

Indiana: 2022 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: 3-month-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

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died from blunt-force injuries with a contributing factor of methamphetamine toxicity. He lived with his mother, siblings and mother's boyfriend. The mother stated her boyfriend had been the child's primary caregiver since she went back to work. On the day of the fatality, the child was sleeping in his car seat when the mother went to sleep. The child became fussy around midnight, and the mother's boyfriend fed and cared for the child. At some point, the boyfriend and the child went to sleep in the adult bed with the mother. The mother woke in the morning and found the child deceased. On the day of the fatality, the mother's boyfriend tested positive for amphetamine, methamphetamine and THC. At autopsy, the child was found to have bilateral subdural hematomas, a spinal cord hemorrhage and optic nerve sheath hemorrhage. The child's toxicology test was positive for amphetamine and methamphetamine.