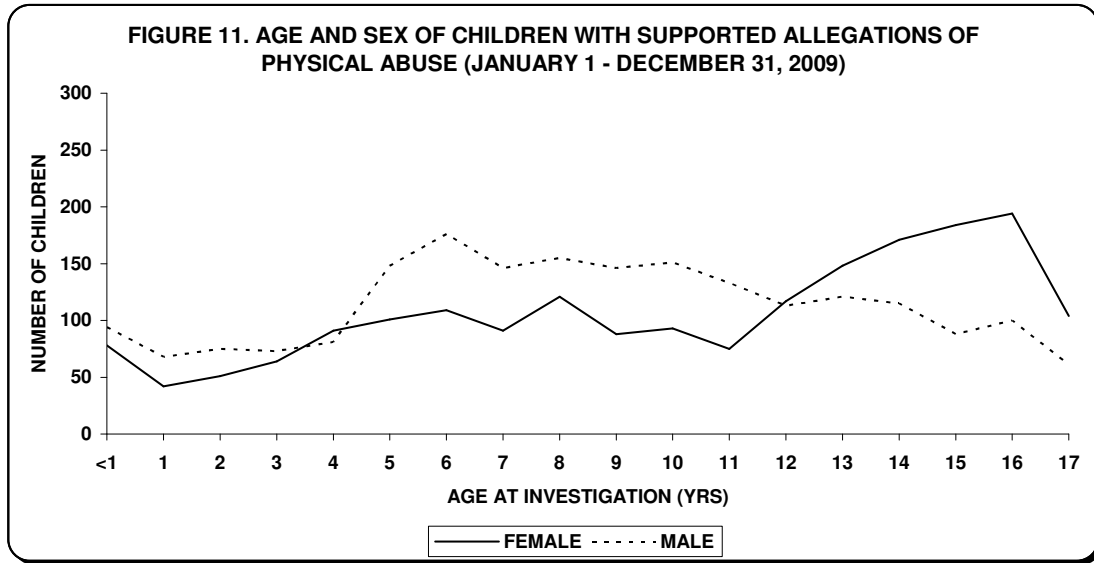


NOTE: Child counts from investigations that resulted in supported allegations.

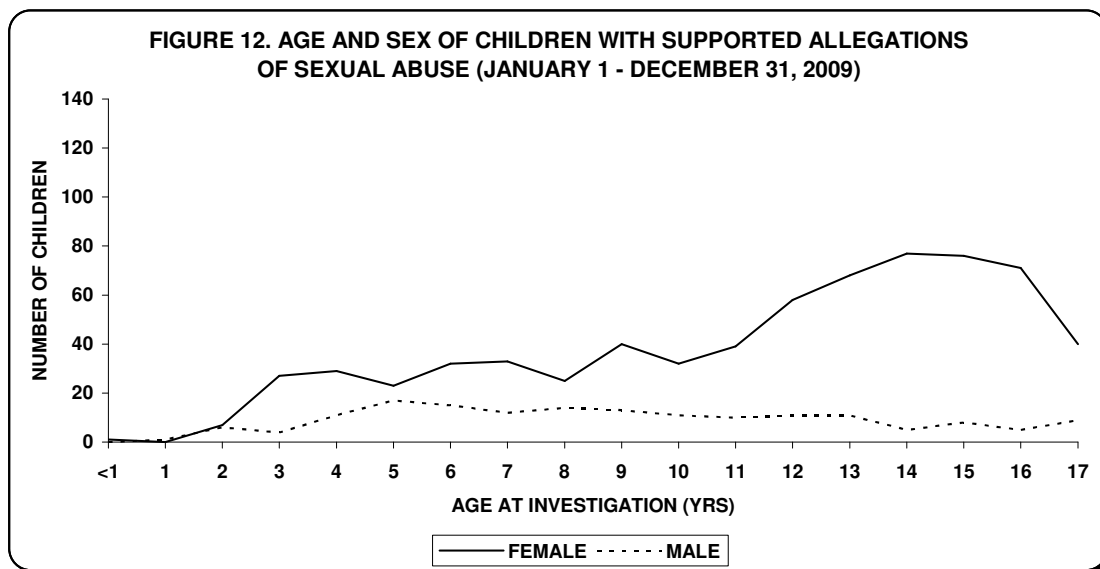
Males accounted for 50% of the children with supported allegations of neglect (48% females, 2% unknown). The distributions of girls and boys across all ages were similar--highest at ages under one year and gradually diminishing with increasing age (Fig. 10). However, there was a resurgence in the number of girls during the teen years while the number of boys continued to decline. Fifty-two percent of neglected children were White and 15% were Black; 23% were of Hispanic origin (Appendix Table A12 on page 45).



Fifty-one percent of physically abused children were male (48% 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 16 years old. Male victims were highest at 6 years old. Forty-four percent of physically-abused children were White and 22% were Black; 29% were of Hispanic origin (Appendix Table A12).



Sexually abused children were mostly female—78% (19% male, 3% 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 were peaks at 3-4, 6-7, and 9 years old. Forty-eight percent of sexually-abused children were White and 11% were Black; 26% were of Hispanic origin (Appendix 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-eight percent of sexually abused children were female.
- The proportion of children with supported allegations by type of maltreatment, race, and Hispanic origin:

| Type of Maltreatment | Race* | | Hispanic Origin** |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| | White | Black | |
| Neglect | 52% | 15% | 23% |
| Physical Abuse | 44% | 22% | 29% |
| Sexual Abuse | 48% | 11% | 26% |

*Race was not recorded for 27% of neglected, 29% of physically-abused, and 35% of sexually-abused children.

** Hispanic Origin was not recorded for 19% of neglected, 17% of physically-abused, and 29% of sexually-abused children.

Grouping maltreated children in Massachusetts by the age classes used in national studies, yields the following relative percentages.⁴²

| 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% |
| | 2009 | 15% | 33% | 52% |
| Physical Abuse: | 1989 | 32% | 35% | 33% |
| | 1997 | 26% | 40% | 33% |
| | 2007 | 22% | 38% | 40% |
| | 2008 | 23% | 37% | 39% |
| | 2009 | 24% | 38% | 38% |
| Neglect: | 1989 | 54% | 30% | 16% |
| | 1997 | 44% | 36% | 21% |
| | 2007 | 44% | 31% | 25% |
| | 2008 | 43% | 31% | 25% |
| | 2009 | 47% | 30% | 24% |

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 2009, the 12 to 17 age group has increased 5% for physical abuse, 8% for neglect, and 22% for sexual abuse. For whatever reasons, there has been a shift in victimized children from younger to older, regardless of the type of maltreatment.

⁴² Relative percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding-off.

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

In 2009, there were 32,789 children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment. Sixty-nine percent of the children were victimized by one perpetrator (see below). A perpetrator may have subjected a child to one or more types of maltreatment. For any one child, multiple perpetrators may have committed one or more types of maltreatment.

| Perpetrator Count | Child Count | |
|-------------------|-------------|------|
| | No. | % |
| 1 | 22530 | 69% |
| 2 | 9527 | 29% |
| 3 | 457 | 1% |
| 4 | 60 | * |
| 5 | 5 | * |
| 6 | 1 | * |
| Unknown | 209 | 1% |
| Total | 32789 | 100% |

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

The following characteristics are presented for only those perpetrators who were found to have victimized a child. Each group of characteristics represent the combined data for a maximum of 4 perpetrators per child victimization.⁴³ 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 were derived from the number of victimized children (30,015 neglected, 4,030 physically abused, and 874 sexually abused children).

Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to be female (57% female vs. 43% male). Most perpetrators of sexual abuse were male (94% male). There were more male than female perpetrators of physical abuse (53% male vs. 47% female). (Appendix Table A13 on page 46)

The majority of perpetrators, regardless of the type of maltreatment, were in the 30-39 year age group—37% of neglect perpetrators, 42% of physical abuse perpetrators, and 31% of sexual abuse perpetrators. Perpetrators of neglect tended to be younger than physical abuse and sexual abuse perpetrators. Compared to neglect and physical abuse, there were greater proportions of sexual abuse perpetrators who were teenagers or 50 years and 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)

⁴³ A child may have multiple victimizations by 1 to 4 perpetrators. A victimization is defined as an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation(s) of maltreatment.

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 Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home and Other Relative. Other notable perpetrators of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse are Stepfathers and Mother’s Partners In-Home and Out-of-Home. (Appendix Table A13)

| Perpetrator’s Relationship to Victimized Child by Type of Maltreatment | | | | | |
|---|-----|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Neglect</i> | | <i>Physical Abuse</i> | | <i>Sexual Abuse</i> | |
| Biological Mother | 51% | Biological Mother | 39% | Biological Father | 20% |
| Biological Father | 32% | Biological Father | 35% | Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home | 13% |
| Mother’s Partner In-Home | 6% | Mother’s Partner In-Home | 7% | Other Relative | 12% |
| Stepfather | 2% | Stepfather | 4% | Stepfather | 9% |
| Mother’s Partner Out-of-Home | 2% | Mother’s Partner Out-of-Home | 2% | Mother’s Partner In-Home | 9% |
| | | Other Relative | 2% | Mother’s Partner Out-of-Home | 7% |
| | | Legal Guardian | 2% | Sibling Brother | 4% |
| | | | | Grandfather Maternal | 3% |
| | | | | Biological Mother | 2% |
| | | | | Grandfather Paternal | 2% |

4. DCF Area Offices: 2008 to 2009 Changes in Victimization by Type of Maltreatment Supported

From 2008 to 2009, the number of children with supported allegations of neglect dropped 21% statewide. Over the same period, physically abused children decreased 22% and sexually abused children declined 12% (Appendix Tables A14-A16 on pages 47-49).

Annual changes in the numbers of victimized children within DCF regions mask fluctuations at the area-office level. Consequently, the following analysis considers those area offices (“catchment areas”) with appreciable 2008-2009 changes in children with supported allegations. Appendix Tables A14-A16 display statistics for all DCF areas and regions.

The largest declines in neglected children occurred in three DCF Areas in the Northeast Service Region: Lawrence (-52%), Haverhill (-43%), and Cape Ann (-34%) (Appendix Table A14 on page 47). For physical abuse, the most significant decreases were recorded at the Plymouth (-59%), Lawrence (-50%), Arlington (-49%), Malden (-48%), and Lowell (-42%) Areas (Appendix Table A15 on page 48). Area offices with relatively large declines in sexually abused children were Cambridge (-54%), Lawrence (-45%), and Plymouth (-43%) (Appendix Table A16 on page 49).

Despite the widespread decline in victimized children from 2008 to 2009, there were a few area offices with increases. Framingham and Cape Ann had increases of 34% and 9% in physically abused children, respectively. The number of sexually abused children increased 37% at Dimock Street, 27% at Coastal, 15% at Cape Ann, 11% at Lowell, and 11% at Greenfield. The larger number of area offices with increases in sexually abused children is probably related to the small numbers of victimized children when compared to neglect and physical abuse.

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 | 98% | North Central | 28% | Dimock Street | 5% |
| Pittsfield | 97% | Lawrence | 24% | Worcester East | 4% |
| Van Wart | 97% | Dimock Street | 21% | South Central | 4% |
| Plymouth | 96% | Park Street | 21% | Attleboro/Taunton | 4% |
| Haverhill | 95% | Harbor | 17% | 12 other areas | 3% |
| Cape & Islands | 94% | 2 other areas | 16% | | |
| Statewide | 92% | Statewide | 12% | Statewide | 3% |

Neglect was the predominant form of maltreatment throughout the area offices (92% statewide) (see above table). Physical abuse and sexual abuse accounted for 12% and 3% 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 79% in Lawrence to 98% in Greenfield). Physical abuse was most prevalent in the North Central and Lawrence Area Offices. Sexual abuse was equally common among the area offices, ranging from 1% in both Framingham and Cambridge to 5% in Dimock Street.

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 2009 are presented below by type of maltreatment.

| Investigation Outcomes for Children with Supported Allegations of Maltreatment | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Type of Maltreatment</i> | <i>Open for Services</i> | <i>Continue Ongoing Services</i> | <i>No Services Required ⁴⁴</i> | <i>Referred for Voluntary Services ⁴⁵</i> | <i>Unable to Locate Family</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Neglect | 19323 (64%) | 7328 (24%) | 3341 (11%) | 8 (*) | 15 (*) | 30015 |
| Physical Abuse | 2534 (63%) | 1077 (27%) | 416 (10%) | 1 (*) | 2 (*) | 4030 |
| Sexual Abuse | 323 (37%) | 228 (26%) | 323 (37%) | --- | --- | 874 |

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, 63-64% had their cases opened for services (new cases) and 24-27% had their services continued (ongoing cases). Sexually abused children had a significantly lower “open for services” outcome—37%. This disparity in investigation outcomes occurred because sexually abused children were more likely to have an outcome of “no services required”—37% vs. 10-11% 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: 13% of neglected, 13% of physically abused, and 13% of sexually abused children entered placement.

G. Child Maltreatment and the DCF Caseload

- Child maltreatment is the driving force behind the DCF caseload. On the 31st of December 2009, 83% of 8,024 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).

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ Families are offered supportive services.

- Of 32,071 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 2009, DCF had 23,454 open cases representing 77,200 consumers.⁴⁶ A total of 37,105 adults and 40,095 children were being served.

⁴⁶ 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, 2009 ¹

| Counts | Type of Maltreatment | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| | All ² Maltreatment | Neglect | Physical Abuse | Sexual Abuse | Emotional Maltreatment | Congenital Drug Addiction | Failure to Thrive |
| Children in Reports (duplicated) | 115,814 | 97,776 | 20,526 | 7,393 | 188 | 46 | 13 |
| Reports | 77,420 | 62,050 | 17,335 | 6,729 | 156 | 46 | 13 |
| Children per Report | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1 |
| Children in Reports (unduplicated) | 77,802 | 67,433 | 17,033 | 6,034 | 182 | 45 | 13 |
| Children in Investigations (duplicated) | 59,925 | 52,343 | 13,577 | 2,617 | 113 | 45 | 13 |
| Investigations | 38,498 | 32,368 | 11,151 | 2,292 | 96 | 45 | 12 |
| Children per Investigation | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.1 |
| Children in Investigations (unduplicated) | 51,949 | 45,814 | 12,811 | 2,503 | 111 | 45 | 13 |
| Children in Investigations w/Supported Allegations (duplicated) | 32,789 | 30,015 | 4,030 | 874 | 44 | 39 | 10 |
| Investigations w/Supported Allegations | 21,716 | 18,721 | 3,428 | 815 | 37 | 39 | 9 |
| Children per Investigation w/Supported Allegations | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.1 |
| Children in Investigations w/Supported Allegations (unduplicated) | 29,810 | 27,349 | 3,917 | 861 | 44 | 39 | 10 |
| Children in Initial Assessments (duplicated) | 3,465 | 3,242 | 387 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Initial Assessments | 2,317 | 2,126 | 335 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Children per Initial Assessment | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.2 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Children in Initial Assessments (unduplicated) | 3,444 | 3,221 | 387 | NA | NA | NA | NA |

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

² 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.

NOTE: Initial assessment response does not apply to reports where there has been an allegation of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or serious neglect. Also, it does not apply to the low frequency allegations of emotional maltreatment, congenital drug addiction, and failure to thrive.

Table A2. Counts of All Reported Children by Report Source during January 1 - December 31, 2009

| Report Source | Child Counts ¹ | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 to 2009 | | 2009 |
| | Reported No. | Reported No. | Annual Change % | Screened-In ² No. | % |
| Law Enforcement Agency | 19,594 | 20,150 | -3% | 13,809 | 70% |
| Medical Professionals | 10,242 | 10,044 | 2% | 7,356 | 72% |
| School Personnel | 10,176 | 11,074 | -8% | 7,050 | 69% |
| DCF Social Worker | 3,831 | 4,672 | -18% | 2,939 | 77% |
| Court | 1,804 | 2,183 | -17% | 1,152 | 64% |
| Private Social Service Agency | 1,083 | 1,512 | -28% | 649 | 60% |
| Other Mass. State Agency | 737 | 769 | -4% | 454 | 62% |
| Out-of-State Agency | 286 | 268 | 7% | 181 | 63% |
| Day-Care Provider | 664 | 802 | -17% | 440 | 66% |
| Foster Parent | 129 | 125 | 3% | 77 | 60% |
| Other Substitute-Care Provider | 141 | 142 | -1% | 72 | 51% |
| Other Mandated Reporter | 10,347 | 10,047 | 3% | 6,773 | 65% |
| Missing ³ | 26,139 | 25,918 | 1% | 17,587 | 67% |
| Total Mandated | 85,173 | 87,706 | -3% | 58,539 | 69% |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Self (Victim) | 98 | 114 | -14% | 61 | 62% |
| Father in Home | 356 | 351 | 1% | 179 | 50% |
| Father Out of Home | 2,314 | 2,267 | 2% | 1,081 | 47% |
| Mother in Home | 975 | 1,054 | -7% | 482 | 49% |
| Mother Out of Home | 630 | 852 | -26% | 246 | 39% |
| Stepparent | 97 | 103 | -6% | 49 | 51% |
| Sibling | 103 | 117 | -12% | 57 | 55% |
| Other Relative | 2,395 | 2,431 | -1% | 1,457 | 61% |
| Other Nonmandated Reporter | 3,095 | 3,393 | -9% | 1,786 | 58% |
| Missing ³ | 6,088 | 6,234 | -2% | 3,430 | 56% |
| Total Nonmandated | 16,151 | 16,916 | -5% | 8,828 | 55% |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Anonymous | 14,490 | 14,625 | -1% | 7,582 | 52% |
| All Sources | 115,814 | 119,247 | -3% | 74,949 | 65% |

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

² Total count of children in reports screened-in for investigation or initial assessment .

³ Type of reporter was not recorded.

Table A3. Child Counts from Reports, Investigations, and Initial Assessments of Neglect: 1989 - 2009

| Calendar Year | Child Counts ¹ | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Reported | | Screened-In ² | | Investigated | | Supported | | Assessed ³ | |
| | No. | Annual Change % | No. | Annual Change % | No. | Annual Change % | No. | Annual Change % | No. | Annual 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% | --- | --- |
| 2009 | 97,776 | -3% | 63,719 | -8% | 52,343 | -17% | 30,015 | -21% | 3,242 | --- |

NA = Not Available

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

² From 1989 to 2008, the count represents the number of children with reports screened-in for investigation. Starting in 2009, the count represents the total number of children with reports screened-in for investigation or initial assessment.

³ The initial assessment response does not apply to reports where there has been an allegation of serious neglect.

Table A4. Child Counts from Reports, Investigations, and Initial Assessments of Physical Abuse: 1989 - 2009

| Calendar Year | Child Counts ¹ | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| | Annual | | Annual | | Annual | | Annual | | Annual | |
| | Reported No. | Change % | Screened-In ² No. | Change % | Investigated No. | Change % | Supported No. | Change % | Assessed ³ 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% | --- | --- |
| 2009 | 20,526 | -5% | 15,421 | -11% | 13,577 | -15% | 4,030 | -22% | 387 | --- |

* = 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, investigation, and assessment during the year.

² From 1989 to 2008, the count represents the number of children with reports screened-in for investigation. Starting in 2009, the count represents the total number of children with reports screened-in for investigation or initial assessment.

³ The initial assessment response does not apply to reports where there has been an allegation of serious physical abuse.

Table A5. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations of Sexual Abuse: 1983 - 2009

| Calendar Year | Child Counts ¹ | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | Reported | Annual | Screened-In ² | Annual | Investigated | Annual | Supported | Annual |
| | No. | Change % | No. | Change % | No. | Change % | No. | 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% |
| 2009 | 7,393 | -2% | 3,128 | -5% | 2,617 | -10% | 874 | -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.

² Count of children in reports screened-in for investigation. Reports of sexual abuse are never screened-in for initial assessment.

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

| City/Town ¹ | 2009 ² Reporting Rate (per 1,000) | 2008 ³ Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000) | 1999 ⁴ % Families w/Related Children <18 Below Poverty Level | |
|------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | | Families | Families w/Female Householder and No Husband Present |
| | | | | |
| North Adams | 156.6 | 28.3 | 25.9% | 53.1% |
| Pittsfield | 138.5 | 47.2 | 16.2% | 40.1% |
| Holyoke | 125.9 | 115.3 | 33.9% | 55.1% |
| Athol | 121.4 | 20.8 | 11.3% | 27.5% |
| Springfield | 121.0 | 61.4 | 29.4% | 47.5% |
| New Bedford | 117.8 | 62.9 | 25.3% | 49.6% |
| Southbridge | 105.1 | 60.9 | 20.7% | 41.8% |
| Greenfield | 100.7 | 26.6 | 18.9% | 46.8% |
| Chicopee | 100.3 | 33.9 | 16.0% | 34.9% |
| Gardner | 95.6 | 63.9 | 10.5% | 28.7% |
| Webster | 94.1 | 41.3 | 11.2% | 33.3% |
| Fitchburg | 91.3 | 38.4 | 18.5% | 42.1% |
| Fall River | 84.9 | 56.2 | 21.7% | 44.5% |
| Haverhill | 78.4 | 32.0 | 11.3% | 32.3% |
| Lowell | 78.1 | 48.7 | 19.2% | 41.8% |
| Worcester | 77.8 | 36.4 | 20.9% | 43.6% |
| Brockton | 77.7 | 42.6 | 17.3% | 35.6% |
| Chelsea | 74.9 | 97.0 | 24.9% | 42.0% |
| Lynn | 73.6 | 53.2 | 19.1% | 40.2% |
| Lawrence | 72.9 | 80.9 | 26.7% | 43.8% |
| Malden | 71.7 | 26.6 | 10.7% | 22.8% |
| Wareham | 69.2 | 24.0 | 13.2% | 32.4% |
| Everett | 66.6 | 40.6 | 14.3% | 31.7% |
| Taunton | 66.0 | 24.5 | 12.1% | 35.8% |
| Salem | 64.6 | 32.4 | 12.1% | 26.7% |
| West Springfield | 64.2 | 23.8 | 15.8% | 38.8% |
| Leominster | 61.9 | 23.1 | 10.4% | 27.1% |
| Westfield | 61.5 | 22.0 | 12.1% | 34.1% |
| Middleborough | 59.3 | 34.8 | 4.8% | 17.4% |
| Quincy | 58.1 | 10.6 | 9.1% | 24.9% |
| Gloucester | 57.2 | 16.7 | 10.8% | 37.1% |
| Boston | 55.9 | 28.6 | 22.2% | 37.4% |
| Revere | 53.8 | 50.3 | 17.8% | 36.3% |
| Randolph | 51.6 | 17.2 | 3.6% | 10.8% |
| Barnstable | 51.0 | 22.8 | 11.1% | 31.6% |
| Attleboro | 50.7 | 26.4 | 5.0% | 15.9% |
| Falmouth | 50.0 | 14.0 | 7.6% | 20.6% |
| Marlborough | 49.6 | 30.2 | 6.8% | 27.8% |
| Waltham | 49.6 | 15.0 | 4.1% | 15.4% |
| Framingham | 48.9 | 27.1 | 10.8% | 35.1% |
| Methuen | 46.3 | 22.6 | 9.3% | 30.9% |
| Plymouth | 45.6 | 17.9 | 6.0% | 25.4% |
| Beverly | 44.5 | 7.3 | 6.1% | 21.5% |
| Woburn | 42.7 | 10.2 | 7.8% | 27.3% |
| Peabody | 42.6 | 16.1 | 4.8% | 15.5% |
| Weymouth | 41.7 | 18.6 | 6.6% | 22.8% |
| Somerville | 39.1 | 15.2 | 13.0% | 31.6% |
| Cambridge | 35.9 | 5.6 | 12.6% | 24.3% |
| Medford | 35.8 | 5.1 | 5.4% | 19.1% |
| Newton | 20.1 | 1.4 | 3.9% | 11.9% |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 51.9 | 20.1 | 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 2008; Females 15 - 19 years old residing in Massachusetts in 2005 from Births Vital Records Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile (MassCHIP V3.0, r324), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, rupdate: March 31, 2010 (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)

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

| City/Town ¹ | 2009 ² | 1999 ³ | 1999 ⁴ | 2009 ⁵ |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Reporting Rate (per 1,000) | % Households w/Public Assistance Income | Median Family Income | % Unemployed Annual Average |
| North Adams | 156.6 | 5.7% | \$37,635 | 9.7% |
| Pittsfield | 138.5 | 3.6% | \$46,228 | 8.5% |
| Holyoke | 125.9 | 11.2% | \$36,130 | 11.6% |
| Athol | 121.4 | 2.9% | \$41,061 | 11.5% |
| Springfield | 121.0 | 8.6% | \$36,285 | 11.7% |
| New Bedford | 117.8 | 7.1% | \$35,708 | 14.2% |
| Southbridge | 105.1 | 6.8% | \$41,863 | 10.7% |
| Greenfield | 100.7 | 5.4% | \$46,412 | 8.7% |
| Chicopee | 100.3 | 4.2% | \$44,136 | 10.0% |
| Gardner | 95.6 | 3.2% | \$47,164 | 11.3% |
| Webster | 94.1 | 4.5% | \$48,898 | 10.9% |
| Fitchburg | 91.3 | 5.9% | \$43,291 | 11.6% |
| Fall River | 84.9 | 6.5% | \$37,671 | 14.6% |
| Haverhill | 78.4 | 3.0% | \$59,772 | 9.4% |
| Lowell | 78.1 | 5.8% | \$45,901 | 11.2% |
| Worcester | 77.8 | 6.0% | \$42,988 | 9.9% |
| Brockton | 77.7 | 5.6% | \$46,235 | 10.7% |
| Chelsea | 74.9 | 7.3% | \$32,130 | 9.4% |
| Lynn | 73.6 | 6.3% | \$45,295 | 9.8% |
| Lawrence | 72.9 | 9.0% | \$31,809 | 16.3% |
| Malden | 71.7 | 2.4% | \$55,557 | 8.2% |
| Wareham | 69.2 | 4.1% | \$45,750 | 9.8% |
| Everett | 66.6 | 3.6% | \$49,876 | 8.8% |
| Taunton | 66.0 | 3.7% | \$52,433 | 9.8% |
| Salem | 64.6 | 2.9% | \$55,635 | 8.4% |
| West Springfield | 64.2 | 4.7% | \$50,282 | 9.1% |
| Leominster | 61.9 | 3.4% | \$54,660 | 10.5% |
| Westfield | 61.5 | 3.7% | \$55,327 | 8.3% |
| Middleborough | 59.3 | 2.1% | \$59,173 | 9.9% |
| Quincy | 58.1 | 2.1% | \$59,735 | 8.2% |
| Gloucester | 57.2 | 2.5% | \$58,459 | 9.9% |
| Boston | 55.9 | 4.1% | \$44,151 | 8.1% |
| Revere | 53.8 | 3.1% | \$45,865 | 8.4% |
| Randolph | 51.6 | 2.1% | \$61,942 | 8.8% |
| Barnstable | 51.0 | 1.7% | \$54,026 | 8.0% |
| Attleboro | 50.7 | 2.3% | \$59,112 | 10.8% |
| Falmouth | 50.0 | 1.5% | \$57,422 | 7.5% |
| Marlborough | 49.6 | 2.0% | \$70,385 | 6.8% |
| Waltham | 49.6 | 1.9% | \$64,595 | 6.8% |
| Framingham | 48.9 | 2.4% | \$67,420 | 6.5% |
| Methuen | 46.3 | 2.8% | \$59,831 | 10.5% |
| Plymouth | 45.6 | 1.7% | \$63,266 | 9.2% |
| Beverly | 44.5 | 2.7% | \$66,486 | 7.7% |
| Woburn | 42.7 | 1.7% | \$66,364 | 8.2% |
| Peabody | 42.6 | 1.5% | \$65,483 | 8.1% |
| Weymouth | 41.7 | 1.6% | \$64,083 | 8.5% |
| Somerville | 39.1 | 2.2% | \$51,243 | 6.3% |
| Cambridge | 35.9 | 2.2% | \$59,423 | 5.6% |
| Medford | 35.8 | 1.7% | \$62,409 | 7.8% |
| Newton | 20.1 | 1.4% | \$105,289 | 5.8% |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 51.9 | 2.9% | \$61,664 | 8.4% |
| NATIONWIDE | --- | 3.4% | \$50,046 | 9.3% |

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 2009 (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. CY2009 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) | Assessed Children ⁶ No. |
| North Adams | 514 | 156.6 | 150 | 45.7 | 15 |
| Pittsfield | 1,469 | 138.5 | 490 | 46.2 | 63 |
| Holyoke | 1,478 | 125.9 | 561 | 47.8 | 46 |
| Athol | 349 | 121.4 | 121 | 42.1 | 20 |
| Springfield | 5,329 | 121.0 | 2,257 | 51.3 | 226 |
| New Bedford | 2,748 | 117.8 | 1,459 | 62.5 | 65 |
| Southbridge | 459 | 105.1 | 171 | 39.2 | 34 |
| Greenfield | 400 | 100.7 | 138 | 34.7 | 26 |
| Chicopee | 1,241 | 100.3 | 503 | 40.7 | 30 |
| Gardner | 471 | 95.6 | 143 | 29.0 | 13 |
| Webster | 359 | 94.1 | 146 | 38.3 | 18 |
| Fitchburg | 923 | 91.3 | 332 | 32.9 | 32 |
| Fall River | 1,882 | 84.9 | 794 | 35.8 | 88 |
| Haverhill | 1,188 | 78.4 | 316 | 20.9 | 102 |
| Lowell | 2,214 | 78.1 | 863 | 30.5 | 60 |
| Worcester | 3,169 | 77.8 | 1,342 | 33.0 | 109 |
| Brockton | 2,039 | 77.7 | 886 | 33.7 | 40 |
| Chelsea | 717 | 74.9 | 310 | 32.4 | 36 |
| Lynn | 1,771 | 73.6 | 758 | 31.5 | 21 |
| Lawrence | 1,678 | 72.9 | 396 | 17.2 | 108 |
| Malden | 806 | 71.7 | 286 | 25.4 | 61 |
| Wareham | 345 | 69.2 | 97 | 19.4 | 12 |
| Everett | 548 | 66.6 | 189 | 23.0 | 48 |
| Taunton | 918 | 66.0 | 328 | 23.6 | 20 |
| Salem | 527 | 64.6 | 142 | 17.4 | 29 |
| West Springfield | 420 | 64.2 | 191 | 29.2 | 17 |
| Leominster | 652 | 61.9 | 221 | 21.0 | 20 |
| Westfield | 587 | 61.5 | 257 | 26.9 | 20 |
| Middleborough | 327 | 59.3 | 87 | 15.8 | 17 |
| Quincy | 893 | 58.1 | 295 | 19.2 | 25 |
| Gloucester | 381 | 57.2 | 87 | 13.1 | 28 |
| Boston | 6,511 | 55.9 | 2,690 | 23.1 | 232 |
| Revere | 534 | 53.8 | 187 | 18.9 | 37 |
| Randolph | 372 | 51.6 | 98 | 13.6 | 14 |
| Barnstable | 535 | 51.0 | 198 | 18.9 | 6 |
| Attleboro | 541 | 50.7 | 179 | 16.8 | 18 |
| Falmouth | 338 | 50.0 | 125 | 18.5 | 3 |
| Marlborough | 418 | 49.6 | 131 | 15.5 | 10 |
| Waltham | 455 | 49.6 | 129 | 14.1 | 37 |
| Framingham | 701 | 48.9 | 235 | 16.4 | 25 |
| Methuen | 502 | 46.3 | 125 | 11.5 | 38 |
| Plymouth | 608 | 45.6 | 200 | 15.0 | 22 |
| Beverly | 385 | 44.5 | 114 | 13.2 | 31 |
| Woburn | 336 | 42.7 | 122 | 15.5 | 11 |
| Peabody | 457 | 42.6 | 116 | 10.8 | 32 |
| Weymouth | 494 | 41.7 | 149 | 12.6 | 7 |
| Somerville | 449 | 39.1 | 202 | 17.6 | 18 |
| Cambridge | 483 | 35.9 | 206 | 15.3 | 26 |
| Medford | 358 | 35.8 | 101 | 10.1 | 32 |
| Newton | 358 | 20.1 | 73 | 4.1 | 28 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 77,802 | 51.9 | 29,810 | 19.9 | 3,444 |

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

⁶ Children with moderate or lower risk allegations of neglect or physical abuse are assigned to an initial assessment response.

Table A9. Reported Children by Report Source, Screening Decision, and Type of Alleged Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2009

| Report Source | Reported Children by Type of Alleged Maltreatment ¹ | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | Neglect | | Physical Abuse | | Sexual Abuse | |
| | Reported | % Screened-In ² | Reported | % Screened-In ² | Reported | % Screened-In ³ |
| Law Enforcement Agency | 17,822 | 72% | 1,793 | 75% | 834 | 42% |
| Medical Professionals | 8,167 | 74% | 1,829 | 78% | 1,005 | 40% |
| School Personnel | 7,160 | 68% | 3,620 | 84% | 773 | 38% |
| DCF Social Worker | 3,305 | 79% | 559 | 82% | 308 | 48% |
| Court | 1,626 | 65% | 288 | 73% | 68 | 34% |
| Private Social Service Agency | 802 | 62% | 307 | 64% | 117 | 44% |
| Day-Care Provider | 465 | 66% | 232 | 78% | 44 | 48% |
| Other Massachusetts State Agency | 579 | 63% | 126 | 70% | 74 | 28% |
| Out-of-State Agency | 239 | 71% | 41 | 56% | 37 | 27% |
| Foster Parent | 89 | 62% | 26 | 62% | 32 | 69% |
| Other Substitute-Care Provider | 96 | 55% | 43 | 56% | 22 | 14% |
| Other Mandated Reporter | 8,182 | 66% | 2,194 | 76% | 873 | 40% |
| Missing ⁴ | 20,706 | 69% | 5,545 | 75% | 2,213 | 43% |
| Total Mandated | 69,238 | 70% | 16,603 | 77% | 6,400 | 41% |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| Self (Victim) | 81 | 59% | 27 | 74% | 4 | 0% |
| Father in Home | 314 | 51% | 58 | 67% | 23 | 26% |
| Father Out of Home | 2,171 | 47% | 341 | 65% | 40 | 55% |
| Mother in Home | 762 | 49% | 212 | 61% | 120 | 44% |
| Mother Out of Home | 559 | 39% | 127 | 51% | 27 | 30% |
| Stepparent | 90 | 50% | 9 | 89% | 6 | 33% |
| Sibling | 94 | 56% | 14 | 71% | 8 | 38% |
| Other Relative | 2,265 | 60% | 313 | 73% | 81 | 64% |
| Other Nonmandated Reporter | 2,773 | 57% | 437 | 68% | 139 | 47% |
| Missing ⁴ | 5,556 | 56% | 759 | 73% | 262 | 49% |
| Total Nonmandated | 14,665 | 54% | 2,297 | 68% | 710 | 48% |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| Anonymous | 13,873 | 52% | 1,626 | 66% | 283 | 51% |
| All Sources | 97,776 | 65% | 20,526 | 75% | 7,393 | 42% |

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 The percentage of reported children screened-in for investigation or initial assessment.

³ The percentage of reported children screened-in for investigation (reports of sexual abuse may be screened-in for investigation, but not for initial assessment).

⁴ 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, 2009

| 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 | 481 | 1% | 43 | * | 1 | * |
| 18 - 19 | 1,187 | 2% | 104 | 1% | 19 | * |
| 20 - 29 | 22,888 | 35% | 3,745 | 28% | 906 | 22% |
| 30 - 39 | 27,808 | 42% | 5,968 | 45% | 1,934 | 48% |
| 40 - 49 | 12,219 | 18% | 2,822 | 21% | 993 | 25% |
| 50 - 59 | 1,509 | 2% | 431 | 3% | 169 | 4% |
| 60 & older | 38 | * | 13 | * | 5 | * |
| Unspecified | 126 | * | 39 | * | 16 | * |
| Total | 66,256 | 100% | 13,165 | 100% | 4,043 | 100% |
| Race: | | | | | | |
| White | 41,050 | 62% | 7,343 | 56% | 2,383 | 59% |
| Black | 9,232 | 14% | 2,258 | 17% | 589 | 15% |
| Asian | 1,009 | 2% | 279 | 2% | 93 | 2% |
| Native American | 183 | * | 26 | * | 12 | * |
| Pacific Islander | 38 | * | 2 | * | 4 | * |
| Multi-Racial | 870 | 1% | 157 | 1% | 61 | 2% |
| Unable to Determine | 6,202 | 9% | 1,506 | 11% | 434 | 11% |
| Missing ³ | 7,672 | 12% | 1,594 | 12% | 467 | 12% |
| Total | 66,256 | 100% | 13,165 | 100% | 4,043 | 100% |
| Hispanic Origin: | | | | | | |
| Yes | 12,765 | 19% | 3,106 | 24% | 924 | 23% |
| No | 40,644 | 61% | 7,497 | 57% | 2,234 | 55% |
| Unspecified | 12,847 | 19% | 2,562 | 19% | 885 | 22% |
| Total | 66,256 | 100% | 13,165 | 100% | 4,043 | 100% |
| Marital Status: | | | | | | |
| Married | 16,006 | 24% | 3,516 | 27% | 1,021 | 25% |
| Single | 39,950 | 60% | 7,261 | 55% | 2,229 | 55% |
| Separated | 3,630 | 5% | 752 | 6% | 269 | 7% |
| Divorced | 4,241 | 6% | 998 | 8% | 346 | 9% |
| Widowed | 310 | * | 43 | * | 20 | * |
| Missing | 2,119 | 3% | 595 | 5% | 158 | 4% |
| Total | 66,256 | 100% | 13,165 | 100% | 4,043 | 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, 2009**

| Bio-Mother's Age in 2009 (yrs) | Counts of Reported Children by Type of Alleged Maltreatment ¹ | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Neglect | | Physical Abuse | | Sexual Abuse | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 12 - 17 | 481 | 1% | 43 | * | 1 | * |
| 18 - 19 | 1,187 | 2% | 104 | 1% | 19 | * |
| 20 - 21 | 2,810 | 4% | 307 | 2% | 56 | 1% |
| 22 - 23 | 3,684 | 6% | 503 | 4% | 119 | 3% |
| 24 - 25 | 4,614 | 7% | 708 | 5% | 181 | 4% |
| 26 - 27 | 5,726 | 9% | 1,076 | 8% | 244 | 6% |
| 28 - 29 | 6,054 | 9% | 1,151 | 9% | 306 | 8% |
| 30 - 39 | 27,808 | 42% | 5,968 | 45% | 1,934 | 48% |
| 40 - 49 | 12,219 | 18% | 2,822 | 21% | 993 | 25% |
| 50 - 59 | 1,509 | 2% | 431 | 3% | 169 | 4% |
| 60 & older | 38 | * | 13 | * | 5 | * |
| Unspecified | 126 | * | 39 | * | 16 | * |
| Total | 66,256 | 100% | 13,165 | 100% | 4,043 | 100% |
| Median Age | 32 years | | 34 years | | 35 years | |
| Age at Birth of Oldest Child (yrs) | | | | | | |
| 12 - 17 | 14,775 | 22% | 2,925 | 22% | 870 | 22% |
| 18 - 19 | 16,643 | 25% | 3,108 | 24% | 967 | 24% |
| 20 - 21 | 11,227 | 17% | 2,165 | 16% | 697 | 17% |
| 22 - 23 | 6,929 | 10% | 1,392 | 11% | 424 | 10% |
| 24 - 25 | 4,509 | 7% | 836 | 6% | 267 | 7% |
| 26 - 27 | 3,323 | 5% | 716 | 5% | 190 | 5% |
| 28 - 29 | 2,565 | 4% | 577 | 4% | 145 | 4% |
| 30 - 39 | 5,377 | 8% | 1,233 | 9% | 391 | 10% |
| 40 - 49 | 366 | 1% | 88 | 1% | 38 | 1% |
| 50 - 59 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 60 & older | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unspecified | 542 | 1% | 125 | 1% | 54 | 1% |
| Total | 66,256 | 100% | 13,165 | 100% | 4,043 | 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 and Hispanic Origin of Victimized Children ¹ by Type of Supported Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2009

| | Child Counts by Type of Supported Maltreatment ² | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Neglect | | Physical Abuse | | Sexual Abuse | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Race: | | | | | | |
| White | 15,697 | 52% | 1,764 | 44% | 420 | 48% |
| Black | 4,433 | 15% | 874 | 22% | 100 | 11% |
| Asian | 547 | 2% | 98 | 2% | 21 | 2% |
| Native American | 54 | * | 5 | * | 2 | * |
| Pacific Islander | 27 | * | 4 | * | 1 | * |
| Multi-Racial | 1,301 | 4% | 133 | 3% | 25 | 3% |
| Unable to Determine | 4,183 | 14% | 705 | 17% | 117 | 13% |
| Missing ³ | 3,773 | 13% | 447 | 11% | 188 | 22% |
| Total | 30,015 | 100% | 4,030 | 100% | 874 | 100% |
| Hispanic Origin: | | | | | | |
| Yes | 7,037 | 23% | 1,178 | 29% | 228 | 26% |
| No | 17,354 | 58% | 2,176 | 54% | 393 | 45% |
| Unspecified | 5,624 | 19% | 676 | 17% | 253 | 29% |
| Total | 30,015 | 100% | 4,030 | 100% | 874 | 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 Race was not recorded.

Table A13. Perpetrator Characteristics by Type of Supported Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2009

| Perpetrator Characteristics ² | Counts of Victimized Children ¹ | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Type of Maltreatment Supported | | | | | |
| | Neglect | | Physical Abuse | | Sexual Abuse | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Gender | | | | | | |
| Male | 16,659 | 43% | 2,208 | 53% | 750 | 94% |
| Female | 22,020 | 57% | 1,958 | 47% | 47 | 6% |
| Total | 38,679 | 100% | 4,166 | 100% | 797 | 100% |
| Age Group (yrs.) | | | | | | |
| 10 - 11 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2 | * |
| 12 - 17 | 222 | 1% | 24 | 1% | 38 | 5% |
| 18 - 19 | 904 | 2% | 44 | 1% | 24 | 3% |
| 20 - 29 | 13,304 | 34% | 973 | 23% | 141 | 17% |
| 30 - 39 | 14,457 | 37% | 1,771 | 42% | 250 | 31% |
| 40 - 49 | 8,039 | 21% | 1,046 | 25% | 208 | 26% |
| 50 - 59 | 1,848 | 5% | 281 | 7% | 94 | 12% |
| 60 - 69 | 324 | 1% | 49 | 1% | 32 | 4% |
| 70 or older | 65 | * | 8 | * | 20 | 2% |
| Total | 39,163 | 100% | 4,196 | 100% | 809 | 100% |
| Identified as Perpetrator in a Prior Supported Investigation ³ | | | | | | |
| Yes | 19,164 | 48% | 1,889 | 44% | 255 | 29% |
| No ⁴ | 20,483 | 52% | 2,421 | 56% | 617 | 71% |
| Total | 39,647 | 100% | 4,310 | 100% | 872 | 100% |
| Relationship | | | | | | |
| Biological Mother | 20,237 | 51% | 1,664 | 39% | 16 | 2% |
| Biological Father | 12,529 | 32% | 1,512 | 35% | 171 | 20% |
| Stepmother | 154 | * | 36 | 1% | --- | --- |
| Stepfather | 943 | 2% | 183 | 4% | 82 | 9% |
| Adoptive Mother | 103 | * | 27 | 1% | 1 | --- |
| Adoptive Father | 68 | * | 24 | 1% | 8 | 1% |
| Mom's Partner in Home | 2,271 | 6% | 296 | 7% | 82 | 9% |
| Mom's Partner out of Home | 639 | 2% | 80 | 2% | 59 | 7% |
| Dad's Partner in Home | 149 | * | 14 | * | 1 | * |
| Dad's Partner out of Home | 44 | * | 4 | * | 1 | * |
| Grandmother Maternal | 385 | 1% | 56 | 1% | 2 | * |
| Grandmother Paternal | 114 | * | 11 | * | 3 | * |
| Grandfather Maternal | 111 | * | 15 | * | 24 | 3% |
| Grandfather Paternal | 47 | * | 6 | * | 20 | 2% |
| Sibling Brother | 62 | * | 28 | 1% | 38 | 4% |
| Sibling Sister | 60 | * | 22 | * | 1 | --- |
| Other Relative | 391 | 1% | 98 | 2% | 103 | 12% |
| Unrelated Caretaker in Home | 105 | * | 24 | * | 13 | 1% |
| Unrelated Caretaker out of Home | 252 | 1% | 29 | 1% | 114 | 13% |
| Foster Mother | 77 | * | 9 | * | --- | --- |
| Foster Father | 27 | * | 9 | * | 3 | * |
| Legal Guardian | 364 | 1% | 72 | 2% | 4 | * |
| Day Care (Family Based) | 24 | * | 1 | * | 4 | * |
| Day Care (Center Based) | 73 | * | 2 | * | --- | --- |
| Residential Program | 91 | * | 14 | * | 6 | 1% |
| Public School | 36 | * | 11 | * | 11 | 1% |
| Private School | 4 | * | 1 | * | --- | --- |
| After School Program | 6 | * | 1 | * | --- | --- |
| Other Institution | 20 | * | 5 | * | 4 | * |
| Other Person | 206 | 1% | 27 | 1% | 88 | 10% |
| Unknown | 26 | * | 16 | * | 8 | 1% |
| Total | 39,618 | 100% | 4,297 | 100% | 867 | 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 Based on combined data for a maximum of 4 perpetrators per child (some children were victimized by multiple perpetrators). The totals for each group of perpetrator characteristics may differ due to missing data.

³ The prior supported finding may have been for a different type of maltreatment.

⁴ 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, 2009

| DCF Area Office/Region | Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹ | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| | 2009 All Maltreatment No. | % Change All 2008 - 2009 | 2009 Neglect No. | % Change Neglect 2008 - 2009 | Neglect as % of All Maltreatment |
| Pittsfield | 1,060 | -26% | 1,031 | -26% | 97% |
| Greenfield | 946 | -27% | 923 | -28% | 98% |
| Holyoke | 1,441 | -24% | 1,331 | -25% | 92% |
| Van Wart Center | 1,785 | -22% | 1,729 | * | 97% |
| Springfield | 2,121 | -6% | 1,965 | -6% | 93% |
| West | 7,353 | -20% | 6,979 | -20% | 95% |
| North Central | 1,185 | -22% | 1,031 | -25% | 87% |
| South Central | 1,242 | -26% | 1,120 | -26% | 90% |
| Worcester East ² | 2,337 | -13% | 2,099 | -13% | 90% |
| Worcester West ² | 122 | 22% | 116 | 29% | 95% |
| Central | 4,886 | -18% | 4,366 | -19% | 89% |
| Lowell | 1,407 | -22% | 1,297 | -20% | 92% |
| Lawrence | 688 | -48% | 544 | -50% | 79% |
| Haverhill | 657 | -42% | 626 | -43% | 95% |
| Cape Ann | 661 | -32% | 610 | -34% | 92% |
| Lynn | 1,071 | -15% | 974 | -16% | 91% |
| Northeast | 4,484 | -31% | 4,051 | -31% | 90% |
| Malden | 926 | -32% | 858 | -33% | 93% |
| Framingham | 941 | -22% | 862 | -26% | 92% |
| Cambridge | 791 | -7% | 739 | -6% | 93% |
| Arlington | 759 | -32% | 707 | -33% | 93% |
| Coastal | 928 | -21% | 866 | -22% | 93% |
| Metro | 4,345 | -24% | 4,032 | -25% | 93% |
| Attleboro | 886 | -13% | 813 | -13% | 92% |
| Brockton | 1,391 | -21% | 1,270 | -20% | 91% |
| Fall River | 1,143 | -11% | 1,042 | * | 91% |
| New Bedford | 2,137 | -12% | 1,996 | -12% | 93% |
| Cape & Islands | 1,040 | -12% | 976 | -12% | 94% |
| Plymouth | 1,035 | -33% | 993 | -32% | 96% |
| Southeast | 7,632 | -17% | 7,090 | -17% | 93% |
| Hyde Park | 957 | -9% | 839 | -7% | 88% |
| Dimock Street | 790 | -4% | 644 | -6% | 82% |
| Park Street | 1,161 | -17% | 978 | -20% | 84% |
| Harbor | 1,120 | -7% | 980 | -8% | 88% |
| Boston | 4,028 | -10% | 3,441 | -11% | 85% |
| Unspecified | 61 | --- | 56 | --- | --- |
| STATE | 32,789 | -20% | 30,015 | -21% | 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, 2009

| DCF Area Office/Region | Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹ | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2009 | % Change | 2009 | % Change | Physical Abuse |
| | All Maltreatment No. | All 2008 - 2009 | Physical Abuse No. | Physical Abuse 2008 - 2009 | as % of All Maltreatment |
| Pittsfield | 1,060 | -26% | 63 | -28% | 6% |
| Greenfield | 946 | -27% | 62 | -3% | 7% |
| Holyoke | 1,441 | -24% | 167 | -3% | 12% |
| Robert Van Wart | 1,785 | -22% | 101 | -36% | 6% |
| Springfield | 2,121 | -6% | 210 | -11% | 10% |
| West | 7,353 | -20% | 603 | -16% | 8% |
| North Central | 1,185 | -22% | 334 | -15% | 28% |
| South Central | 1,242 | -26% | 171 | -32% | 14% |
| Worcester East ² | 2,337 | -13% | 366 | -20% | 16% |
| Worcester West ² | 122 | 22% | 13 | -13% | 11% |
| Central | 4,886 | -18% | 884 | -21% | 18% |
| Lowell | 1,407 | -22% | 149 | -42% | 11% |
| Lawrence | 688 | -48% | 167 | -50% | 24% |
| Haverhill | 657 | -42% | 43 | -38% | 7% |
| Cape Ann | 661 | -32% | 76 | 9% | 11% |
| Lynn | 1,071 | -15% | 174 | * | 16% |
| Northeast | 4,484 | -31% | 609 | -32% | 14% |
| Malden | 926 | -32% | 117 | -48% | 13% |
| Framingham | 941 | -22% | 118 | 34% | 13% |
| Cambridge | 791 | -7% | 80 | -9% | 10% |
| Arlington | 759 | -32% | 69 | -49% | 9% |
| Coastal | 928 | -21% | 80 | -14% | 9% |
| Metro | 4,345 | -24% | 464 | -26% | 11% |
| Attleboro | 886 | -13% | 85 | -11% | 10% |
| Brockton | 1,391 | -21% | 164 | -32% | 12% |
| Fall River | 1,143 | -11% | 123 | -11% | 11% |
| New Bedford | 2,137 | -12% | 206 | -17% | 10% |
| Cape & Islands | 1,040 | -12% | 102 | -11% | 10% |
| Plymouth | 1,035 | -33% | 47 | -59% | 5% |
| Southeast | 7,632 | -17% | 727 | -23% | 10% |
| Hyde Park | 957 | -9% | 142 | -27% | 15% |
| Dimock Street | 790 | -4% | 164 | 1% | 21% |
| Park Street | 1,161 | -17% | 245 | -8% | 21% |
| Harbor | 1,120 | -7% | 186 | -15% | 17% |
| Boston | 4,028 | -10% | 737 | -13% | 18% |
| Unspecified | 61 | --- | 6 | --- | --- |
| STATE | 32,789 | -20% | 4,030 | -22% | 12% |

* = 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, 2009

| DCF Area Office/Region | Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹ | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2009 | % Change | 2009 | % Change | Sexual Abuse |
| | All Maltreatment No. | All 2008 - 2009 | Sexual Abuse No. | Sexual Abuse 2008 - 2009 | as % of All Maltreatment |
| Pittsfield | 1,060 | -26% | 18 | -36% | 2% |
| Greenfield | 946 | -27% | 31 | 11% | 3% |
| Holyoke | 1,441 | -24% | 37 | -20% | 3% |
| Van Wart Center | 1,785 | -22% | 29 | -22% | 2% |
| Springfield | 2,121 | -6% | 59 | -14% | 3% |
| West | 7,353 | -20% | 174 | -16% | 2% |
| North Central | 1,185 | -22% | 29 | * | 2% |
| South Central | 1,242 | -26% | 46 | -6% | 4% |
| Worcester East ² | 2,337 | -13% | 83 | -15% | 4% |
| Worcester West ² | 122 | 22% | 3 | 50% | 2% |
| Central | 4,886 | -18% | 161 | -10% | 3% |
| Lowell | 1,407 | -22% | 41 | 11% | 3% |
| Lawrence | 688 | -48% | 22 | -45% | 3% |
| Haverhill | 657 | -42% | 11 | -15% | 2% |
| Cape Ann | 661 | -32% | 23 | 15% | 3% |
| Lynn | 1,071 | -15% | 27 | * | 3% |
| Northeast | 4,484 | -31% | 124 | -5% | 3% |
| Malden | 926 | -32% | 27 | -34% | 3% |
| Framingham | 941 | -22% | 13 | -35% | 1% |
| Cambridge | 791 | -7% | 11 | -54% | 1% |
| Arlington | 759 | -32% | 18 | -18% | 2% |
| Coastal | 928 | -21% | 19 | 27% | 2% |
| Metro | 4,345 | -24% | 88 | -28% | 2% |
| Attleboro | 886 | -13% | 32 | -3% | 4% |
| Brockton | 1,391 | -21% | 26 | -19% | 2% |
| Fall River | 1,143 | -11% | 34 | 3% | 3% |
| New Bedford | 2,137 | -12% | 53 | -12% | 2% |
| Cape & Islands | 1,040 | -12% | 33 | -11% | 3% |
| Plymouth | 1,035 | -33% | 23 | -43% | 2% |
| Southeast | 7,632 | -17% | 201 | -14% | 3% |
| Hyde Park | 957 | -9% | 27 | -4% | 3% |
| Dimock Street | 790 | -4% | 37 | 37% | 5% |
| Park Street | 1,161 | -17% | 27 | 4% | 2% |
| Harbor | 1,120 | -7% | 31 | 3% | 3% |
| Boston | 4,028 | -10% | 122 | 10% | 3% |
| Unspecified | 61 | -12% | 4 | --- | 7% |
| STATE | 32,789 | -20% | 874 | -12% | 3% |

* = 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.