

## 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.

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Victim: 11-year-old boy

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 2

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Family friend

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: An 11-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound to the head. He lived with his mother and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the child and sibling were at a friend's house where they had stayed for the weekend. The friend's mother left the home, leaving the children unsupervised. At some point, one of the children obtained a loaded, unsecured firearm from the friend's mother's room, easily accessible to the children, and the child was shot. Due to discrepancies in statements provided by the children, the exact shooter was unable to be identified.