

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.

Victim: 11-month-old boy

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 1

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Father, mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: An 11-month-old boy died from fentanyl intoxication. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the parents placed the child to sleep on the couch and then used marijuana while sitting near the child. A couple of hours later, the mother checked on the child and found the child unresponsive. The father submitted to a drug screen and was positive for fentanyl, methamphetamine, THC and buprenorphine. The mother submitted to a drug screen and was positive for THC. The mother admitted to being aware of the father's drug use. Law enforcement conducted a search of the home and found drug paraphernalia, methamphetamine, hallucinogens, burnt foils with substances on them, unlabeled pills and synthetic marijuana. The child's postmortem toxicology was positive for fentanyl, 4-ANPP (fentanyl metabolite), xylazine (tranquilizer) and naloxone.