

## Indiana: 2023 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana is the state's official record of child deaths determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect.

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Victim: 6-year-old boy

DCS involvement at time of fatal event: No open DCS involvement

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 2

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 1

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 2

Circumstances: A 6-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother was home with the child and one of the siblings. The mother and sibling were upstairs, and the child was downstairs. The child obtained a gun from the mother's purse and accidentally shot himself. The mother routinely kept the gun in her purse and had advised the children not to touch it. A sibling stated the child had accessed the gun before. No safety measures were in place to prevent the child from accessing the gun.