

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: 5-year-old boy

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 0

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrators: Father, mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 5-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and younger sibling. On the day of the fatality, the parents and children left the home so the parents could buy cocaine. Upon returning home, the parents left the children sitting on the living room couch while they used cocaine in another room. At some point, the parents heard a loud pop, and the child was found shot, with his younger sibling standing near him. The father stated he had left his gun pushed down into a couch cushion with the top of the gun's handle sticking up. The mother was aware the father often left the gun in reach of the children and stated she had previously had to correct the children about not touching the gun. On the day of the fatality, the parents provided drug screens and tested positive for cocaine.