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**Maine Department of Health Human Services
Office of Child and Family Services
Child Protective Services
Annual Report on CPS Referrals
2011**

**Prepared by
Joyce Giguere, Manager
Child Protective Intake Unit
626-8634
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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 2011 the Department of Human Services received **17,648** referrals for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation. **9,423** 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 1456 Appropriate reports involving 3031 children which were assigned to a Contract Agency for Alternative Response.**

There were 6769 reports involving 13,709 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	1069	807	572	389	263	132
Sanford	241	178	119	96	66	34
Biddeford	698	528	299	259	175	100
Lewiston	1258	1105	636	474	287	153
Augusta	792	689	381	303	163	87
Rockland	613	531	310	267	141	57
Skowhegan	401	324	196	162	108	54
Bangor	897	768	414	285	188	79
Ellsworth	218	150	88	67	41	21
Machias	151	115	65	54	26	17
Houlton/ Caribou/FK	413	332	214	148	112	45
Central	18	16	7	5	4	3
Statewide	6769	5543	3301	2509	1574	782

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Source of Reports Assigned for Assessment

School Personnel	1220
Social Services Personnel	688
Law Enforcement Personnel	1083
Medical Personnel	901
Anonymous	693
Neighbor/Friend	381
Relative	520
Other	133
Mental Health Personnel	575
Self/Family	517
Child Care Personnel	58

Household Type/Living Arrangement of Reports Assigned for Assessment

Two Parent Married	1354
Two Parent Unmarried	2014
One Parent Female	2656
One Parent Male	406
Adoptive Home	54
Relative	177
Non Relative	21
Other	87

Family Stress Factors Identified During Assessment

Family Violence	1433
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Parent/Caretaker	2176
Mental/Physical Health Problem	4336
Severe Parent/Child Conflict	831
Severe Acting Out Behavior of Child	766
School Problems	1009
Divorce Conflict	600
Emotionally Disturbed Child	766
Runaway	60
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Child	215
Failure To Thrive Child	27

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Completed Assessments

Office	Completed	Child Abuse/Neglect Found	Unsubstantiated	Findings Rate
Portland	1084	331	753	31%
Sanford	322	139	183	43%
Biddeford	654	238	416	36%
Lewiston	1280	433	847	34%
Augusta	806	217	589	27%
Rockland	620	137	483	22%
Skowhegan	404	150	254	37%
Bangor	936	346	590	37%
Ellsworth	223	97	126	43%
Machias	162	58	104	36%
Caribou	435	111	324	26%
Fort Kent/Houlton				
CPS Total	6926	2257	4669	33%
Institutional Abuse	170	12	158	7%

Data compiled on Assessments begun during calendar year.

Child Abuse & Neglect Victims by Age and Sex

Male	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	17	122	673	154
5-8	11	69	253	172
9-12	13	58	189	181
13-15	8	38	105	89
16-17	5	14	34	31
Total	54	301	1254	627

Female	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	30	116	553	119
5-8	23	52	265	183
9-12	40	36	171	174
13-15	41	39	139	108
16-17	19	12	34	51
Total	153	255	1162	635