

Indiana: 2024 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-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

Screened-out reports: 0

Perpetrators: Father, mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: Father, 0; mother, 1

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 5-month-old boy died from acute fentanyl and methamphetamine toxicity. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother stated she placed the child in bed with the father. When she checked on him a short time later, he was unresponsive. The family's home was observed to have trash throughout, and the only food in the home was rotten. The parents submitted to drug screens and were positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and fentanyl. At autopsy, the child's toxicology was positive for fentanyl and methamphetamine.