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Statistics about the victims, perpetrators of child abuse and neglect

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

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A new report from the US Department of Health and Human Services shows that Massachusetts had the highest rate of child abuse and neglect in the country during fiscal 2014.

The annual Child Maltreatment Report also included other data about both the victims and perpetrators of child abuse and neglect in the state:

The victims

- 31,863 children were victimized.
- Neglect was by far the most common type of maltreatment, representing about 87 percent of the total, followed by physical abuse (10 percent), and sexual abuse (2.5 percent).
- The age children were most likely to be victimized was less than 1, with children that age accounting for 13.8 percent of the total.



Federal report finds Mass.

had highest rate of abused children in nation

Officials attributed the high number of reported cases to greater public awareness and increased vigilance by the state.

- About 38 percent of the children were white, 26 percent were Hispanic, and 13 percent were black. The rest were either another race or their race was not identified.
- About half were boys; the other half were girls.
- 30 Massachusetts children died because of neglect or abuse in fiscal 2013, up from 20 such deaths in 2012; 23 in 2011; and 17 in 2010. State officials said such figures for fiscal 2014 and 2015 had not been finalized.

The perpetrators

- 25,721 people were identified as maltreating children.
- About 81 percent of perpetrators were identified as parents. Another 5 percent were an unmarried partner of a parent of the child, and another 4 percent were relatives of the child other than a parent.
- Perpetrators were most likely to be between 25 and 34 years old. That group accounted for 42 percent of all perpetrators.
- About 41 percent of perpetrators were white, 19 percent were Hispanic, and 13 percent black. The rest were either another race or their race was not identified.
- About 55 percent of perpetrators were women.



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