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**Maine Department of Human Services
Office of Child and Family Services
Child Protective Services
Annual Report on Referrals
2007**

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Title 22 MRSA, Chapter 1071, Subsection 4002 defines abuse or neglect as "a threat to a child's health or welfare by physical, mental or emotional injury or impairment, sexual abuse or exploitation, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these by a person responsible for the child."

The following report provides a summary of the number of referrals to Child Protective Services, the number of inappropriate referrals that were screened out and a series of detailed reports on the characteristics of the referrals that were assigned to caseworkers for assessment.

A Referral is any written or verbal request for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation on behalf of a child in order to assess or resolve problems being presented.

During calendar year 2007 the Department of Human Services received over **19,000** referrals for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation. **9,778** referrals presented situations with evidence of serious family problems or dysfunction but did not contain allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Inappropriate Referrals Received:

Parent/child conflict: Children and parents in conflict over family, school, friends, behaviors with no allegations of abuse or neglect. Includes adolescents who are runaways or who are exhibiting acting out behaviors that parents have been unable to control.

Non Specific allegations or allegations of marginal physical or emotional care which may be poor parenting practice but is not considered abuse or neglect under Maine Law.

Conflicts over Custody and or visitation of children which may include allegations of marginal/poor care.

Families in Crisis due to financial, physical, mental health, or interpersonal problems but there are no allegations of abuse or neglect.

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The Department's ability to respond to reports of child abuse or neglect is based on factors such as the number of caseworkers, the seriousness or complexity of the cases receiving services and the availability of resources. Current staff resources are not sufficient for the Department to assign all of the reports of Child abuse and neglect that it receives to CPS Casework staff.

The Department of Human Services has contracts with private agencies to provide an alternative response to reports of child abuse and neglect when the allegations are considered to be low to moderate severity. **There were 2,720 Appropriate reports which were assigned to a Contract Agency for Alternative Response.**

There were 6,583 reports involving 13,743 children assigned to a caseworker for a Child Protective Assessment.

New Reports Assigned for Assessment

Families		Children involved by age group				
Office	Reports	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-15	16-17
Portland	929	783	434	347	210	114
Sanford	330	240	166	141	103	41
Biddeford	639	481	316	264	196	94
Lewiston	926	791	492	360	251	123
Augusta	927	763	428	345	240	115
Rockland	539	452	263	229	155	74
Skowhegan	397	323	220	183	134	46
Bangor	930	840	416	332	204	100
Ellsworth	264	174	112	101	63	54
Machias	180	142	74	60	53	25
Houlton	151	152	89	70	58	29
Caribou/FK	370	255	165	126	97	35
Statewide	6583	5396	3175	2558	1764	850

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Source of Reports Assigned for Assessment

School Personnel	1075
Social Services Personnel	815
Law Enforcement Personnel	990
Medical Personnel	687
Anonymous	520
Neighbor/Friend	479
Relative	523
Other	323
Mental Health Personnel	587
Self/Family	478
Child Care Personnel	106

Household Type/Living Arrangement of Reports Assigned for Assessment

Two Parent Married	1662
Two Parent Unmarried	1503
One Parent Female	2676
One Parent Male	413
Adoptive Home	32
Relative	205
Non Relative	29

Family Stress Factors Identified During Assessment

Family Violence	1254
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Parent/Caretaker	2024
Mental/Physical Health Problem	3295
Severe Parent/Child Conflict	819
Severe Acting Out Behavior of Child	711
School Problems	851
Divorce Conflict	645
Emotionally Disturbed Child	583
Runaway	111
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Child	185
Failure To Thrive Child	27

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Completed Assessments

Office	Completed	Child Abuse/Neglect Found	Unsubstantiated	Findings Rate
Portland	963	428	535	44%
Sanford	327	100	227	31%
Biddeford	662	231	431	35%
Lewiston	944	428	517	45%
Augusta	938	250	688	27%
Rockland	560	204	356	36%
Skowhegan	401	198	203	49%
Bangor	954	373	581	39%
Ellsworth	271	128	143	47%
Machias	185	97	88	52%
Houlton	211	66	145	31%
Caribou	257	108	149	42%
Fort Kent	65	36	29	55%
Institutional Abuse	218	8	210	4%
CPS Total	6957	2655	4302	38%

Data compiled on for Assessments begun during calendar year.

Child Abuse & Neglect Victims by Age and Sex

Male	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	39	155	641	254
5-8	34	90	307	214
9-12	23	88	238	187
13-15	12	44	124	93
16-17	2	13	47	27
Total	110	390	1357	775

Female	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	51	124	639	233
5-8	47	69	271	221
9-12	58	56	199	208
13-15	49	54	158	143
16-17	24	23	66	66
Total	229	326	1333	871