

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Maine Department of Health Human Services  
Office of Child and Family Services  
Child Protective Services  
Annual Report on CPS Referrals  
2010**

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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 2010 the Department of Human Services received **17,457** referrals for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation. **9,338** 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 2135 Appropriate reports involving 4,339 children which were assigned to a Contract Agency for Alternative Response.**

**There were 5984 reports involving 11,768 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	911	690	430	293	228	109
Sanford	264	214	112	117	80	41
Biddeford	537	400	222	195	144	55
Lewiston	960	859	486	328	188	115
Augusta	704	625	336	222	143	71
Rockland	610	509	274	224	153	61
Skowhegan	344	276	159	145	91	34
Bangor	874	762	222	247	161	76
Ellsworth	213	170	77	75	37	14
Machias	157	122	74	45	30	15
Houlton/ Caribou/FK	387	341	194	132	79	44
Central	23	25	17	7	5	0
Statewide	5984	4993	2771	2030	1339	635

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**Source of Reports Assigned for Assessment**

School Personnel	957
Social Services Personnel	679
Law Enforcement Personnel	990
Medical Personnel	733
Anonymous	618
Neighbor/Friend	343
Relative	501
Other	168
Mental Health Personnel	481
Self/Family	461
Child Care Personnel	53

**Household Type/Living Arrangement of Reports Assigned for Assessment**

Two Parent Married	1243
Two Parent Unmarried	1781
One Parent Female	2280
One Parent Male	381
Adoptive Home	34
Relative	158
Non Relative	25
Other	82

**Family Stress Factors Identified During Assessment**

Family Violence	1347
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Parent/Caretaker	1943
Mental/Physical Health Problem	3957
Severe Parent/Child Conflict	727
Severe Acting Out Behavior of Child	704
School Problems	773
Divorce Conflict	492
Emotionally Disturbed Child	710
Runaway	84
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Child	153
Failure To Thrive Child	28

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**Completed Assessments**

Office	Completed	Child Abuse/Neglect Found	Unsubstantiated	Findings Rate
<b>Portland</b>	941	285	656	30%
<b>Sanford</b>	279	112	167	40%
<b>Biddeford</b>	566	251	315	44%
<b>Lewiston</b>	989	426	563	43%
<b>Augusta</b>	742	176	566	24%
<b>Rockland</b>	632	138	494	22%
<b>Skowhegan</b>	323	141	182	44%
<b>Bangor</b>	902	354	548	39%
<b>Ellsworth</b>	230	93	137	40%
<b>Machias</b>	155	77	78	50%
<b>Caribou</b>	332	75	257	23%
<b>Fort Kent/Houlton</b>	68	35	33	51%
<b>CPS Total</b>	6159	2163	3996	35%
<b>Institutional Abuse</b>	166	22	143	14%

Data compiled on Assessments begun during calendar year.

**Child Abuse & Neglect Victims by Age and Sex**

Male	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
<b>0-4</b>	20	129	649	184
<b>5-8</b>	10	62	286	150
<b>9-12</b>	7	66	192	171
<b>13-15</b>	8	27	109	72
<b>16-17</b>	1	5	38	27
<b>Total</b>	46	289	1274	604

Female	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
<b>0-4</b>	31	90	556	155
<b>5-8</b>	27	48	234	168
<b>9-12</b>	29	29	161	140
<b>13-15</b>	39	34	117	120
<b>16-17</b>	15	9	42	34
<b>Total</b>	141	210	1113	619