

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: 1-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 1-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and 5-year-old sibling. On the day of the fatality, in the late morning hours, the mother placed the children in her bedroom to sleep while the father was sleeping downstairs, prior to her leaving the home to run errands. The father stated he was still slightly asleep when the mother left the home. Several hours later, the father awoke to a loud noise and, at some point, found the child in the upstairs bedroom with a gunshot wound. It was later determined that the 5-year-old sibling had accessed the mother's loaded firearm and shot the child. The father was aware of the mother having a gun and that the 5-year-old sibling had the ability to access the gun.