

**PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS  
IN VIRGINIA  
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018**

Prepared by:  
Child Protective Services Program

June 2018



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

# Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>I. CHILD DEATHS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality	
Table 2: Dispositions of Child Death Investigations	
Table 3: Death Rate of Children in Virginia Due to Abuse or Neglect	
Table 4: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region	
Table 5: Child Deaths Due to Abuse and/or Neglect and Rates by Region	
<b>II. CHILDREN.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Table 6: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age	
Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender	
Table 8: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race	
<b>III. CARETAKERS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Table 10: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect by Race	
Table 11: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect by Gender	
Table 12: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect by Age	
<b>IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Table 13: Type of Neglect in Child Deaths	
Table 14: Type of Abuse in Child Deaths	
<b>V. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Table 15: Initial Safety Outcomes for Other Children in the Home	
Table 16: Prior Child Welfare Involvement in Child Deaths from Abuse and/or Neglect	
<b>VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>VII. NEAR-FATALITIES.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>VIII. APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>15</b>
A. Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death	
B. Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death	

# **CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is a preliminary report on child deaths that were reported to local departments of social services (LDSS) and investigated during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018. This report highlights changes or trends from previous years. It also includes a synopsis of data for all child abuse or neglect fatalities for SFY 2018, including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators and households impacted by those fatalities. The information is used to evaluate and modify Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) policies, guidance, best practices and procedures where warranted.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on all child fatalities that were investigated, with an emphasis on those deaths that occurred as a result of substantiated abuse or neglect. This report includes two appendices. Appendix A provides details for investigations that resulted in a founded disposition; Appendix B provides details of investigations that resulted in unfounded dispositions. A founded disposition means that a preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that child maltreatment occurred. This determination is based primarily upon first source, or direct evidence. A disposition of unfounded means there was not a preponderance of the evidence to warrant a founded disposition.

There are five regional Child Fatality Review Teams throughout the state. In SFY 2018, these teams conducted reviews of the child deaths, which occurred in SFY 2017; they utilize a multidisciplinary approach in these reviews.

## **Preliminary Summary of Findings**

### **In SFY 2018:**

- LDSS investigated 118 child deaths suspected of being caused by abuse or neglect.
- There were 40 children whose deaths were the result of abuse or neglect.
- There were 70 investigations (71 child deaths) that resulted in an unfounded disposition; seven investigations were incomplete at the time of this report.
- Fifty-seven LDSS conducted at least one child death investigation.
- The child death rate in Virginia decreased to 2.1 deaths per 100,000 children in SFY 2018. This rate is slightly below the national death rate of 2.3 deaths per 100,000 children.
- The Eastern Region investigated the most child deaths (49). While the Western Region experienced the highest rate of child deaths (3.8 deaths per 100,000 children).
- Children who died as a result of abuse or neglect ranged in age from birth to 17 years with more than 76% who were three and under.

- More male children (29) died from abuse or neglect than female children (11).
- The race of the children who died as a result of abuse or neglect included 50% who were White; 45% who were African American; 2.5% who were multi-racial, and one whose race was unknown.
- Fifty-six caretakers were determined to be responsible for the death of 40 children.
- Thirty-five of the caretakers were female and 20 were male. The gender of one caretaker was unknown.
- Sixty-six percent (66%) of the 56 caretakers were biological parents, and 31 (55%) of them were less than 30 years of age.
- Twenty-five (63%) of the 40 abuse-or-neglect-related child deaths involved physical neglect, and 15 (38%) child deaths involved physical abuse. Some children died from more than one type of abuse and/or in combination with physical neglect or medical neglect.
- Ten children were removed and placed into foster care in six households out of the 23 families who had other children in the home at the time of the child death.
- There were 40 households where child deaths were found to be caused by abuse or neglect; 24 families (60%) had prior or active child welfare involvement.

### Noteworthy Trends

The percent of children who were age three and under and died as a result of abuse or neglect decreased twelve percent from SFY 2016. The percent of families who had prior child welfare involvement increased eight percent from SFY 2017. There was a fourteen percent increase from SFY 2016 in caretakers who were female.

## I. CHILD DEATHS

LDSS conducted 117 investigations involving 118 child deaths suspected of being caused by child maltreatment in SFY 2018. LDSS determined that 40 children died as a result of abuse or neglect; 71 children were in unfounded reports; and seven reports were pending at the time of this report.

The Eastern Region investigated the most reports (49) followed by Northern (27), Piedmont (16), Central (13) and Western (13).

As highlighted in Table 1, 57 (48%) of the 120 LDSS investigated at least one child death. Chesapeake (10), Norfolk (9) and Newport News (8) had the highest number of investigations, not all of which were founded.

**Table 1: Dispositions of CPS Complaints with a Child Death by Locality  
SFY 2018**

LDSS	Founded	Pending	Unfounded	Grand Total
Accomack			1	1
Amherst	1			1
Augusta	1	1		2
Buchanan		1	1	2
Campbell			1	1

Chesapeake	1		9	10
Chesterfield	1		3	4
Culpeper			1	1
Dickenson		1		1
Dinwiddie			2	2
Fairfax Co.	1		2	3
Fauquier			1	1
Franklin			1	1
Franklin Co.	1		1	2
Frederick			1	1
Fredericksburg			2	2
Greene			2	2
Hampton			2	2
Henrico	4			4
Henry	1			1
Hopewell	1			1
Isle Of Wight	1			1
James City	1			1
Lee			1	1
Loudoun	1		2	3
Louisa	1			1
Lynchburg	1	1		2
Madison	1			1
Manassas	1			1
Mathews	1		1	2
Montgomery	2			2
Newport News	1	2	5	8
Norfolk	4		5	9
Nottoway			1	1
Page	1		2	3
Petersburg	1			1
Pittsylvania		1		1
Portsmouth	2		2	4
Powhatan			1	1
Prince George			1	1
Prince William			1	1
Pulaski	1		1	2
Richmond City			1	1
Roanoke	2		2	4
Roanoke Co.	1		1	2
Spotsylvania			2	2
Stafford			2	2
Suffolk	1		2	3
Tazewell			1	1
Virginia Beach	1		1	2
Warren	1		1	2
Washington			1	1
Williamsburg	1			1
Winchester			1	1
Wise	1		1	2
Wythe			1	1
York			1	1
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>118</b>

Sources: VDSS, April 2018. Information obtained from LDSS.

As exhibited in Table 2, the percentages of **founded** versus **unfounded** dispositions involving child fatalities decreased for founded (34%) and increased slightly for unfounded (60%) dispositions. The percentage of **all** investigations in SFY 2018 was approximately 37% founded and 62% unfounded.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 2: Dispositions of Child Death Investigations  
SFY 2016 - SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Founded</b>	46	35.7	46	37.1	40	34.0
<b>Unfounded</b>	80	62.0	69	55.6	71	60.1
<b>Pending/Appealed</b>	3	2.3	9	7.3	7	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

\*One investigation had two deaths with unfounded dispositions.\*

As shown in Table 3, the death rate for children who died from abuse or neglect decreased from SFY 2017. According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) 2017 Child Maltreatment Report the national estimate of child deaths due to maltreatment has increased 11% since FFY 2013. While there are fluctuations from year to year, the increase is attributed to the implementation of child death reviews, expansion of the scope of existing reviews as well as consultation of data sources outside of Child Protective Services (CPS). Due to the relatively low frequency of child fatalities, the national rate is sensitive to which states report this data and changes in the child population estimates produced by the U. S. Census Bureau.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 3: Death Rate of Children in Virginia Due to Abuse or Neglect SFY 2008 – SFY 2018**

SFY	Death Reports	Deaths Due to	Death Rate	National Death
2008	74	35	1.7	2.3
2009	72	34	1.7	2.3
2010	78	44	2.4	2.3
2011	86	30	1.6	2.0
2012	107	37	2.0	2.1
2013	105	33	1.8	2.2
2014	124	47	2.5	2.0
2015	131	52	2.8	2.1
2016	129	46	2.5	2.3
2017	124	46	2.5	2.3
<b>2018</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>

\*Death rate is calculated as number of deaths due to abuse/neglect divided by the state child population (2017 = 1,869,176)

Sources: VDSS, April 2019, Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

\*\* Source: *Child Maltreatment 2017*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

<sup>1</sup> 11,102 investigations completed; 4,154 founded (37.4%); 6,836 unfounded (62.0%); and 112 other (1.0%). Source: Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports Version 4.62 (April 2019).

<sup>2</sup> Source: *Child Maltreatment 2016*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

The *Code of Virginia*, specifically § 63.2-1505 B5, grants certain exceptions to completing child death investigations, which require reports or records that are generated outside of the local department, such as an autopsy report. The time needed to obtain these reports or records is not counted towards the 45/60/90 day timeframes. The records must be necessary to complete the investigation and not available due to circumstances beyond the control of the local department. In SFY 2018, this accounted for seven pending investigations.

As highlighted in Table 4, the Eastern Region conducted the most investigations of child fatalities. The percentage of founded versus unfounded child death investigations varied by region, as well as the percentage of founded versus unfounded in *all* investigations.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 4: Child Fatality Investigations and Outcomes by Region  
SFY 2018**

	Founded		Unfounded		Pending		Appealed		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Central</b>	7	54.0	6	46.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	100.0
<b>Eastern</b>	14	29.0	33	67.3	2	4.0	0	0.0	49	100.0
<b>Northern</b>	7	26.0	20	74.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	27	100.0
<b>Piedmont</b>	8	50.0	5	31.2	3	19.0	0	0.0	16	100.0
<b>Western</b>	4	31.0	7	54.0	2	15.3	0	0.0	13	100.0
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

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

As exhibited in Table 5, the rate of child deaths per 100,000 children has increased in the Eastern Region since SFY 2016; the Western Region continues to have the highest rate. It should be noted that an increase of one or two child deaths would have a more significant impact on regions with a low child population (i.e. the Western Region) versus a region with a high child population (i.e. the Eastern Region).

**Table 5: Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect and Rates by Region  
SFY 2016-SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate (Per 100,000)	Deaths	Rate* (Per 100,000)
<b>Central</b>	12	4.0	9	3.0	7	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Eastern</b>	12	2.9	16	3.9	14	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Northern</b>	4	0.5	6	0.7	7	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Piedmont</b>	11	4.7	7	3.0	8	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Western</b>	7	6.3	8	7.4	4	<b>3.8</b>

Sources: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS. Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics. \*The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age by region are: Central: 299,318; Eastern: 410,742; Northern: 819,892; Piedmont: 233,209; Western: 106,015.

<sup>3</sup> The percentages for founded investigations by region: Central- 11.15%; Eastern- 11.72%; Northern- 9.47%; Piedmont- 9.82%; Western- 11.62%. Source: Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports Version 4.62 (April 2019).

## II. CHILDREN

LDSS investigated the deaths of 118 children in SFY 2018; and 40 children were found to have died as a result of abuse or neglect. This section provides detailed demographic information and trends for the children involved in child death investigations and whose deaths were determined to be caused by abuse or neglect.

As highlighted in Table 6, children from birth to three years continue to be the most vulnerable to die from abuse or neglect. Virginia's percentage for SFY 2018 was 76%, which is slightly higher than the percentage throughout the country. Nationally, 72% of all child fatalities in FFY 2018 were children younger than three years of age.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 6: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Age  
SFY 2016 – SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Birth to 12 months</b>	28	61.0	28	61.1	19	48.0
<b>13 months to 3 years</b>	12	26.1	10	22.0	11	28.0
<b>4 to 7 years</b>	4	8.7	4	8.7	4	10.0
<b>8 to 12 years</b>	2	4.2	0	0.0	3	7.0
<b>13 to 17 years</b>	0	0.0	4	8.7	3	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

As shown in Table 7, there were significantly more male child deaths than female ones in SFY 2018. This is consistent with the national data which indicates that boys experienced a higher fatality rate (2.68 per 100,000) than girls (2.02 per 100,000).<sup>5</sup>

**Table 7: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Gender  
SFY 2016 – SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016			SFY 2017			SFY 2018		
	#	%	Rate (per 100,000)	#	%	Rate* (per 100,000)	#	%	Rate* (per 100,000)
Female	17	37.0	1.9	20	43.4	2.1	11	28.0	1.2
Male	29	63.0	3.0	26	57.0	2.7	29	73.0	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Sources: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS. Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

\*The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age was females: 915,144 and males: 954,032.

<sup>4,5</sup> Source: *Child Maltreatment 2017*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.



As exhibited in Table 8, 50% of the child fatalities in Virginia were White and 45% were African-American. The disproportionate rate of African-American child deaths in Virginia (more than 2 times) is consistent with the national data (more than 2 times).<sup>6</sup>

**Table 8: Children Who Died From Abuse or Neglect by Race  
SFY 2016 – SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018		Rate* (per 100,000)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
African-American	19	41.2	19	41.3	18	45.0	44.0
White	21	45.6	24	52.2	20	50.0	19.0
Multi-racial	5	11.0	2	4.3	1	2.5	n/a
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1	2.2	1	2.2	1	2.5	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Sources: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS. Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

\*The population data used to determine rate per 100,000 for children <18 years of age was African American: 412,085; White: 1,054,064; multi-racial: not available Asian: 141,109; total: 1,607,258.

### III. CARETAKERS

CPS investigates child fatalities that are suspicious for abuse or neglect committed by a caretaker **only**. Caretakers include childcare providers who are both regulated (licensed) and unregulated (unlicensed).

As shown in Table 9, LDSS determined that there were 56 caretakers responsible for the deaths of 40 children due to abuse or neglect in SFY 2018. Seventeen victims were abused or neglected by two different caretakers and two victims were abused or neglected by three different caretakers. The majority of caretakers (66%) were the biological parents, which is below the national data (80%) that indicates the parents acted alone, together or with other individuals.

<sup>6</sup> Source: *Child Maltreatment 2017*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

**Table 9: Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect  
SFY 2016 – SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mother	28	40.0	22	35.4	29	52.0
Father	25	36.0	24	38.7	8	14.2
Stepparent	3	4.2	1	1.6	1	1.8
Grandparent	1	1.4	0	0.0	3	5.4
Uncle/Aunt	0	0.0	1	1.6	2	3.6
Paramour	5	7.1	1	1.6	7	13.0
Childcare Provider	3	4.2	4	6.5	0	0.0
Foster Parent	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Legal Guardian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other adult in home	0	0.0	5	8.1	4	7.1
Unknown	5	7.1	4	6.5	2	3.6
<b>Total Caretakers</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

Nationally, perpetrators without a parental relationship to the child accounted for 15.2%.<sup>7</sup> The identity of two caretakers was unknown. Unknown is used when an investigation reveals that the child was physically abused or neglected, but the LDSS is unable to establish the identity of the responsible caretaker. If new information is received regarding the identity of the caretaker, a new investigation may be conducted.

As highlighted in Table 10, the race of the majority of caretakers was White (50%), which is consistent with previous years.

**Table 10: Race of Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect  
SFY 2016- SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	30	42.9	25	40.3	22	39.2
White	36	51.4	33	53.2	28	50.0
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	4	5.7	4	6.5	6	11.0
Multi-racial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total Caretakers</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

<sup>7</sup>Source: *Child Maltreatment 2017*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

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

**Table 11: Gender of Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect  
SFY 2016-SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	35	48.6	32	51.6	35	63.0
Male	34	47.2	26	42.0	20	36.0
Unknown	3*	4.2	4*	6.5	1*	2.0
<b>Total Caretakers</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

\*The gender for 1 caretaker is unknown.

As exhibited in Table 12, the ages of caretakers ranged from 18 to 58 years in SFY 2018. The majority of the caretakers (50%) were between 20 and 29 years of age.

**Table 12: Age of Caretakers in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect  
SFY 2016- SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 20 years	7	10.0	2	3.2	3	5.3
20 to 29 years	33	47.0	26	42.0	28	50.0
30 to 39 years	18	26.0	17	27.4	16	29.0
40 to 49 years	8	11.4	8	13.0	7	13.0
50 or older	1	1.4	3	4.8	1	1.8
Unknown	3	4.2	6	10.0	1	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: VDSS April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

#### IV. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In SFY 2018, 40 children died as a result of at least one type of abuse or neglect. Some children were abused or neglected in more than one way and by more than one caretaker. Of the children who died, 22 (55%) had been physically neglected and 15 (38%) had been physically abused. Three (8%) children were medically neglected.

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

As highlighted in Table 13, 25 (63%) of the child deaths involved some type of physical neglect. The most prevalent type of neglect was Other/Unspecified sub-type. When determining the validity of a report, the alleged inaction by the caretaker may not clearly fit into the pre-defined sub-categories but still encompasses physical neglect so the Other/Unspecified sub-type is utilized by the LDSS.

**Table 13: Types of Neglect in Child Deaths  
SFY 2016- SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016	SFY 2017	SFY 2018
Abandonment	1	0	0
Inadequate Supervision	25	23	8
Inadequate Shelter	7	0	1
Inadequate Food	0	0	0
Failure to Thrive	0	0	0
Medical Neglect	6	1	3
Other/Unspecified sub-type	1	3	13

Source: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

\*There were four gun-related deaths that were founded for physical neglect; three of them specifically for inadequate supervision\*

Medical neglect directly caused or contributed to the death of three (8%) children. Medical neglect involves a caretaker’s failure to obtain a child’s necessary medical care or to follow doctor-recommended medical regimen for the child. See the Table of Founded Child Deaths in **Appendix A** for further details.

As illustrated in Table 14, 15 (38%) children died as a result of physical abuse in SFY 2018.

**Table 14: Types of Abuse in Child Deaths  
SFY 2016 – SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016	SFY 2017	SFY 2018
Asphyxiation (accidental or intentional)	2	5	1
Bone Fracture	2	3	0
Burns	1	1	1
Bruises	0	3	3
Gunshot	1	2	2
Poisoning	1	1	1
Abusive Head Trauma	5	2	3
Stabbing	0	0	0
Internal Injuries	3	0	0
Head Injury	6	4	3
Chronic Physical Abuse <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
Other or Unspecified Type	1	4	1

Source: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

<sup>1</sup>Chronic Physical Abuse, formerly known as Battered Child Syndrome.

## V. FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

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

As shown in Table 15, there were 40 households that involved 40 child death investigations resulting in founded dispositions for SFY 2018; 23 (58%) of those households had other children for whom initial safety was assessed. All of the remaining households had no other children in the home.

**Table 15: Initial Safety Outcomes for Other Children in the Household  
SFY 2016-2018**

	<b>SFY 2016</b>	<b>SFY 2017</b>	<b>SFY 2018</b>
	<b># Families</b>	<b># Families</b>	<b># Families</b>
Safety plan with family	6	20	5
Safety plan with relatives	15	7	12
Emergency removal/foster care	7	5	6
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>

Source: VDSS, April 2019. Information obtained from LDSS.

In SFY 2018, a plan was developed with five households that allowed the siblings to remain in their own home. An additional 12 households were able to develop a safety plan with the LDSS that allowed the siblings to remain with relatives, while remaining in the legal custody of the caretakers. LDSS assessed siblings living in six households as unsafe and therefore removed ten children by placing them in foster care.

As a result of CPS involvement, families were provided services to include: grief counseling; burial assistance; parent education and mental health services; substance use assessments and treatment; intimate partner violence services; protective orders and Family Partnership Meetings (FPM). Family Partnership Meetings are usually held when a child is at serious risk of being removed or removed from the home. These meetings present an opportunity for family and community participation in the decision making process for children.

As exhibited in Table 16, there were 40 victims (40 households) in founded CPS fatality investigations for SFY 2018; 24 families (60.0%) had prior or active child welfare involvement. Six families were active with the LDSS at the time of the fatality.

**Table 16: Prior Family Child Welfare Involvement in Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect SFY 2016- SFY 2018**

	SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent	# Families	Percent
Yes	24	53.3	24	52.1*	24	60.0*
No	21	46.7	22	48.0	16	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.1*</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0*</b>

Source: VDSS, April 2019 Information obtained from LDSS.

\*Some families had prior history in more than one locality\*

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

Prior involvement also includes any open family assessment, investigation or case at the time of the child's death. It may also have occurred in more than one locality or a locality different from where the child died. The following summarizes the prior or current child welfare involvement of the families with founded fatality victims:

1. **Prince William:** In June 2015, a report was completed for physical neglect by the mother involving the sibling of the deceased child. The investigation was founded; services were not provided.
2. **Virginia Beach:** In September 2017, a report was received for physical abuse by the father involving the deceased child; it was open at the time of death.
3. **Warren Co.:** In January 2016, a report was received for a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child). Services were needed and provided.
4. **Henrico Co.:** From February to November 2015, prevention services were provided to the decedent's older sibling. In April 2017, a report was received for physical abuse by the stepfather involving the decedent. Services were recommended and provided.
5. **Roanoke City:** In July 2015, a report was received for medical neglect by the mother involving one of the deceased child's siblings. Services were recommended. In August 2017, a report was received for substance-exposed infant (the deceased child). Services were recommended and obtained.
6. **Wise Co.:** In December 2016, a report was received for physical neglect by the mother involving the older sibling of the deceased child. Services were not needed. In February 2017, there was an investigation for physical neglect by the mother involving the deceased child's older sibling. The investigation was founded and services were provided.
7. **Gloucester Co.:** From 2016 to 2017, two reports were received for physical neglect by the mother and the father. Services were not needed. In March 2017, there was an investigation for physical neglect by both the mother and father. The investigation was founded and services were provided.
8. **Norfolk:** In August 2016, a report was received for sexual abuse by a maternal uncle involving the decedent. The report was founded and no services were provided (the uncle was incarcerated).

9. **Petersburg:** In October 2017, there was an investigation for physical neglect by the mother involving the deceased child and siblings. The investigation was founded and services were provided.
10. **Orange:** In January 2018, a report was received for physical neglect by the mother and stepfather involving the deceased child and was pending at the time of death.
11. **Pulaski:** In February 2015, a report was received for physical neglect by the parents involving the deceased child. Services were not needed. In August 2016, there was an investigation for physical abuse by the mother involving the decedent. The safety plan was not followed and the deceased child was placed into foster care; the investigation was founded. In November 2016, there was an investigation for physical neglect by the parents involving the deceased child and younger sibling. Both were removed and placed into foster care; the investigation was founded Services were provided before and after the children returned home.
12. **Giles Co.:** In December 2014, a report was received for physical neglect by the mother involving the deceased child. Services were not needed.
13. **Amherst Co.:** In December 2016, a report was received for physical neglect by the mother involving the decedent's older sibling. The investigation was founded and services were provided.
14. **Montgomery Co.:** In October 2017, a report was received for physical neglect by the mother involving the decedent's older sibling. Services were needed and provided. In December 2017, a report was received for a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child). Services were provided and was open at the time of death.
15. **Henrico Co.:** In March 2018, a report was received for sexual abuse by the maternal uncle involving the decedent's older sibling and was open at the time of death.
16. **Virginia Beach:** In March 2013, a report was received for neglect and abuse involving the mother's paramour and his sons. The investigation was founded, the paramour was incarcerated and services were provided.
17. **Hampton:** In February 2018, a report was received for a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child). Services were initiated, but then the family relocated.
18. **Newport News:** In March 2018, a report was received for physical neglect by the mother involving the deceased child; it was open at the time of death.
19. **Henrico Co.:** In November 2013, services were provided as the result of a report for a substance-exposed infant (the deceased child).
20. **Out of State:** In February 2018, there was a report for physical neglect by the mother involving the older sibling of the deceased child. A second report was made a month later involving the deceased child. During the safety planning, the parents left with the children and did not return; it was later learned that they were traveling to Virginia.
21. **Franklin Co:** In February 2006, services were provided to the maternal grandmother involving the older sibling of the deceased child.
22. **Norfolk:** In February 2018, a report was received for medical neglect by the mother involving the deceased child. The investigation was unfounded; services were needed and obtained.
23. **Montgomery Co.:** In January 2018, a report was received for neglect (medical) by the mother involving the decedent. Services were not needed
24. **Henry Co.:** From 2014 to 2016, two reports were received for neglect by the maternal grandmother and the mother involving the decedent and the decedent's younger sibling, services were not needed. In December 2016, a report was received for neglect by the

mother involving the decedent's younger sibling. The investigation was unfounded and services were provided.

**25. Norfolk:** In January 2013, a report was received for neglect by the parents involving one of the decedent's siblings (who also died). The investigation was unfounded.

## VI. UNFOUNDED REPORTS

In SFY 2018 there were 70 (59%) child fatality investigations with an unfounded disposition. One investigation was for two child deaths; therefore, there were a total of 71 reports. An unfounded disposition does not mean the abuse or neglect did not occur. An unfounded disposition means the investigation lacked a preponderance of the evidence to warrant a disposition of founded.

Of the 71 unfounded reports:

- Fifty-three of the reports (75%) involved a child less than one year of age.
- Thirty of the 71 reports (42%) were sleep-related. This means the actual surface the child slept on, with whom the child was sleeping, or how the child was sleeping. This includes children who suffocated or accidentally asphyxiated due to their sleep environment.

Many of the sleep-related child deaths resulted in a determination by a medical examiner that the cause of death was Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID). SUID is a diagnosis of exclusion, made when there is an absence of pathological findings revealing injury, violence, disease, or other fatal medical condition. A SUID diagnosis recognizes a host of confounding factors, most importantly, the presence of unsafe sleep factors and/or medical problems such as pneumonia, prematurity or congestion<sup>5</sup>.

## VII. NEAR-FATALITIES

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

There were 12 near-fatalities reported and investigated by LDSS for possible abuse or neglect. Eight of the 12 children were under the age of one; the other four children were one, two, two and 17 years old. Sixty-seven percent (8) of the children were male and 33% female. The race of the children was 58% White; 33% African-American and the race of one child was unknown. Nine of the 12 investigations (75%) were founded for abuse or neglect; two of the families had prior child welfare involvement and services were needed and provided.

---

<sup>8</sup> Excerpt from Sleep-Related Infant Deaths in Virginia, a report from the Virginia State Child Fatality Review Team. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/childfatality-reports.htm>



## **VIII. APPENDICES**

**A. Table of Child Death Investigations with a Founded Disposition**

**B. Table of Child Death Investigations with an Unfounded Disposition**

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018**  
**Appendix A: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Fairfax County	7/26/2017	12/23/2016	0.6	F	W	unknown mother mother's paramour	Unk 22 25	Unk W Unk	Unk F M	All Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive on an adult bed. Cause of death was smothering. Currently, there are no criminal charges.
Page	8/1/2017	5/16/2017	0.2	F	W	mother	25	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed.
Chesterfield	9/5/2017	8/10/2017	0.1	F	AA	mother	49	AA	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Child received blunt force trauma to the head and injury to the skull. The mother was criminally charged.
Chesapeake	9/7/2017	8/7/2017	0.1	M	W	mother	23	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in mother's arms on an adult bed. Cause of death was undetermined.
Franklin Co	9/24/2017	8/12/2016	1.1	F	W	mother	28	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in a toilet commode. Cause of death was drowning. Currently, there are no criminal charges.
Henrico	10/1/2017	5/12/2017	0.4	M	AA	mother	23	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed.
Williamsburg	10/4/2017	3/26/2017	0.5	M	W	mother	29	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Autopsy report confirmed evidence of AHT. The mother was criminally charged.
Hopewell	10/13/2017	12/2/2014	2.9	M	AA	father father's paramour	26 26	AA AA	M F	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was blunt force injury to the torso. The father was criminally charged.
Portsmouth	10/26/2017	9/18/2015	2.1	M	AA	Unk	21	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Autopsy report confirmed evidence of AHT. Caretaker was criminally charged.
Manassas	11/4/2017	9/24/2017	0.1	M	W	mother	19	W	F M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy, associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
Warren Co.	11/8/2017	1/1/2016	1.9	M	AA	mother's paramour mother	28 28	Unk W	M F	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home and died of multiple blunt force injuries to the head, torso and extremities. Currently, there are no criminal charges.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018**  
**Appendix A: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Henrico	11/18/2017	8/28/2002	15.2	M	AA	stepparent	33	AA	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child sustained a fatal gunshot wound. The stepfather was criminally charged.
Loudon Co	11/19/2017	4/23/2002	15.6	M	AA	other other	47 45	Unk Unk	M F	Physical Abuse Medical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive after being restrained by a mental health provider. Cause of death was positional asphyxia due to physical restraint. Two of the mental health providers were criminally charged.
Roanoke	11/28/2017	8/26/2017	0.3	M	Unk	father	33	AA	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive and unrestrained in a car seat. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
Portsmouth	12/10/2017	8/22/2015	2.3	F	AA	mother's paramour	24	AA	M	Physical Abuse	No	Child became unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was AHT with blunt force trauma to chest and abdomen. The mother's paramour was criminally charged.
Wise	1/14/2018	11/25/2017	0.1	M	W	mother	21	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was accidental suffocation.
Isle of Wight	1/16/2018	3/16/2012	5.8	M	W	mother mother's paramour	31 33	W W	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	No	Child collapsed at the home. Cause of death was inflicted blunt force trauma to the head. The mother and her paramour were criminally charged.
Mathews	2/1/2018	1/27/2017	1.0	M	W	mother	23	W	F	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found face down in a bathtub of water. Cause of death was inflicted thermal injury. The mother was criminally charged.
Norfolk	2/3/2018	1/11/2013	5.1	F	AA	Other Uncle	24 25	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in hotel pool. Cause of death was accidental drowning.
Petersburg	2/10/2018	7/1/2017	0.6	F	AA	mother	29	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined.
Madison	2/25/2018	4/23/2005	12.8	F	W	other	34	W	M	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child sustained fatal injuries after a motor vehicle accident. Currently, there are no criminal charges.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018**  
**Appendix A: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Pulaski	2/26/2018	8/20/2014	3.5	M	Multi	mother father	28 31	W AA	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was acute methadone toxicology. The mother was criminally charged.
Augusta	3/3/2018	7/7/2017	0.7	M	W	mother	18	W	F	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in a crib. Cause of death was Sudden Unexpected Death, associated with unsafe bedding.
Amherst	3/6/2018	1/10/2018	0.2	M	W	Mother	23	W	F	Medical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was undetermined. The mother was criminally charged.
Montgomery	3/6/2018	12/13/2017	0.2	M	W	mother grandmother	33 58	W Unk	F F	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a bassinet. Cause of death was accidental suffocation, associated with soft bedding.
Virginia Beach	3/29/2018	12/19/2017	0.3	F	AA	mother	32	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive on an air mattress.
Henrico	3/30/2018	12/23/2015	2.3	M	AA	Mother	25	AA	F	Medical Neglect	yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was methadone toxicity.
Norfolk	4/24/2018	9/24/2015	2.6	F	W	mother mother's paramour	23 34	W W	F M	Medical Neglect Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. The mother and her paramour were criminally charged.
Newport News	4/29/2018	2/21/2018	0.2	M	W	father	22	W	M	Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was blunt force head trauma. Currently, there are no criminal charges.
James City	5/2/2018	10/8/2005	12.6	M	W	mother	35	W	F	Physical Abuse	No	Child found in the home with an inflicted gunshot wound to the head. The caretaker also sustained a fatal gunshot wound to the head.
Henrico	5/7/2018	9/12/2013	4.7	M	AA	mother	24	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child sustained a fatal gunshot wound to the head. The mother was criminally charged.
Suffolk	5/10/2018	2/28/2015	3.2	M	W	mother father	30 30	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a pool. Cause of death was accidental drowning.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018**  
**Appendix A: Table of Founded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Abuse Type	Previous History	Summary (SUID stands for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Roanoke Co	5/11/2018	7/9/2004	13.8	M	AA	Aunt	41	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child sustained a fatal, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Currently, there are no criminal charges.
Norfolk	5/18/2018	4/14/2007	11.1	F	AA	mother mother's paramour	33 43	AA AA	F M	Physical Abuse Physical Abuse	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home and sustained lethal blunt force injuries to the head and torso. The mother and her paramour were criminally charged.
Montgomery	5/21/2018	1/23/2018	0.3	M	W	mother grandmother grandfather	20 40 41	W W W	F F M	Physical Neglect Neglect All	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with co-sleeping.
Louisa	5/22/2018	9/22/2015	2.7	M	W	mother father	35 36	W W	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child was accidentally shot by his sibling. Currently, there are no criminal charges.
Roanoke	5/22/2018	3/4/2016	2.2	M	AA	mother father	19 24	AA AA	F M	Physical Neglect Physical Neglect	No	Child sustained a fatal, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Currently, there are no criminal charges.
Henry	6/1/2018	4/27/2011	7.1	M	W	mother	31	W	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a pond. Cause of death was accidental drowning.
Lynchburg	6/11/2018	11/18/2017	0.6	M	AA	father	28	AA	M	Physical Neglect	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined.
Norfolk	6/21/2018	4/28/2018	0.1	M	AA	mother	27	AA	F	Physical Neglect	Yes	Child found unresponsive on an adult bed.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018  
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Newport News	7/2/2017	12/5/2014	2.6	M	W	Father Stepparent	33 27	W W	M F	No	Child found unresponsive in the backyard pool. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Page	7/3/2017	3/31/2017	0.3	F	W	Father	29	W	M	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Norfolk	7/7/2017	4/26/2017	0.2	F	AA	Mother	27	AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Matthews	7/14/2017	3/29/2017	0.3	M	W	Father	30	W	M	No	Child found unresponsive on an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Spotsylvania	7/19/2017	6/3/2016	1.1	M	W	Mother Mother's Paramour	20 20	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive on bedroom floor. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
York	8/6/2017	9/3/2014	2.9	F	AA	Father	33	Unk	M	No	Child found unresponsive in a neighborhood pool. Cause of death was accidental drowning. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	8/5/2017	4/21/2017	0.3	F	W	Mother	33	AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a recliner. Cause of death was asphyxiation, due to overlay. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	8/16/2017	6/15/2017	0.2	F	AA	Mother	23	AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive on a couch. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment and prematurity a contributing factor.
Norfolk	8/19/2017	5/12/2017	0.3	F	AA	Father	31	AA	M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in co-sleeper. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Prince William	8/20/2017	7/12/2017	0.1	M	W	Mother	32	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018**  
**Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Washington Co	8/27/2017	8/27/2017	0.0	F	Multi	Mother	28	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Suffolk	9/5/2017	5/10/2011	6.3	M	Unk	Other	63	Unk	F	No	Child died from natural causes and had numerous medical conditions that were present since birth. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Portsmouth	9/25/2017	7/12/2015	2.2	M	W	Father Mother	37 27	W W	M F	No	Child found unresponsive in his crib and was born with several medical conditions. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Buchanan	9/26/2017	9/21/2017	0.0	F	W	Mother Father	29 40	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the family's home. Cause of death was acute methadone intoxication. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Campbell	10/7/2017	4/1/2017	0.5	M	W	Unknown	unk	Unk	Unk	No	Child found unresponsive in crib. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Dinwiddie	10/8/2017	3/1/2017	0.6	F	W	Mother Father	35 29	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was accidental wedging. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Greene	10/11/2017	4/11/2017	0.5	F	Asian	Mother	26	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive on an air mattress. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesterfield	10/16/2017	7/10/2017	0.3	F	W	Mother	36	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was bilateral acute bronchopneumonia. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Suffolk	10/21/2017	7/21/2017	0.3	F	W	Mother	20	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Norfolk	10/22/2017	8/3/2017	0.2	F	AA	Mother	29	AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment and co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Prince George	10/27/2017	6/18/2015	2.4	F	AA	Grandmother Paramour	40 42	W Unk	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in home. There was no autopsy as the child had a history of seizures. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018  
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Tazewell	10/28/2017	9/15/2017	0.1	F	W	Mother Father	29 27	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was accidental suffocation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fairfax Co	11/1/2017	1/30/2017	0.8	M	W	Mother Father	18 19	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	11/3/2017	10/7/2017	0.1	F	AA	Father Mother	35 35	AA AA	M F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Powhatan	11/10/2017	7/13/2017	0.3	M	W	Father	54	W	M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Roanoke	11/27/2017	5/2/2017	0.6	F	W	Unk	Unk	Unk	Unk	Yes	Child presented to the hospital with respiratory issues. Cause of death was undetermined.
Loudon	12/5/2017	10/9/2017	0.2	M	Unk	Mother Father	34 32	Unk Unk	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Wise	12/10/2017	12/1/2017	0.0	F	W	Mother Father	27 32	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was accidental suffocation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Nottoway	12/11/2017	5/25/2017	0.5	M	W	Mother	21	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Richmond City	12/15/2017	10/28/2017	0.1	F	W	Father	21	AA	M	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was accidental overlay. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	12/16/2017	10/26/2017	0.1	F	W	Mother	37	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in a bassinet. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Hampton	12/22/2017	6/29/2015	2.5	M	W	Father	32	W	M	Yes	Child sustained fatal head injury. Cause of death was severe head trauma from a TV accidentally falling on child. No evidence of abuse or neglect.



**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018  
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Loudon	12/23/2017	9/2/2017	0.3	M	W	Mother Father	25 24	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in bassinet. Cause of death was SUID, associated with congenital heart disease, chronic lung disease and prone sleep position. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Stafford	12/26/2017	9/5/2017	0.3	M	Multi	Mother	25	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive on a couch. Cause of death was asphyxia due to accidental overlay. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	12/28/2017	6/27/2017	0.5	M	W	Mother	25	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with co-sleeping and macrocephaly. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fredericksburg	12/28/2017	11/15/2017	0.1	M	Multi	Mother Father	22 22	W AA	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive on a couch. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	1/1/2018	7/9/2004	13.5	M	AA	Mother	41	AA	F	No	Child died of self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Greene	1/3/2018	12/9/2017	0.1	F	Multi	Father Mother	38 30	AA W	M F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed with parents. Cause of death was SUID, associated with co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Frederick	1/11/2018	1/11/2018	0.0	M	W	Mother	32	W	F	Yes	Child died after birth. Cause of death was due to delivery complications. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fredericksburg	1/13/2018	10/10/2017	0.3	M	AA	Mother Mother's Paramour	33 29	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. No evidence of abuse or neglect
Stafford	1/14/2018	4/18/2013	4.7	M	W	Grandfather	60	W	M	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Virginia Beach	1/16/2018	8/9/2017	0.4	F	AA	Mother	23	A	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with metapneumovirus infection and co-sleeping. No evidence of abuse or neglect
Page	1/18/2018	11/20/2015	2.2	M	W	Foster parent Foster Parent	37 39	W W	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in crib. Cause of death was natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018  
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Fairfax Co	1/22/2018	12/27/2017	0.1	M	W	Mother	27	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with patent foramen ovale, patent ductus arteriosus and an unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Winchester	1/23/2018	10/7/2017	0.3	F	W	Mother Father	19 30	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy, associated with an unsafe sleep environment and acute medical condition. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Fauquier	1/25/2018	7/1/2017	0.6	F	W	Mother Father	21 22	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID in Infancy, associated with an unsafe sleep environment and respiratory virus.
Portsmouth	1/30/2018	10/10/2017	0.3	M	W	Father Mother	25 21	W W	M F	No	Child found unresponsive in a crib. Cause of death was SUID, associated with prone position and soft bedding. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Franklin Co.	2/12/2018	1/8/2018	0.1	F	W	Mother	22	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was accidental suffocation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Roanoke Co	2/19/2018	11/8/2017	0.3	M	W	Other	38	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in the babysitter's home. Cause of death was natural. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Franklin	2/25/2018	2/2/2018	0.1	F	AA	Mother Father	26 23	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Wythe	3/3/2018	12/23/2017	0.2	M	W	Father	35	W	M	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was accidental suffocation. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	3/6/2018	10/11/2003	14.4	M	W	Other Other	69 68	W W	M F	No	Child was accidentally shot by another peer. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Lee	3/7/2018	2/27/2018	0.0	F	W	Mother Father	26 27	W W	F M	No	Child died after a dog bite to the head. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018  
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Chesapeake	3/17/2018	11/21/2017	0.3	F	Multi	Mother Father	25 25	W AA	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Accomack	3/22/2018	1/19/2018	0.2	F	AA	Mother Father	29 21	AA AA	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in an adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with a unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	3/24/2018	9/5/2016	1.6	F	Multi	Mother Father	30 30	W AA	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in a bed. Cause of death was sudden unexplained death in childhood. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	3/30/2018	7/18/2001	16.7	M	W	Grandmother	81	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.
Norfolk	4/4/2018	11/1/2017	0.4	M	AA	Father	26	AA	M	No	Child found unresponsive on in adult bed. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
Norfolk	4/8/2018	7/6/2016	1.8	M	Multi	Mother	39	W	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home and died of natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	4/14/2018	1/19/2018	0.2	M	W	Mother Father	20 24	W W	F M	No	Child found unresponsive on a couch. Cause of death was SUID, associated with an unsafe sleep environment. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Roanoke	4/17/2018	12/29/2017	0.3	F	W	Mother	24	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in her crib. Cause of death was complications from congenital hypertonia and influenza A. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	4/25/2018	2/4/2017	1.2	M	AA	Mother Father	28 24	AA AA	F M	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was complex congenital heart disease. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Pulaski	5/1/2018	11/6/2013	4.5	F	W	Father	35	W	M	Yes	Child sustained a fatal head injury after a fall. Cause of death was accidental blunt force trauma. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Warren Co	5/2/2018	3/15/2018	0.1	F	W	Mother Father	25 29	W W	F M	No	Child died from natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.

**Preliminary Report on Child Deaths Due to Abuse or Neglect in Virginia During State Fiscal Year 2018  
Appendix B: Table of Unfounded Investigations with a Child Death**

Locality	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age (years)	Child Sex	Race	Abuser (s)	Age	Race	Sex	Previous History	Summary (SUID = Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)
Chesterfield	5/10/2018	12/21/2017	0.4	M	AA	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	No	Child found unresponsive in a car. Cause of death was accidental due to hyperthermia. No evidence of abuse or neglect. (1 of 2)
Chesterfield	5/11/2018	12/21/2017	0.4	F	AA	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk	No	Child found unresponsive in a car. Cause of death was accidental due to hyperthermia. No evidence of abuse or neglect. (2 of 2)
Spotsylvania	5/17/2018	2/28/2018	0.2	F	AA	Grandmother	78	AA	F	Yes	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was undetermined. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Chesapeake	5/19/2018	12/8/2015	2.4	M	AA	Mother Other	21 19	AA AA	F F	No	Child was found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was accidental overdose. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Dinwiddie	5/21/2018	2/7/2018	0.3	M	Multi	Mother Father	21 19	W Multi	F M	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Culpeper	5/25/2018	12/11/2017	0.5	F	AA	Mother	32	AA	F	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. No evidence of abuse or neglect.
Newport News	6/6/2018	7/26/2016	1.9	F	W	Mother	27	W	F	No	Child found unresponsive in the home. Cause of death was natural causes. No evidence of abuse or neglect.